

SOUTHWESTERN NATIVE AQUATIC RESOURCES AND RECOVERY CENTER



January 2015 Monthly Activity Report

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STAFF

Center Director.....Manuel Ulibarri

Deputy Center Director.....Vacant

Administrative Officer.....Maria Bullard

Administrative Technician.....Michelle Bell

Office Assistant.....Stephanie Callicutt

Fish Biologist.....William Knight

Fish Biologist.....Ian Paige

Fish Biologist.....Garrad Poole

Fish Biologist.....Tracy Diver

Bio Science Technician.....Vacant

Maintenance Mechanic.....Vacant

Maintenance Worker.....Vacant

Maintenance Worker.....Vacant

RESEARCH

Research Unit Leader.....Wade Wilson

Research Fish Biologist.....Renee Martin

Fish and Wildlife Biologist.....Vacant

Fish Biologist (Genetics)..Morgan Robinson

Fish Biologist (Genetics).....Vacant

FISH HEALTH

Fish Health Leader.....Teresa Lewis

Fish Health Biologist.....Marlene Rodarte

Fish Health Biologist.....Jason Woodland

Fish Health Biologist.....David Hampton

Microbiologist.....Linda Vannest

Fish and Wildlife Biologist...Ashlie Peterson



Clare Shea USFWS Photo



Renee Martin, Clare Shea and Tracy Diver USFWS Photo

Partnerships and Accountability

Southwestern ARRC (Center) began participating in the Roswell Independent School District High School Gifted Mentorship Program. The program offers gifted and talented students the opportunity to serve as interns in a career field with an expert from the professional world. Students are matched with community mentors on the basis of their educational background, strengths, abilities, and interests. Students in the Program spend a minimum of 55 hours with their mentors during the semester. Clare Shea from Goddard High School in Roswell, NM expressed an interest in Marine Biology, and after a brief interview it was determined that the Center could provide a rewarding educational career experience. Tracy Diver and Renee Martin will mentor Clare during the spring 2015 semester. The staff anticipates providing Clare with job shadowing opportunities and hands-on experiences.

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Faith Warren, an undergraduate student from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, started a semester-long volunteer internship at the Center. She is pursuing an interdisciplinary degree in Fisheries Biology, Wildlife Biology, and Conservation Management. She started training in Fish Health this month and will transition into Fish Culture in March where she will work until mid-May. Her career goal is to become a Fisheries Biologist in a hatchery or park/refuge after graduation.

Aquatic Species Conservation Management

No fish were distributed during the month of January.

The annual health inspection schedule for regional hatcheries was distributed in January. Fish Health staff worked to identify partner needs for wild fish health surveys for 2015. These surveys are conducted to address Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation program priorities in the Southwest. Lab assays for all fish health casework submitted in December were completed this month. The information generated included the current health status for spawning Apache trout at

Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery, Gila trout from Mora National Fish Hatchery, paddlefish from Lake Eufaula in Oklahoma, and fountain darters collected from the San Marcos and Comal Rivers in Texas.

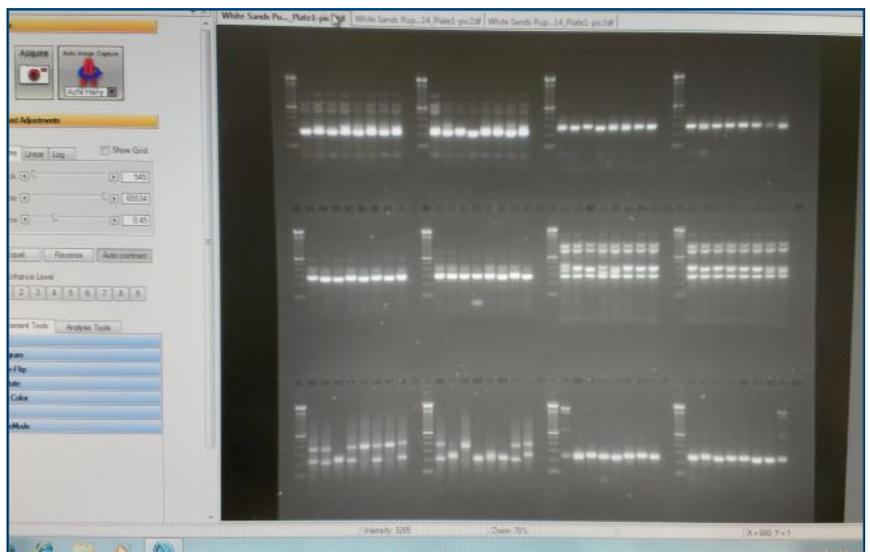
Leadership in Science and Technology

The Molecular Ecology Laboratory (MEL) received fin clip samples collected from Gila trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae gilae*) 2014 broodstock at Mora National Fish Hatchery. These samples will be archived and genotyped in the future for use in creating a spawning matrix for 2017. The 10% QA/QC and secondary scoring for 178 Upper Colorado River Basin humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) and roundtail chub (*Gila robusta*) samples was completed this month. Microsatellite markers for use on White Sands pupfish (*Cyprinodon tularosa*) were screened and tested for cross species amplification with other *Cyprinodon* species.



White Sands pupfish (*Cyprinodon tularosa*) Photo Credit TTU.edu

Fish health submitted EPC cells to the California/Nevada Fish Health Center for viral sensitivity testing. This is part of a Service-wide QA/QC effort to ensure the diagnostic cell cultures used by each Fish Health Center remain sensitive to specific viral pathogens. This type of QA/QC exercise is conducted on an annual basis to ensure various methods and reagents used for testing are reliable and reproducible within the Service's Fish Health network.



