

CONTACT INFORMATION



McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery

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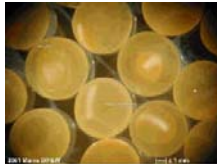
Visitor Interpretation Centre

McGowan Lake Visitor Interpretation Centre provides an opportunity for visitors to learn more about the hatchery, Inland Fisheries activities and other aspects of recreational sportfishing in Nova Scotia.

Hatchery Operation

Many adult fish (broodstock) are kept on site to supply eggs to the hatchery and aquaculture operations. About 5 million eggs are spawned every year from the four species of fish.

Eggs are collected in early November and incubated over the winter until they hatch in mid-March.



Alevins nourish themselves on their attached yolk sac for 4 to 6 weeks.



When the yolk sac is gone, the **fry** are kept in troughs and fed small particles of food.



Once they are 4 cm long, they are moved outdoors to grow in ponds and raceways over the summer.

By fall, trout are called **fingerlings**, or **parr**, and are reared in long raceways or circular tanks until they reach 15 cm, usually by October.



Fall fingerlings are ready to be stocked during the Fall Stocking program.

Yearlings are about 20 cm long, and kept over the winter for the spring stocking program.

A selection of **adult** trout are kept at the hatchery for two years to supply eggs for the hatchery program. A female adult produces approximately 2 000 eggs for every kilogram of body weight!



Lake Stocking



MCGOWAN LAKE FISH HATCHERY




NOVA SCOTIA
Fisheries and Aquaculture

McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery

Angling is an important part of Nova Scotia's heritage and approximately 100,000 Nova Scotians enjoy sportfishing as a healthy outdoor recreational activity.



McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery is one of three hatcheries operated by the Province of Nova Scotia, which collectively stock in excess of 1 million fish annually in over 400 sites throughout the province.

25% of Nova Scotia's recreational sportfishery relies on hatchery production.

Species Raised Brook Trout (Speckled Trout)



Nova Scotia's provincial fish is also the most popular sportfish in the province!

Brown Trout



Established in Nova Scotia since the early 20th century originally from Europe, sea-run Brown trout provide a great early spring fishery.

Barrier Free Sportfishing



Trout Derbies



More than 50 derbies receive trout from the hatchery each spring. These social events are cherished by many communities as a means of introducing youngsters to the enjoyment that angling can provide.

Hatchery History

- The McGowan Lake Hatchery, built in 1987, helps ensure the future of trout fishing in western Nova Scotia, a region with many acid-stressed lakes and streams.
- This hatchery utilizes a unique water treatment facility and an oxygen generation and injection system to rear speckled trout which are released annually as fry, fall fingerlings and yearlings.



- The Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture's stocking program is the most visible and popular of Inland Fisheries' management activities. A complete list of stocking activities can be found on our website (see contact information on back).