



Monthly Accomplishments

July 2014

Fisheries Activities

Currently there are 9,844 FY13 channel catfish averaging 3.17 fpp and 10.16 inches in total length. A portion (4,000) of these fish will be utilized for replacement brood stock and future Fort Hood Reimbursable contract fish. The remainder will hopefully go to the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Medical Center in Temple, Texas. Staff has been working diligently to clean and grade all the empty ponds for the FY 14 fingerlings so we can start splitting ponds for next year's production. Pond water temperatures are staying around 28.7°C and dissolved oxygen levels are on the typical decline for this time of year.

Currently there are 99,921 FY14 Channel catfish averaging 70.42 fish per pound (fpp) and 3.61 inches in total length. Mortality has been light with only a total of 56 mortalities recorded for the month. This was mostly due to a rapid outbreak of Motile Aeromonas septicemia or MAS in three of our FY14 Channel catfish fingerling ponds. A big "Thank You" goes out to Teresa Lewis at the Dexter Fish Health Lab and Bonnie Johnson from the AADAP Lab in Bozeman, Montana for getting our INAD's in-and-out so we could start treating so quickly.

The Dexter Fish Health Center staff sampled all the age-classes of Channel catfish for the Annual Fish Health Certification this month. No sampling was performed on the Clear Creek gambusia, during this inspection,

due to low numbers of the remaining FY 2010 population and that they are, and have been, in isolation since coming on station.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population has now been in recirculation tanks for two full years. The 53 remaining fish have been on station for almost four years. Only three mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month. All of the mortalities came from the pure males. No external parasites or diseases were observed in any of the mortalities and probably due to attempts at spawning or normal life expectancy since they have been on station this long. To date no fertilization has taken place or observed by staff.

Channel catfish stocking continued again this month. Staff stocked Alabama-Coushatta with a total of 2,554 fish. These fish averaged 3.27 fish per pound (fpp) and were 10.06 inches in total length. It has been many years since we stocked this location due to the hurricanes and salt water flooding into these ponds and lakes. The Alabama-Coushatta Fisheries staff was very happy to see us and receive the delivery of Channel catfish prior to the holiday on the 4th.

Staff and volunteers collected FY10 (four year-old) brood stock Channel catfish for the Fort Hood reimbursable agreement stocking in July. Fort Hood



The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) spent nearly 57 hours working on removing invasive species from the facilities property. The invasive species removal is part of the FY14 Invasives with Volunteers grant Inks Dam NFH received from Refuges this year. This month China Berry was the focus since most of the grassy areas have been mowed and no new rain has occurred to make the Malta-Star thistle pop back up.



received 143 fish and a total of 770 pounds for the July request. These fish averaged 0.19 fish per pound and 26.21 inches in total length. The Fort Hood Natural Resources Team remarked that they will have to remind folks to attend to their poles again or these fish will drag off their poles like last year. Several folks had their poles “stolen” by these lunker fish....no one was really complaining!

Staff also stocked a total of 8,654 FY13 channel catfish at the Zuni Pueblo and the Navajo Nation during the month. Zuni Pueblo received 5,700 fish. The fish delivered averaged 3.06 fpp and 10.32 inches in total length. The Navajo Nation received 2,954 fish and averaged 3.06 fpp and 10.32 inches in total length. There is only one remaining Tribal Trust request and that is for the White Mountain and San Carlos Apache Reservations late in the fiscal year. Total stocking for that request will be 30,000 3-5 inch FY 14 Channel catfish.

Inks Dam NFH has continually relied on the assistance of volunteers and Friends Group membership to harvest ponds, collect eggs, and set out FY14 Channel catfish fry. Everyone's help is deeply appreciated and the success of harvesting these ponds goes to those that assisted.

Personnel

Paul Dorman, Project Leader, worked with Region 2 engineering and local contractors on several FY14 DM projects that are up coming.

Gregory Landry performed the July Safety Meeting for the hatchery staff. He also worked with David Maples, CDSO for the Balcones Canyonlands

National Wildlife Refuge, during the month for the FY14 Annual Safety Inspection. No major problems and just a few items were out of place.

Julie Burks has been working diligently on the FY14 PPR's to beat the tight deadlines. 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.

Larry Guerro has been mowing and working ponds trying to keep pace with the grass and the growing Channel catfish fingerlings. Larry and Greg have also been taking the blunt of the fish hauling to the different Tribal sites.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Most of the monthly maintenance effort was cleaning and grading ponds, disinfecting and prepping the RDU for the next deliveries for our Tribal partners and maintaining vital infrastructure equipment.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had a busy month with Outreach and Outdoor Education as well. The hatchery had 285 visitors for the month of July. Visitation is still up for the year and many are first time visitors. 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 57 hours for the month of July. Most of the FOIDNFH hours were spent working on removing invasive species from the facilities property. The invasive species removal is part of the FY14 Invasives with Volunteers grant Inks Dam NFH received from Refuges this year. This month China Berry was the focus since most of the grassy areas have been mowed and no new rain to make the Malta-Star thistle pop back up.

The Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) came out for two days and mowed; weed whipped and assisted staff with removing dead tree branches along the Park area along the river. The seven man crew put in a total of 54 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



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http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/inks_dam/index.html

Current staff members

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|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Paul Dorman | Project Leader |
| Vacant | 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 |
| Vacant | Maintenance Worker |