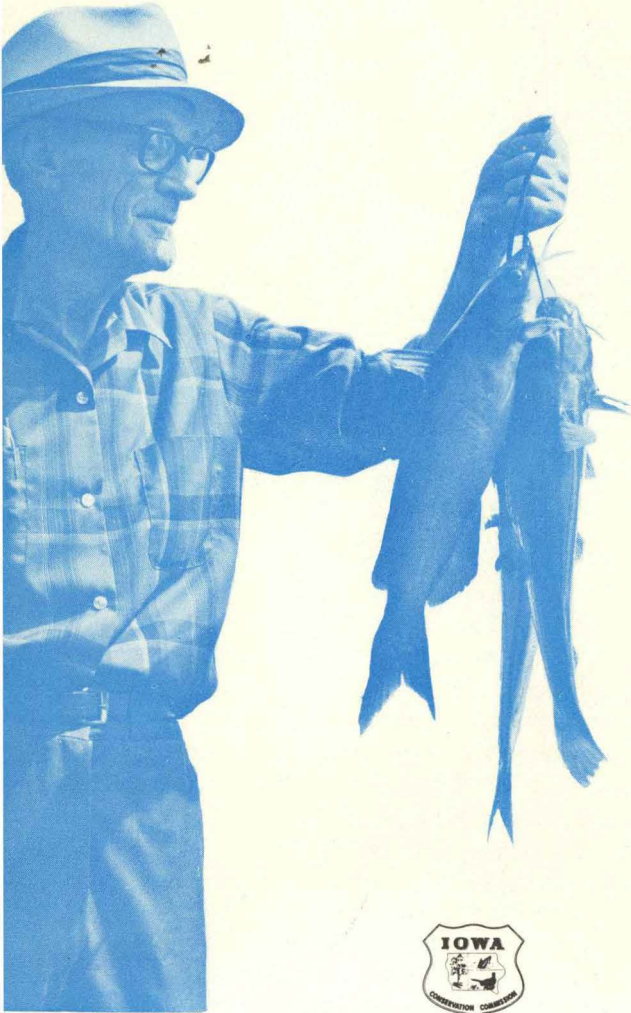


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For Better Fishing . . .

