



Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office Death Valley National Park



Media Advisory

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Decisions Made on Devils Hole Pupfish Recovery

Managers from the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, Death Valley National Park, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife will be on hand to meet with media and discuss planned recovery actions for the endangered Devils Hole Pupfish, Thursday, March 16, 2006, at Devils Hole, Death Valley National Park (located in the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge), Amargosa Valley, Nevada, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

The Devils Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*) was listed as endangered in 1967. This iridescent blue inch-long fish's only natural habitat is in the 93 degree waters of Devils Hole, which is a detached unit of Death Valley National Park. Although the cavern is over 400 feet deep, the pupfish are believed to spawn exclusively on a shallow rock shelf just under the waters surface.

The population of Devils Hole pupfish has not exceeded approximately 553 individuals since surveys began in 1972. The adult population count conducted in November 2005 indicated a minimum population of 84 individuals, which is the lowest count on record.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service convened a science panel in December 2005 to develop a list of proposed actions that were presented to a Devils Hole pupfish recovery team. The recovery team provided prioritized recommendations to the Nevada Department of Wildlife Director, Park Service Regional Director and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's California-Nevada Operations Manager. These proposed actions include both long and short-term options and the ramifications and risks of those options to prevent the extinction of this species.