Fishing Made Possible by the St. Marys State Fish Hatchery:

- Walleye, saugeye and yellow perch fry and fingerlings are produced to stock reservoirs statewide each spring for future fishing opportunities.
- Channel catfish are produced and stocked as “catchables,” yearlings or fingerlings.
- Blue catfish fry are received from Hebron SFH, grown out to advanced fingerlings, and stocked in the fall.

Hatchery Origin: Built in 1913 by Western Ohio Fish & Game Association and transferred to the Ohio Division of Conservation (a predecessor of ODNR-Wildlife) in 1936.

Renovation: Most recently renovated in 2018 for a production building, two new wells, new sand filters, redesigned raceways and jar batteries, and pump and sluice gate upgrades; funding was provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Fish Production Space: 25 indoor raceways, 1 production building and 26 ponds.

Water Sources: Grand Lake St. Marys and 4 wells.

Staff: 5 Full-time and 1 Seasonal personnel.

Fish Production and Stocking in Calendar Year 2020:

- Saugeye: 3.7 million fry and 1.2 million fingerlings
- Walleye: 1.2 million fingerlings
- Yellow Perch: 4.1 million fry and 1.8 million fingerlings
- Channel Catfish: 3,097 catchables and 119,941 fingerlings
- Blue Catfish: 93,164 fry and 214,971 advanced fingerlings

Other Activities:

- Archery range and foot trails for wildlife viewing opportunities are open daily, sunrise to sunset.
- Controlled waterfowl hunts are available. See www.ohiodnr.gov for details & sign-up.
- Tours: Self-guided tours are permitted Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, except Holidays. Guided tours are available by appointment; however, these have been eliminated or severely limited by COVID-19 restrictions.

Ohio Division of Wildlife Fish Hatcheries:

The Division operates six fish hatcheries that produce more than 40 million fish each year. Many Ohio fishing opportunities would not be available without fish production, stocking, management, and research. Funding is provided by the sales of Ohio fishing licenses and the Sport Fish Restoration Act, a federal aid program supported through excise taxes on select fishing tackle and marine fuel.