



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

February 2013

Fisheries Activities

All FY 2012 channel catfish are currently being cultured in eleven over-wintering production ponds at Inks Dam NFH for the FY 2013 stocking requests. Density levels for all the over-wintering ponds are approximately 7,000 fish per acre. Currently there are 55,423 FY 2012 channel catfish averaging 6.13 fpp and 8.16 inches in total length. Staff recorded a single mortality for the month in the 2012 population and one from the 2011 population. Both were presumed Osprey caused mortalities due to talon markings found in both fish. The migration of White Pelicans and Double Crested Cormorants is back in full swing and as many as 200 pelicans and double that number of cormorants can be seen daily.

The original (FY2010) gambusia refugium population moved over to the recirculation tanks in March of 2012 is still doing very well. The 132 fish have now been on station for more than two and half years. A total of six mortalities, in the male population, were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month. No disease or parasites were found during examination of the mortalities. Over the course of the years it would appear that male Clear Creek gambusia may be shorter lived than the female of the species.

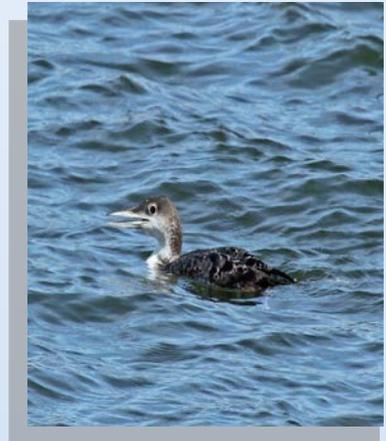
The new FY2012 population collected in partnership with TPWD and the Texas FWCO are doing well. The new fish have

been separated by sex, quarantined, and will remain that way for the 180-day quarantine requirement. Inks Dam NFH has a total of 50 females and 17 males in refuge from the 2012 population. A single, female mortality was recorded in the FY2012 population during the month. Again, no disease or parasites were found during examination of the mortality.

Personnel

In February, hatchery staff endeavored to complete mandatory trainings outlined for DOI employees or to further their skill and competency. Julie Burks completed three online courses, namely the FBMS Analysis Edition for OLAP course, FBMS Basic Navigation course, and the No Fear Act training, as well as one instructor led class in Lakewood, Colorado, Introduction to Federal Budgeting. Julie and Paul Dorman attended a meeting early in the month at San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center.

Gregory Landry is currently attending the two week Coldwater Fish Culture course held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Robert Vorous also completed the No Fear Act training online, as well as the FBMS Basic Navigation course and the FBMS Maintenance Work Order course.



The San Saba Bird and Nature Society, from San Saba, Texas, came to the hatchery to have a birding event and count during February. The groups' participants ranged from beginner to very experienced birders. While at the hatchery they tallied a total of 70 species of birds (including the Common Loon above).

Project Leader Paul Dorman gave a short presentation to the group about the hatchery's role and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Twenty people from the San Saba group and several members from the Inks Dam Friends group participated.

Paul Dorman attended a meeting at the San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center with Tom Brandt (San Marcos NFH and Technology Center), Grant Webber (Uvalde NFH), and Teresa Lewis (Dexter Fish Health Unit) about fish health questions with the Edwards Aquifer species that are to potentially be sent to Inks Dam NFH and Uvalde NFH. Paul also attended a meeting with the private landowner where the Clear Creek gambusia resides. The main focus of the meeting was to get the dam repairs back on track and open lines of communication for Mike Montagne, Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation, and Chris Harper, Ecological Services. The land owner has verbally agreed to have the project started in 90 days, if not completed, and also appointed a person from his staff to be the Point-of-Contact for Mike and Chris during this period.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Staff installed four new Haywood, 60 GPM, pumps on the twenty foot circular tanks located under the Shade Structure. These pumps are plumbed into the packed-columns that were installed last year. This will allow staff to improve prophylactic or medicinal treatments by creating a recirculation system through the packed-columns. This methodology increases oxygen levels, increases treatment time and reduces stress during the treatment period rather than a "static bath" method of treatment utilized in the past.

Marble Falls Electric was called to professionally hard wire the new pumps so they would meet code and safety regulations, and to install outdoor electrical switch boxes for each pump. They also installed three E-Mon meters so that staff can more accurately report electrical usage throughout the entire hatchery for Energy Usage Reporting at the end of Fiscal Year.

The 2012 Deferred Maintenance (DM) kettle work on Ponds 10 and 7C went through its pre-final and final inspections this month. Bernie Freeman and Robert Baca from the Regional Office performed the final inspection. They were in the area performing engineering assistance to contractors at the Balcones Canyonlands NWR dam removal project. A total of eighteen items remains to be corrected by months end.

The 2012 DM work on the ponds liners is ramping up with the contract being award to Rhino Contractor LLC from Harlingen, Texas. This is the same company that performed work at Uvalde NFH in the construction of their new feed building. Submittals and a pre-award meeting with contractors have occurred so far.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

The hatchery had many visitors during the month of February, with a total of 175 people counted by staff. Of these visitors, approximately twelve folks from the San Saba Bird and Nature Society came to the hatchery to perform bird counts, with Sherri Bixler, a member of the Inks Dam NFH Friends

Group. A total of 70 species were observed and noted.

As for volunteer activities during the month, the Friends Group volunteers spent a total of 79.5 hours helping around the hatchery (this included 53 hours for administrative support, three and a half for visitor amenities, four for outreach, eight for fish culture support, and eleven for maintenance). The crews from the Intermediate Sanction Facility also volunteered 80 hours performing bamboo removal along the banks of the Colorado River and trenching around the visitor center for the installation of a new irrigation system. This new irrigation system will be tied into the new rainwater collection system.



The San Saba Birding and Nature Society were fortunate to see and photograph some of the migrating snow geese heading back to their northern breeding grounds.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
Fisheries and Aquatic Resource 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
Mark Yost	Assistant Project Leader
Julie Burks.....	Administrative Technician
Gregory Landry	Fisheries Biologist
Larry Guerro	Motor Vehicle Operator
Robert Vorous	Maintenance Worker