



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

August 2014

Fisheries Activities

Currently there are 71,944 FY14 Channel catfish averaging 51.75 fish per pound (fpp) and 4.02 inches in total length. Mortality was higher but some ponds had no mortalities. A total of 525 mortalities were recorded for the month. This was mostly due to additional outbreaks of Motile Aeromonas septicemia or MAS in two more of our FY14 Channel catfish fingerling ponds. By month end no mortalities were recorded by staff. Incoming water quality and high densities have contributed to this increased mortality.

Currently there are 3,954 FY13 channel catfish averaging 2.94 fpp and 10.86 inches in total length. Additional production also includes 2,324 FY12 averaging 1.55 fpp and 12.87 inches in total length. These fish will be utilized for replacement brood stock and future Fort Hood Reimbursable contract fish.

Staff from the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center, Fish Health Unit, completed and signed the Annual Fish Health Certification this month. Inks Dam NFH has again retained its Class "A" status. Many "Thanks" goes out to the staff, from the Fish Health Unit, for all of their hard work sampling our fish during some of the hottest weather of the year.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population has now been in recirculation tanks for two full years. The 52 remaining fish

have been on station for almost four years. One mortality was recorded in the FY2010 population during the month. No external parasites or disease signs were observed in the mortality and was probably due to attempts at spawning or normal life expectancy. To date no fertilization has taken place or observed by staff.

Channel catfish stocking continued again this month. Staff stocked the White Mountain and San Carlos Apache Tribal areas with a total of 38,006 fish. These fish averaged 46.75 fish per pound (fpp) and were 4.14 inches in total length. The Regional Distribution Unit staff was assisted by the AZFWCO and personnel from Alchesay / Williams Creek to widely disperse all of these fingerlings. Many "Thanks" to everyone involved and its success was because of the team-work shown during this stocking.

Staff also stocked the lake at the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Medical Center in Temple, Texas. In an effort to give back to our Nation's wounded warriors, staff stocked 2,341 fish averaging 10.86 inches in total length. This is the first time in many years Inks Dam NFH has stocked the lake but the fish were very much appreciated by both the veterans and staff at the hospital. Veterans receiving treatment at the Medical Center, along with members of their family, are now able to go fishing to help them

Inks Dam NFH would like to introduce Scott Walker to the Region. Scott will fill the Supervisory Fisheries Biologist position vacated almost one year ago. Scott spent five years with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as a Natural Resource Specialist. He has a B.S. in Biology from Texas Tech University, M.S. in Mariculture from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and a PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University – College Station. His areas of expertise are recirculating aquaculture systems, larval fish rearing and eco-physiology. He is a very welcomed addition to the staff here and a great addition to the Region.



enjoy the outdoors as an informal part of their treatment program.



Supervisors, staff and doctors from the Veterans' Medical Center met the RDU to see the fish being stocked.

Personnel

Facility staff welcomed Scott Walker, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, to Inks Dam NFH early in the month. Scott spent five years with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as a Natural Resource Specialist. He has a B.S. in Biology from Texas Tech University, M.S. in Mariculture from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and a PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University – College Station. His areas of expertise are recirculating aquaculture systems, larval fish rearing and eco-physiology. He is a very welcomed addition to the staff here and a great addition to the Region.

Gregory Landry completed the abatements for the Annual Safety Inspection that took place in July. Several more items remain to be purchased or have outside contractors finish repairs.

Julie Burks has been working with CGS and other Regional staff to get the FY14 PPR's to PR status and many are now coming through as PR's. She has also been tracking travel and expenses with the increase in travel by staff and the Regional

Distribution Unit (RDU) during the busy stocking season. She also attended the Administrative Conference call at the beginning of the month and arranged for the cleaning and new carpets for the residence prior to Scott's family moving in.

Larry Guerro has been mowing and working ponds trying to keep pace with the grass and the growing Channel catfish fingerlings. Larry and Greg finished the fish hauling for FY14 to the different Tribal sites.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Most of the monthly effort was cleaning, grading ponds, and filling for splitting the FY 14 fingerlings into the production ponds. Staff prepped the RDU for the White Mountain and San Carlos stocking and then disinfected it and prepared it for the annual service during the month of September.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had a busy month with Outreach and Outdoor Education as well. The hatchery had 240 visitors for the month of August. Visitation was surprising still up despite the 20 days of 100+ degree days. Many are first time visitors except the fishermen and women who enjoyed the better angling during the month. Most of the folks are stopping in while staying at the second most visited State Park in all of Texas, Inks Lake State Park, just 4 miles up the road.

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 43

hours for the month of August. Most of the FOIDNFH hours were spent working on removing invasive species from the facilities property. Additionally,



The new wooden doors will provide better security with the new locksets and keep out the insects and rodents that for time to time make these building their homes.

Inks Dam NFH has found a volunteer that does construction and his skills have been put to use repairing doors for the oxygen injection building and the residence's irrigation system. These block buildings have irregular sized door so he has constructed them out of wood and installed new "lockable key sets" in each building.

The Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) came out for a day this month to mow and weed whip. They did the Park/Picnic area, along the river, and around the Visitor Center. The eight man crew put in a total of 48 hours and greatly assisted the hatchery staff in keeping the facility looking presentable.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery
345 Clay Young Road
Burnet, TX 78611
Phone 512/793-2474
http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/inks_dam/index.html

Current staff members

Paul Dorman	Project Leader
Scott Walker	Assistant Project Leader
Vacant	Environmental Education Specialist
Julie Burks.....	Administrative Technician
Gregory Landry	Fisheries Biologist
Vacant	Animal Caretaker (Term)
Larry Guerro	Motor Vehicle Operator
Vacant	Maintenance Worker
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