RATHBUN FISH HATCHERY

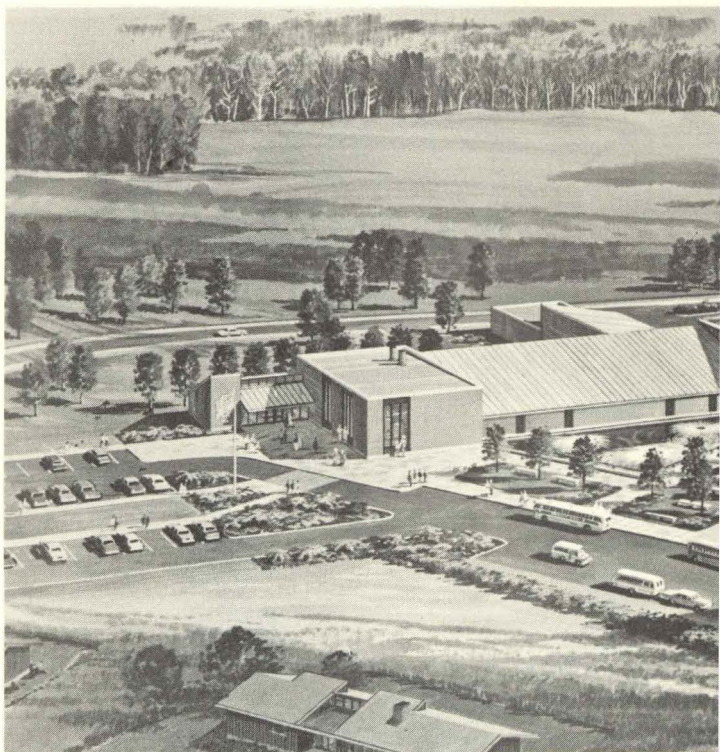


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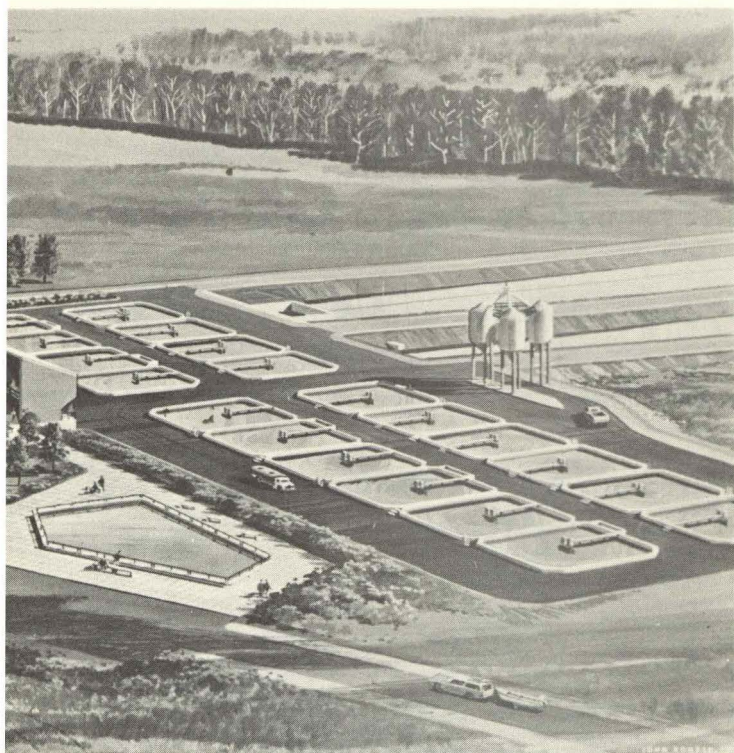
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300 Fourth Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319



What Is The Rathbun Hatchery Project?

The Rathbun Hatchery Project is a warm water fish hatchery proposed for construction by the Conservation Commission below Rathbun Reservoir in Appanoose County. It is designed to provide warm water fish in numbers and of sufficient size to meet Iowa's present and future fish stocking demands. It would also serve as an experimental hatchery for work on fish diseases and feeding techniques, and provide extensive visitor facilities. It will be constructed on 375 acres directly below Rathbun Dam presently under lease from the Corps of Engineers. Hatchery facilities would include a 5,000 square foot hatchery-office building; twenty concrete rearing ponds-pollution control ponds; residences; and parking lot. Visitor related facilities will include a visitor center where the visitors will be informed on Commission programs; glass enclosed walkways through the fish hatchery and rearing area; fish viewing ponds; landscaped hatchery grounds; and interpretative nature trails throughout the remainder of the area.



What Fish Will Be Reared At This Facility?

Emphasis will be placed on rearing channel catfish, a fish listed No. 1 in fishing preference by most lowans. Approximately 100,000 pounds of these fish would be reared annually and stocked throughout the state. Other fish reared will include striped bass, walleye and muskies.

Why A New Hatchery At This Time?

The Conservation Commission is faced with the necessity of providing fish for stocking a greatly increased water area resulting from recent reservoir construction by State, Federal and County agencies. Approximately 25,000 surface acres of water have been added for fishing recreation in the last five years. Examples of this development include Rathbun Reservoir, Big Creek Reservoir, and county conservation board lakes. New fish management programs such as catfish cage

rearing programs with the county conservation boards requiring 150,000 catfish annually have further added to this demand for fish stocking. Iowa's present hatchery system is unable to meet this demand for fish, particularly of the larger size that are needed for stocking in established waters. Federal fish are unavailable in the quantities and sizes required for our programs.

Why Not Update Existing Hatcheries?

