



Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery

Paddlefish

(*Polyodon spathula*)



Did you know?

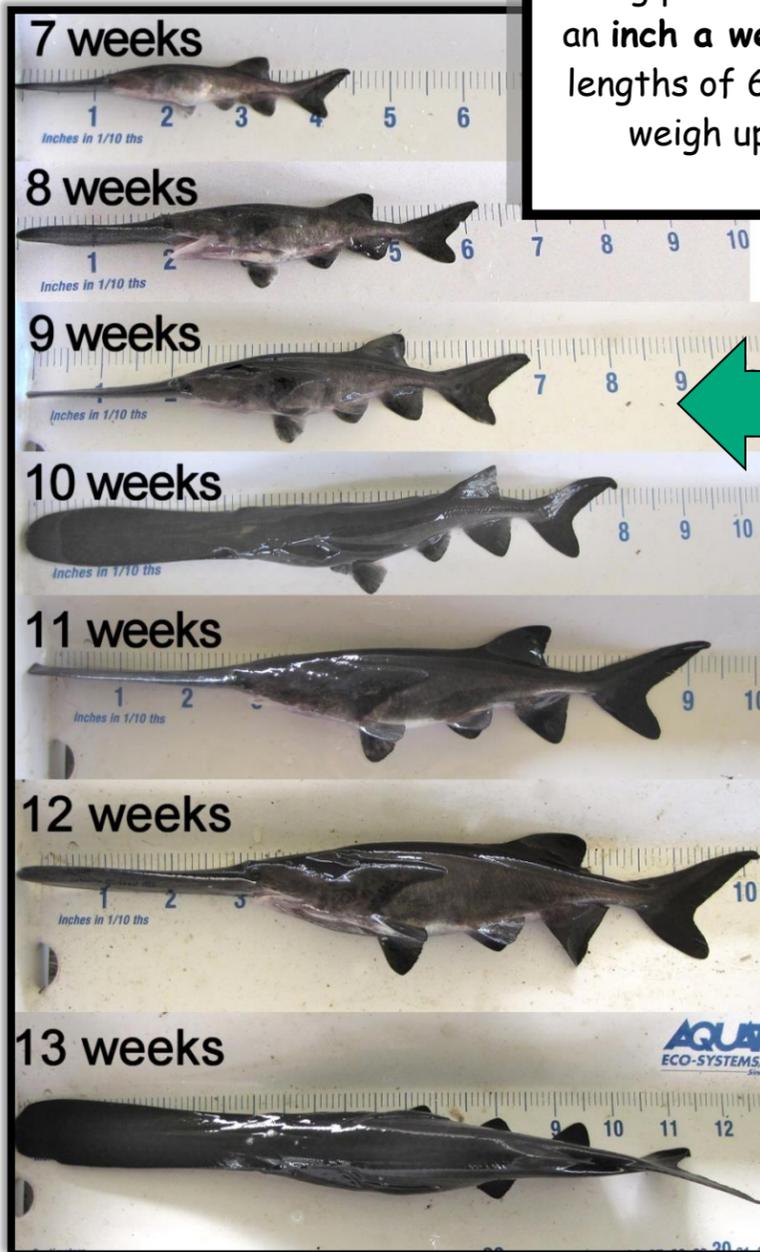
Young paddlefish can grow about an inch a week. They can reach lengths of 6 feet as adults and weigh up to 100 pounds!

The Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery (BTFH) is managed by the Fisheries Bureau of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

The Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo, MS is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These two hatcheries partner in raising paddlefish.

Adult fish are spawned at the Private John Allen Hatchery. The fry (newly hatched fish) are then transported to the BTFH and raised to an "advanced fingerling" size, which is between 8 and 12 inches long. This provides a better chance of survival in the wild.

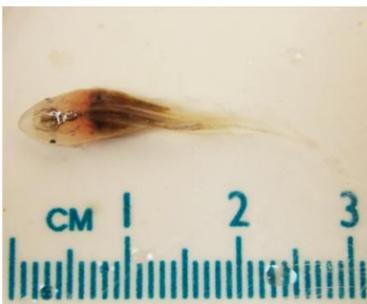
Paddlefish, also known as spoonbill catfish, are an important recreational and commercial species in Mississippi.



1. Eggs



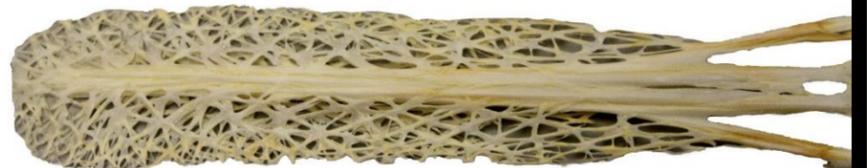
2. Fry



3. Fingerling



Except for their jawbones, paddlefish have skeletons made of cartilage.



Learn more about the Paddlefish and the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery at www.MDWFP.com.