



## Monthly Accomplishments

June 2013

### Fisheries Activities

Channel catfish spawning season has concluded at Inks Dam NFH this month with approximately 466,875 eggs taken for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 stocking season. A total of 184,201 fry have been ponded and an additional 160,435 fry have been stocked into local area lakes. Survival from egg to ponding was 73.8% for the year.

Currently there are 28,065 FY 2012 channel catfish averaging 3.96 fpp and 9.47 inches in total length. Staff is waiting to hear about an additional 8,500 channel catfish the Navajo Nation and should know by the middle of next month. Only six mortalities were recorded by staff for the month for the 2012 population. These mortalities had succumbed to either piscivorous birds or harvesting ponds.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population moved over to the recirculation tanks in March of 2012 is still doing very well. The 154 fish have now been on station for almost three years. Two mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

Stocking season is in full swing at Inks Dam NFH. All of the four year old broodstock channel catfish were “retired” at the end of the spawning season and were stocked out into ponds at the Ft. Hood Military Base. Hatchery staff harvested and loaded the



Gregory Landry, Robert Vorous, Richard Nichols (volunteer) harvesting channel catfish for the DOD Fort Hood reimbursable agreement.

third of Fort Hood’s FY13 reimbursable agreement. Staff 180 fish and a total weight of 900 pounds. These fish were 0.20 fish per pound. Total length was 25.54 inches.

Hatchery staff also performed Tribal Trust stockings in New Mexico this month. The Regional Distribution Unit (RDU) transported three loads to the Pueblos of Zuni, Zia and Ohkay Owingeh. The Zuni Pueblo received 4,000 channel catfish averaging 3.27 fish per pound (fpp) at 10.06 inches in total length. The Zia Pueblo received 5,000 channel catfish from averaging 3.07 fpp and 10.28 inches in total length. Ohkay Owingeh received 6,500 catfish averaging 2.68 fpp and 10.68 inches in total length.

### Personnel

Hatchery staff worked on completing their mandatory training for the year and Greg Landry finished his Writing



Above: Virginia Sanders, Fisheries Biologist with the Fort Hood Natural and Cultural Resource Management Branch, stock some of the 900 pounds of channel catfish broodstock in ponds on the Fort Hood Military Base.

Inks Dam NFH typically supplies 13-inch channel catfish for stocking the military base waters, but every June “retired” broodstock are provided for stocking and additional fishing excitement. A few days after stocking, base game warden Donald Mathes reported that an angler’s pole was carried into the water by what he suspected was a very large catfish. These fish are part of a reimbursable agreement to provide sport fishing opportunities on the military base.

with Clarity Webinar class, also through DOI Learn. Julie Burks has been working diligently with CGS in getting all the Purchase requests in for the end of the Fiscal Year.

Paul Dorman spoke with Jim Giocomo from the Oaks and Prairie Joint Venture to setup a tour of the hatchery grounds for assistance with the Audubon Society Important Birding Area (IBA) designation for Inks Dam NFH. The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) have been working every week recording bird species to supply data for this designation. Unfortunately no one from the Joint Venture showed up for the tour.

## Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. The 2012 DM work on the pond liners was finished early in the



Work on Pond 7C (above) and Pond 10 (below) was finished in early June. Final inspections were performed and both ponds were filled before months end.



month with the Final Inspections proceeding quickly. By month's end, both ponds were filled and readied for fish to be stocked. These two lined ponds are a first for Inks Dam NFH and will assist in us and the Service in not only producing more quality fish but also in conserving valuable water due to the drought in Texas.

## Visitors, Education and Outreach

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) provided a tour for a family reunion during the month. A total of 12 grandchildren and great grandchildren, plus three adults participated in the tour. The hatchery had an additional 191 visitors for the month of June.

As for volunteer activities during the month, the FOIDNFH and other volunteers had a total of 102.5 hours. These hours included 43.5 hours to support hatchery operations, 23.5 for landscaping, 21 for administrative assistance, seven and a half for outreach, three for maintenance, and four for visitor amenities. The Intermediate Sanction Facility also assisted on two days during the month to mow and trim weeds in fields, around buildings and structures, and around the production ponds. They put in a total of 54 hours.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation



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## 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