Each of the present rearing areas at Hampton, Eldora, Lake View and Humboldt are old and far outdated. Only the facilities at Mt. Ayr and Wapello are presently producing fish efficiently enough to be retained. Most were constructed during the CCC era and possess inherent water quality and water supply problems that make the sites unsuitable for a modern fish hatchery. The Governor's Economy Committee Report recommended these older, inefficient rearing areas be phased out. Iowa anglers in the long run would receive greater benefits from closing existing rearing areas and consolidating their function into a new modern hatchery.

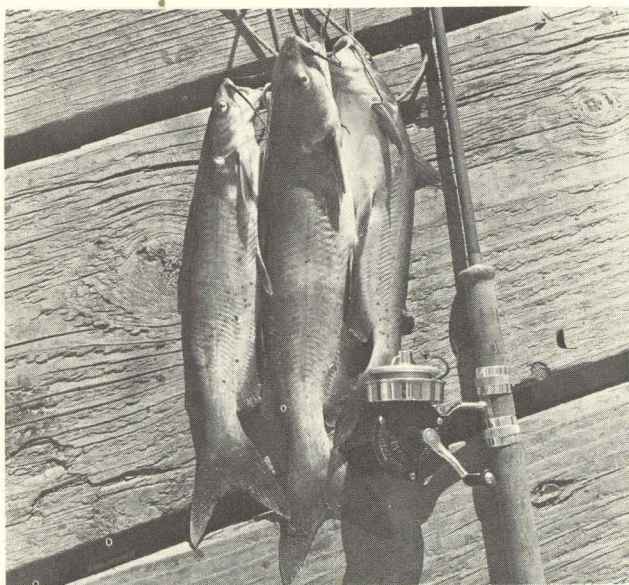
Why Locate The New Hatchery At Rathbun?

This site provides the best possible combination of the four ingredients needed for a modern facility - water quality, water quantity, available land, and long growing season (warmer water). Rathbun Lake will provide high quality water in sufficient quantities to produce the fish required for improved fishing. The extreme southern location in the state will provide the longest possible growing season for fish. The 375 acres of land set aside will allow for a quality operation without private encroachment.

Where Would Fish Reared At Rathbun Be Stocked?

This hatchery is not being constructed for stocking fish in the Rathbun area only. Fish produced by this facility will be used statewide to stock Iowa farm ponds, state-owned lakes and reservoirs. This will greatly increase the opportunity for all Iowans to take desirable sized fish in local water areas. An example of this is the catfish cage rearing program. Presently, 26 county conservation boards scattered throughout the state

are provided catfish for rearing in wire, floating cages in their local lakes. This program has proven highly successful in putting fish in the anglers creel. Many requests have been received to expand this program to all counties with water areas. We are unable to meet these requests until new facilities are available.



Will Rathbun Hatchery Benefit Any Angler Except The Catfisherman?

Yes. Once Rathbun is completed, the other warm water hatcheries remaining, Mt. Ayr and Wapello, will concentrate on the production of largemouth bass and panfish. Presently, ponds on these areas are being used mostly for production of catfish. This will enable us to rear bass to a larger size and greatly expand our largemouth bass stocking program state-wide.

Research that will be done at Rathbun will develop feeding techniques for walleye, northern pike and muskie. Once these fish are developed to utilize dry commercial feed, they will be reared to a larger size for stocking. This will allow their release in entirely new areas of the state and provide better angling for these highly desired fish.

Other research work that will be done at this facility on the growth rate and stocking success of such fish as bullheads, sunfish and crappies will greatly enhance the fishing success for these species.

What Will This Facility Cost?

The entire project will cost 2.7 million dollars. The hatchery facility for hatching and rearing fish will cost 2.2 million dollars and the visitor portion will cost 0.5 million dollars.

How Will It Be Financed?

