



Dexter National Fish Hatchery & Technology Center Biographies – Directors & Unit Leaders

Manuel E. Ulibarri, B.S., Center Director

Expertise: Program Development and Coordination.

Manuel began his fisheries career as a student intern working for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Over the past 22 years he has overseen all operations at four USFWS Region 2 facilities. During this time he has developed expertise in warm water fish culture, specializing in the conservation of threatened and endangered aquatic species.

Roger L. Hamman, B.S., Assistant Center Director

Expertise: Spawning and culture of endangered and threatened fish species.

Roger has worked at the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery in Oklahoma and Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery in Arizona. On 02/01/09, he will have been employed with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for 33 years. Hamman has written over 20 scientific papers dealing with the spawning and culture of several endangered and threatened fish species. He considers his most important work and accomplishment during his career, saving the bonytail from extinction in 1981. Spawning and culture techniques developed for this fish 27 years prior, have benefitted many other imperiled fish species over the years.

Connie Keeler-Foster, Ph.D., Research Leader

Expertise : Conservation and Ecological Genetics

Dr. Keeler-Foster is a native of New Mexico, and her research focuses on the conservation genetics of rare and endemic species. She is actively involved in writing genetic management plans for endangered propagated fish, and oversees research conducted by the facility.

John C. Thoesen, B.S., Fish Health Unit Leader

Expertise: Fish Health Biologist. Fish Health Program Management, Aquatic Animal Health Policy, Title 50. Mr. Thoesen is an AFS Certified Fish Health Inspector, Title 50 Inspector, Certified Canadian Fish Health Inspector, Certified St. Croix Fish Health Inspector and Chairman of the Service's Aquatic Animal Health Committee. In addition, Mr. Thoesen coordinates the INAD program in Region 2.