White Sands Pupfish unlabeled primer screening USFWS Photo

Renee Martin submitted an abstract for an oral presentation on the development of Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) microsatellite markers at the Annual Joint Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and American Fisheries Society (AFS) being held in Las Cruces, NM.

Wade Wilson traveled to Laughlin, Nevada for the Annual Colorado River Aquatic Biologists (CRAB) meeting and presented two talks. The first was the preliminary results from a Lower Color Multi-Species Conservation Program funded study examining recruitment and genetic diversity in bonytail in rearing ponds. The second talk presented an update on the status of the second bonytail broodstock being developed at the Center. Wade also traveled to Moab, Utah to present at the Annual Researchers Meeting of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. There he presented two additional talks. The first were the results of a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Salt Lake City) funded project that evaluated genetic diversity in the humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) refuge population being maintained at the Center. The second talk was the development of microsatellite markers for Colorado pikeminnow. These microsatellites will be used in a study that examines the genetic diversity of the wild population and broodstock being maintained at the Center.

Colleen Caldwell of USGS-NMSU (United States Geological Survey-New Mexico State University) and Meredith Campbell (NMSU graduate student) completed work on Meredith's study "Development of Nonlethal Methods to Diagnose Asian Tapeworm in Humpback Chubs". Fish Culture staff assisted Meredith with a humpback chub swabbing experiment to determine whether there is any tissue damage created by swabs when sampling fish ranging in size from 40 – 160 mm. Meredith also presented her thesis proposal "Quantifying prevalence of Asian tapeworm *Bothriocephalus acheilognathi* in endangered humpback chub populations utilizing a non-lethal molecular screening tool" to her graduate committee at NMSU on January 26. The proposal was approved by the committee.

Workforce Management

Throughout the month of January, Tracy Diver trained in MEL with Morgan Robinson and Renee Martin. On January 20, Research staff participated in the Advanced Topics in Conservation Genetics Webinar series. Renee Martin provided research laboratory safety training to Faith Warren, Tracy Diver and Clare Shea.



Colorado Pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) Photo Credit: Tom Kennedy



Colleen Caldwell and Meredith Campbell USFWS Photo

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Teresa Lewis returned to duty at the Center on January 12 after completing a two month detail at the Uvalde National Fish Hatchery. William Knight and Manuel Ulibarri attended EEO and Diversity training at the Bosque Del Apache NWR in San Antonio, NM on January 14. Garrad Poole and Tracy Diver attended the "Introduction to Fish Health" course held at the National Conservation Training Center's (NCTC) West Virginia and the La Crosse Fish Health Center (Onalaska, WI). Michelle Bell attended the NARA Records Training in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 25-30 and Maria Bullard, Teresa Lewis, William Knight and Manuel Ulibarri completed the 2015 USERRA and Veteran Employment Training for Managers.

Staff participated in a number of conference calls this month including the Region 2 Fisheries & Aquatic Conservation monthly call; Fish Health project leaders call; the upcoming RO Administrative Conference Planning call; GRCA fisheries conference call and participated in the National Wild Fish Health Survey-Users Acceptance Team, USFWS Aquatic Animal Health Policy Committee and Regional and local Administrative/Budget Meetings.

Stephanie Callicutt has taken over the role of primary timekeeper and compilation of the monthly activity report.

Michael Zamora, Construction Inspector, USFWS Regional Engineering was on site conducting the final inspection on the Fish Culture building roof repairs and gathering information for the Administrative building skylight replacement project.

Additional Activities

Staff completed the 2014 chemical use (PUP's) report and the 2014 annual progress reports for the San Juan Recovery and Implementation and the Virgin River Program's.



Fish Culture building water tower rehab USFWS Photo

Riley Industrial Services Inc. of Farmington, NM arrived at Dexter on January 12 to start the rehab on the Fish Culture building water tower (2014 DM project). The crew is working six, 10 hour days per week. Over the past two weeks they have made significant progress on the project and have completed sandblasting the entire interior of the tank and prime-coated the tank ceiling, walls and cone floor.

Coats Plumbing of Artesia, NM used a camera in the Administrative building drains to diagnose and clear the lines; the system is now working properly.

The yearly preventative maintenance on the 7300 Real-time PCR system and a repair of the 3130xl genetic analyzer were completed this month. Air filters were cleaned out and fluid levels checked on all backup power generators on station.

Stop logs, screens and tools from pond harvesting were pressure washed and stored. Overhead water delivery pipes and empty fiberglass tanks in Fish Culture building were cleaned and dry, lined ponds swept in preparation for spring use. Staff replaced burned out security lights in fish culture building and light bulbs in the Administrative building bathrooms. The sink faucet in the Fish Health bathroom and the toilet in one of the volunteer trailers were replaced. The Chevrolet 2500 distribution truck was taken to the dealership to have the DEF system repaired.

The Center recycled 100 lbs. of plastic, 140 lbs. of cardboard, 70 lbs. of burned out light bulbs and 7 lbs. of paper.

Southeastern NM continues to experience below average ambient temperatures. The Center received 5 inches of snow, .5" of rain and 10 visitors for the month of January.



Snow at Southwestern ARRC in January 2015 USFWS Photo

UPCOMING EVENTS	
February 5-7	<i>Joint AZ / NM AFS and TWS Meeting, Las Cruces, NM</i>
February 9-13	<i>Administrative Conference, Albuquerque, NM</i>
February 17-19	<i>Wild fish health survey at Lake Texoma</i>
February 23	<i>Mescalero TFH annual health inspection</i>
February 23-25	<i>Bonytail Broodstock Coordination Meeting, Dexter, NM</i>
March 17-19	<i>Fish Health Biologists Meeting at Southwestern ARRC</i>

