



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2008 CAPITAL BUDGET Fish Hatchery Improvements Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

### It is needed because

High-quality fishing opportunities in Minnesota are supported, in part, by the successful operation of the state's fish hatcheries. These fish hatcheries produce millions of walleye, trout, salmon, muskellunge, and other important game species for stocking in approximately 1,333 lakes and 125 streams statewide.

In addition to protecting and restoring natural habitat, fish propagation and stocking are key to maintaining healthy fish populations in Minnesota's lakes and streams. Healthy fish populations are needed to provide the high-quality fishing opportunities that maintain high levels of satisfaction among the state's two million anglers and attract new fishing enthusiasts to Minnesota's waters. If not for fish propagation and regular stocking, hundreds of Minnesota walleye lakes would today offer little or no walleye fishing.

### Major project elements

The fish hatchery improvement program maintains and improves statewide facilities for fish culture, rearing, and holding. This funding will maintain fish hatchery production at peak efficiency and protect existing investments in the state's fish culture infrastructure.

Specific projects include:

- ♦ Repair rearing pond access areas;
- ♦ Repair or replacement of raceway covers;
- ♦ Install or upgrade water lines, water effluent system, water treatment equipment, safety equipment, and heating or cooling systems;
- ♦ Construction of fish holding facilities; and
- ♦ Acquisition of land and production of a design document for constructing drainable ponds to remove walleye rearing from natural wetlands (Drainable pond construction would require additional appropriations in 2010).

### Priority-setting

Priorities for hatchery improvements are chosen through a statewide process that considers both the

immediate needs at facilities, as well as defined production goals and outcomes.

- ♦ Improvement priorities are based on whether facilities have the essential equipment to ensure production of a disease-free and quality product, approved production goals can be met, and cost efficiencies.
- ♦ Production priorities are established through approved individual water management plans that look at angling demand and water body assessments.

### Project locations

There are 17 fish hatcheries statewide.

- ♦ 5 coldwater hatcheries provide approximately 320,000 lake trout, 170,000 brook trout, 520,000 brown trout, 85,000 splake, and 1.6 million rainbow trout.
- ♦ 12 warmwater hatcheries provide 262 million walleye fry, 1.4 million northern pike of various sizes, 20,000 muskellunge fingerlings, and 95,000 catfish of various sizes.

### Key measures and outcomes

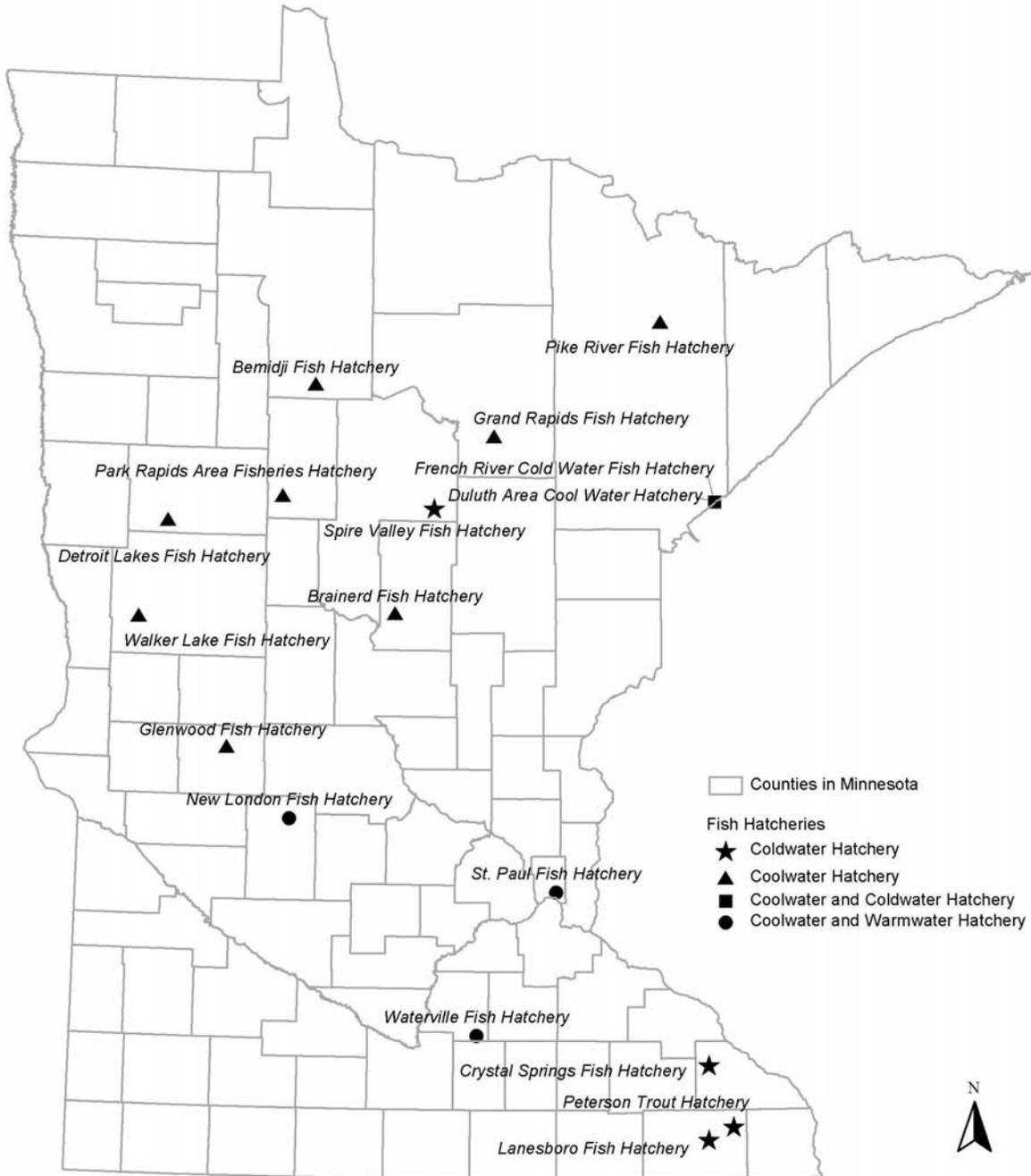
- ♦ High angler satisfaction levels are maintained through the propagation and stocking of fish in approximately 1,333 lakes and 125 streams.
- ♦ Fish hatchery production levels are maintained at peak efficiency through targeted improvements to hatchery facilities.
- ♦ Land acquisition and design study to support the transition of walleye rearing from natural wetlands to drainable ponds.

### For further information contact:

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# Capital Budget Fish Hatchery Improvements



- Counties in Minnesota
- Fish Hatcheries**
- ★ Coldwater Hatchery
- ▲ Coolwater Hatchery
- Coolwater and Coldwater Hatchery
- Coolwater and Warmwater Hatchery

