

Press Release

For Immediate Release as of September 17, 2013

Contact: Leon Alexander
PO Box 117
Norfolk, AR 72658
Phone: 870-499-3167

Subject: Press Release from Congressman Crawford regarding Mitigation Hatcheries.

Submitted by: Leon L. Alexander

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The following is a Press Release from Congressman Rick Crawford announcing that there will be no imminent closures of mitigation hatchery facilities and that funds would be repurposed to ensure the facilities are adequately funded. This Press Release was issued Sept. 17, 2013. For additional comments or information regarding this announcement, please contact Leon Alexander at 870-499-3167.

Crawford Claims a Victory on Mitigation Hatcheries

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Rick Crawford (AR-1) issued the following statement after receiving assurances from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that, in response to the letter he authored last week, there will be no imminent closures of mitigation hatchery facilities, and that funds would be repurposed to ensure the facilities are adequately funded:

"This is great news for Arkansas, and I am proud to have been a leader to save funding for our mitigation hatcheries. These facilities perform a critical function in replenishing our streams and rivers that federal locks and dams have depopulated. In addition, the mitigation hatcheries in Greers Ferry and Norfolk return one hundred dollars for every dollar invested, and provide well over a thousand direct and indirect jobs in Arkansas' First District.

"I am pleased the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has reached out to assure me that there will be no imminent closures of mitigation hatcheries, and that funding will be repurposed to ensure there are no shortfalls for these critical facilities. Additionally, they have acquiesced to the request in the letter I authored with several of my colleagues last week that any changes to the mitigation program will be subject to a lengthy and thorough public review process including all stakeholders. With this commitment from the Department of the Interior and the Fish & Wildlife Service, I will continue to work toward a permanent solution so the jobs supported by these facilities will be secure."