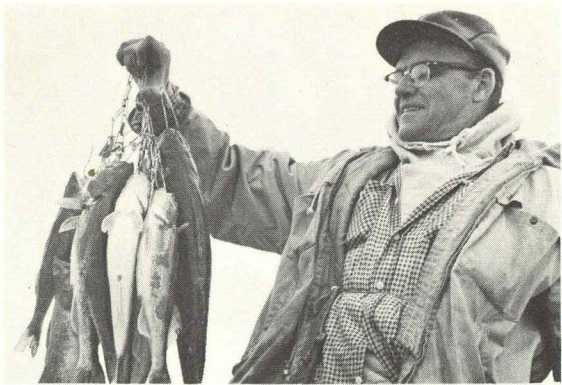
The hatchery portion of the project will be funded entirely from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The Iowa Conservation Commission is requesting a one dollar increase in the price of a fishing license to help pay for this facility. This would raise a minimum of \$300,000 annually and would allow construction of the entire facility exclusive of the visitor facilities by late 1974. If this increase is not granted, the hatchery will have to be constructed in four phases over a seven year period.

Funds for the visitor portion will have to be obtained from other sources. If money can be raised for matching purposes, BOR funds can be obtained for one-half the cost of this portion of the facility.

Why Is It Imperative The Hatchery Be Constructed In One Or Two Phases?

Aside from the obvious immediate need for fish, if the hatchery is constructed over seven years in a four phase plan, the added cost in additional construction staging alone would be \$400,000. Inflationary costs will obviously spiral during the seven year period and greatly add to the total cost.





What Priority Does The Iowa Conservation Commission Place On The Project:

On October 3, 1972, the Conservation Commission formally approved the construction of this facility. At that time, it was designated as the No. 1 project priority for the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Iowa Conservation Commission.

When Could This Facility Be Completed?

Construction documents are presently being completed by the consulting firm of Kramer, Chin and Mayo of Seattle. If the license increase is granted, contracts will be approved in 1973 and the hatchery completed in late 1974. Partial use of this facility could be realized in late 1974.

Will The Hatchery Become Outdated In A Short Period Of Time?

No. At the present time, all warm water hatcheries in the United States utilize pond culture techniques for rearing fish. In the future, warm water culture will follow the pattern set by trout growers and begin using intensive culture techniques. Rathbun Hatchery is designed to utilize intensive culture techniques to rear warm water fish. It will be the first large scale installation in the nation using these techniques. Harvey Willoughby, former head of hatcheries for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, stated recently that Rathbun Hatchery as designed represents the greatest step forward in warm water fish culture in the last 100 years.

How Many Visitors Could Be Expected Annually?

Based on the Corps of Engineers estimate of visitor days at Rathbun Reservoir in 1972, initially some 600,000 visitor days could be anticipated. This large number necessitates the visitor reception facility be designed to handle large volumes of people, adding to the construction cost.

How Will This Facility Be Staffed?

No additional positions will have to be added to staff this facility. Personnel will be transferred from other hatcheries to operate this facility.

Do Fish Really Need To Be Stocked In Iowa?

A popular mis-conception among most fishermen is the assumption that most fish in Iowa successfully reproduce. Research has shown channel catfish, northern pike, muskies, ocean striped bass, and walleyes seldom reproduce in Iowa reservoirs and ponds. Even where some reproduction does occur - for example walleyes in our natural lakes - it is not sufficient to provide enough fish for quality fishing. The reason for unsuccessful reproduction varies but generally is due to a combination of siltation, lack of suitable spawning habitat, or predation by other fish. Panfish (bullheads, crappies, bluegill, and largemouth bass) do reproduce successfully; however, large numbers of these species are needed annually for new or renovated water stocking or following winter kills. Even in most Iowa streams, stocking of certain species - walleye and northern pike - is required to supplement natural reproduction. Because of the predatory fish (bass, sunfish, walleyes, etc.) present in most waters, many fish species must be reared to a large (8-10") size before release. This requires an efficient, modern hatchery capable of handling large poundages of fish successfully. New rearing techniques that will be utilized at Rathbun Hatchery will reduce the time required to produce this size fish from the present two years to one, increasing our ability to produce high quality fishing in a shorter time period at less cost.

For further information, contact the:

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