

Production schedule/sequence for Florida freshwater hatcheries:

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Once the regional fisheries staff has determined that a biological need to stock is warranted, all regional fish requests are submitted to the hatcheries for review in the fall of each year. These requests include all fish species that will need to be spawned during the upcoming spring for fingerling release during the late spring (March – April) or cultured to larger sizes through the summer months and released during the fall months (October – December). A typical annual hatchery production schedule follows this approximate timeline:



- October: Hatcheries receive fish requests from regional fisheries staff, who base their requests on local biological and educational/outreach needs and an expectation that specific stocking protocols will create significant benefits to public anglers.
- January: Spawn black crappie
- February - March: Spawn Florida largemouth bass, Sunshine bass
Stock black crappie
Train advanced-sized Florida largemouth bass fingerlings to pursue live food and avoid predators
Stock fall spawned advanced-sized Florida largemouth bass
- April: Spawn striped bass, channel catfish
Stock fingerling Florida largemouth bass, Sunshine bass
- May: Stock striped bass
Move channel catfish fingerlings to growout ponds
- June: Spawn bluegill and redear sunfish
Continue growout of channel catfish
- July: Continue growout of channel catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish
Begin temperature and photoperiod conditioning of Florida largemouth bass broodfish
- August: Continue growout of channel catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish
Continue temperature and photoperiod conditioning of Florida largemouth bass for out-of-sequence spawning
- September: Continue growout of channel catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish
Continue temperature and photoperiod conditioning of Florida largemouth bass broodfish

October: Begin harvest and stocking channel catfish (>8 inches)
 Stock bluegill and redear sunfish
 Spawn Florida largemouth bass (fall spawn) and stock nursery fry
 ponds
 Hatcheries receive new stocking request for the following year

November: Continue harvest and stocking channel catfish
 Florida largemouth bass nursery pond culture

December: Harvest Florida largemouth bass and begin to feed train them for
 advanced size growout

January: Continue culture of advanced sized Florida largemouth bass
 Spawn black crappie