Devils Hole Pupfish

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Why in News?

Biologists counted 137 Devils Hole pupfish during an October 10, 2026 survey in Nevada's Devils Hole—more than double the 69 recorded in fall 2025 and nearly double the 77 counted in spring 2026.

What Fueled the Rebound?

- **Captive releases–** Scientists introduced 72 captive-bred pupfish into Devils Hole between March 2025 and February 2026.
- **Natural reproduction–** Because pupfish live only about 10 to 14 months, biologists believe most of the 137 fish hatched and grew inside the cavern rather than being direct releases.
- **Supplemental feeding–** Conservation teams provided extra food while algae recovered on the shallow limestone shelf.

Why It Matters?

- **Extreme habitat–** The species lives naturally only in Devils Hole (within Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge / Death Valley National Park), relying on a small rock shelf in warm, low-oxygen water.
- **Past setbacks–** Earthquakes in December 2024 and February 2025 triggered waves that dislodged algae and eggs, sharply knocking the population down prior to recovery efforts.



Reference

[The Times of India| Devils Hole Pupfish]

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