

FY 2016

TXFWCO Activity Report: December



Sampling at Camp Maxey

Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Monthly Report

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Activities

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Emphasis Areas

On 16-18 December 2015, Mike Montagne and Chris Chapa attended the Southwest Region Emphasis Area Workshop in Albuquerque New Mexico. The point of the workshop was to develop Emphasis Areas priority work plans for the next five years. The work plans are to be submitted by 27 January 2016 for review and potential funding.

Camp Maxey Community Structure Project

On 7-11 December 2015, Diego Araujo and Chris Chapa continued fish population and community structure studies at Camp Maxey's Lamar and Neff Lakes for the Texas Military Forces (TMF). Trammel nets were set in the open sections of the lake, and seine hauls were used to collect fish in the shoreline habitats. Results will aid in developing future management and recreational plans to protect and recover native mollusk populations endemic to Camp Maxey. In addition to the scheduled fish community work, we consulted the Texas Military Forces staff on possible remediation efforts concerning sewage retention ponds, as well as potential wetland restoration efforts leading from the treatment ponds into Lamar Lake.



Diego Araujo and Chris Chapa seine shoreline Habitat at Camp Maxie.

Alabama Coushatta Site Visit

On 14 December 2015, Dr. Jeff Hutchinson (San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center), Chris Chapa, and Diego Araujo consulted with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe at Lake Tombigbee to discuss invasive elephant ear treatment and/or removal, catfish stocking, and fish community work. A visual survey was conducted of approximately two acres coverage of the elephant ears, which were concentrated near two stream inflows into Lake Tombigbee. Recommendations on herbicide type, treatment, and protocol recommendations were given. With the approval of the Lake Manager, a fish sampling trip is scheduled in February 2016 in order to quantify the fish community present in Lake Tombigbee prior to placing an order for catfish stocking.



Site visit to Lake Tombigbee, owned and managed by the Alabama Coushatta Tribe.

Pasadena ISD

On 3 December 2015, Chris Chapa met with representatives of the Pasadena Independent School District to discuss how the TXFWCO can assist with getting kids into nature. A mini kids fishing event will be held on 16 January 2016. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will supply two volunteers and fishing equipment. The Harris County Game Wardens will talk to the students about water safety. Future education efforts with the school district will include field trips to local National Wildlife Refuges.

January Schedule of Activities:

11-15 January 2016: Mapping Trip to Dolan Falls

13 January 2016: State of the Bay Symposium

16 January 2016: Participate at Camp Mabry Fishing Day

18-22 January 2016: Ottine Dam Removal

25-29 January 2016: Fish Community Study at Camp Maxey