

The Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute: Conserving the Southeast's Underwater Rain Forest



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Facility

- The Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute is located along the banks of the Tennessee River in Chattanooga, TN and acts as the research branch of the Tennessee Aquarium



- Opened October 2016, the TNACI building is LEED Gold certified with sustainable features such as bioswales, a native meadow, minimal impervious surfaces, and energy efficient lighting



- The building features office space, meeting areas for staff and partners, as well as a state-of-the-art propagation room

Propagation and Reintroduction Efforts

- Southeastern Lake Sturgeon reintroduction program



- Southern Appalachian Brook Trout restoration



Opportunities for Teens and Young Adults

- Fellows Program – TNACI offers three summer freshwater conservation science fellowships for college students
- Volunteer Opportunities – assist with TNACI's reintroduction efforts by volunteering in the propagation room and participate in fish releases
- Seasonal Positions – Reintroduction Assistants and Seasonal Tech positions offered annually



Outreach and Education

- Educators and Aquarium staff participate in community events to provide programming and share information about active TNACI and Aquarium projects
- Outreach includes citizen science initiatives that get help to involve and educate the public in conservation projects
- Our partnerships with other non-profits, state, and federal organizations help us maintain strong ties to the community

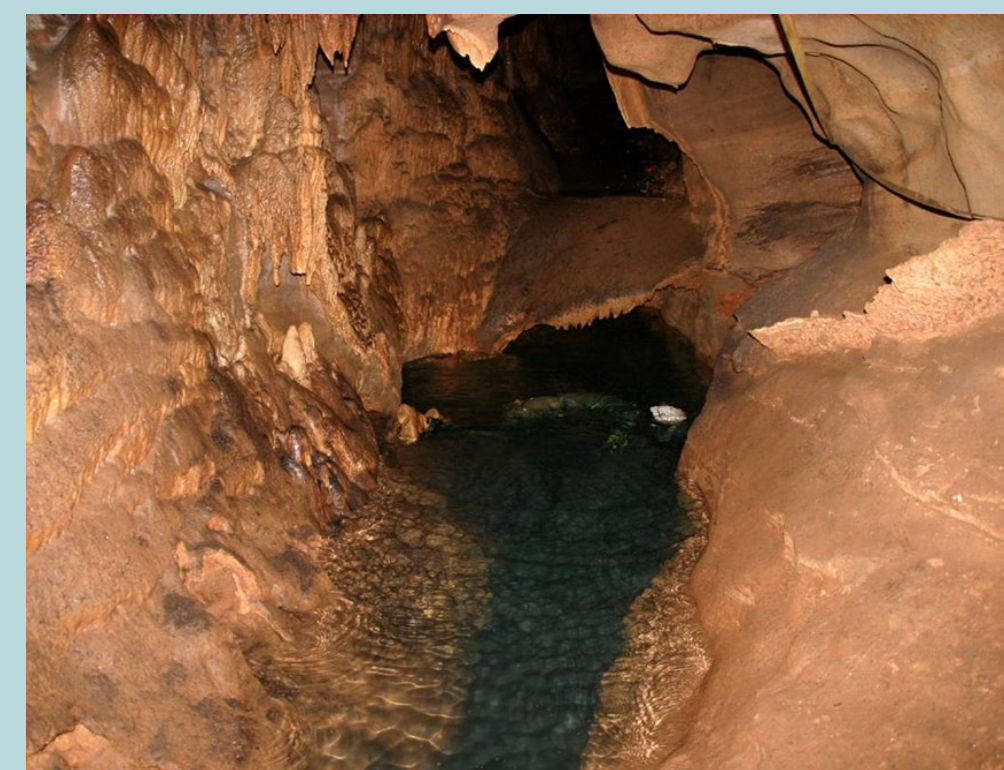


Biodiversity Research

- TNACI conducts scientific studies that include status surveys, microhabitat assessment, and population genetics of imperiled fishes.



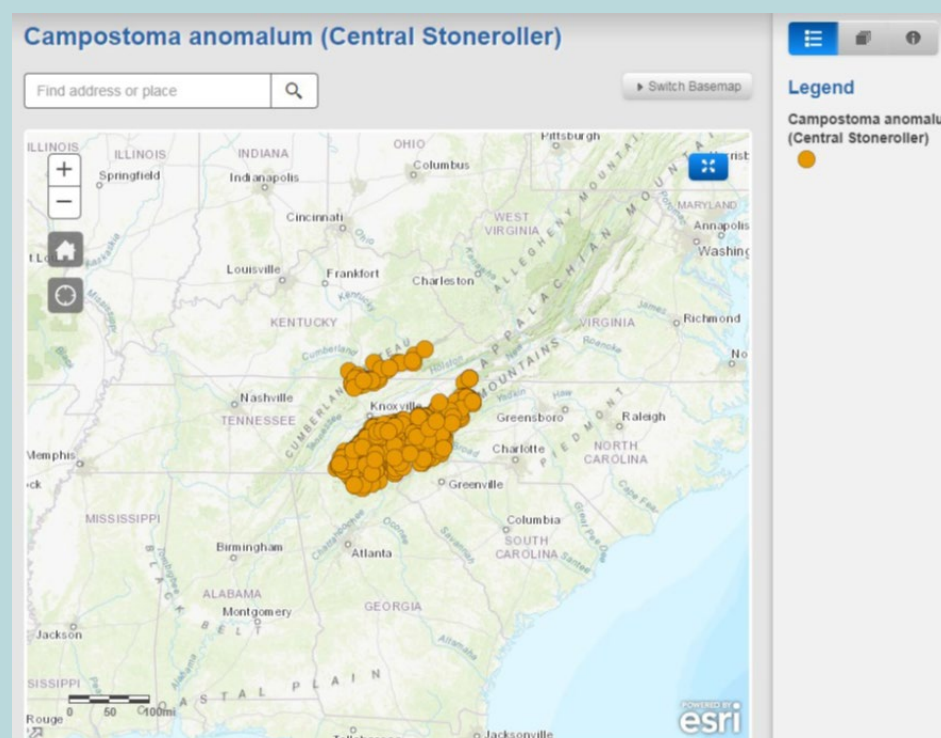
- TNACI works in various habitats across the Southeast to conserve aquatic biodiversity



Freshwater Information Network



- TNACI staff maintain the Freshwater Information Network (FIN), an online database of over 400 species of Southeastern freshwater fishes



- The database is updated regularly to ensure accuracy of data and timely access to information

Habitat Protection and Restoration

- TNACI staff are working collaboratively through a Regional Conservation Partnership Program with the U.S Department of Agriculture to protect critical habitat within RCPP boundaries
- Funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation has allowed TNACI to establish relationships with farmers and to replace fish-passage barriers

