

# FY 2015

## TXFWCO Activity Report: October



### **Fishing Derby at the San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center**

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

# Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

## Monthly Report

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## Paddlefish Reintroduction Project

On 14-17 October 2014, Diego Araujo and Cole Webster, with help from TPWD in Marshal TX, conducted American paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) radio telemetry monitoring at Caddo Lake and the Big Cypress Bayou. The towers continue to collect data at each of the three locations. Approximately 36 miles of Big Cypress Bayou and Caddo Lake were searched by boat and thirty seven of the forty seven paddlefish were contacted. Seventeen paddlefish were detected just below the spillway of Lake O' the Pines.

Pete Diaz will conduct paddlefish radio telemetry monitoring in November, and with the help of Texas Parks and Wildlife will electrofish below the spillway of Lake “o the Pines. We know that the older radio tagged fish were attracted to this upstream site, now we will see if the 2000 young of the year paddlefish released in September were also attracted to this site as well.



Radio Tracking in the Big Cypress Bayou.

## Station Visits by the Regional Office

The TXFWCO was visited by both by Jennifer Fowler Propst (Fisheries Supervisor), and Stewart Jacks (Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources) in October.

## Kids Fishing Derby at San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center

On 25 October 2014, the TXFWCO, with the help of the San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center (SMARC), and Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery (IDNFH), conducted the first Fishing Derby at the SMARC in many years. IDNFH supplied the channel catfish for the event. Around 100 children from local schools, and their parents, participated in the event. Prizes (fishing poles and other small items) were awarded for the capture of tagged fish, hotdogs were given away and a good time was had by all.

## Fish collection at Camp Maybry

On 23 October 2014, the TXFWCO conducted fish collection for a contaminants study at Camp Maybry. The scope of work included capturing three specimens of each species, largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), and channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and having them tested by a lab to test for human health risk by consumption of the fish in the pond. The TXFWCO set trammel nets in the fishing pond and captured three largemouth bass, and three bluegill, but no channel catfish.

The TXFWCO made another attempt to capture channel catfish from the pond on the evening of 29 October 2014. Four people using rod and reel fished for 3.5 hours and were unable to capture any channel catfish.



Sampling at Camp Maybry.

## Ottine Dam Site Visit

On 21 October 2014, Robert Baca (USFWS Engineer) and Mike Montagne made a site visit to Ottine Dam. The USFWS looks to remove the dam with funding from the National Fish Passage Program. The dam has been in place since the 1900's, but is failing and poses a safety risk as well as a barrier to fish movement.

## Aquatic Invertebrates Identifications

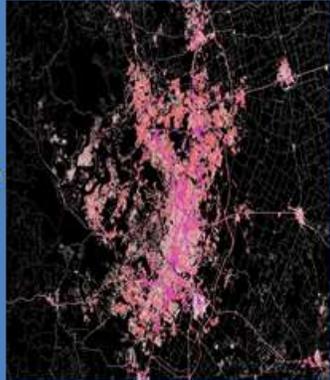
The TXFWCO has completed identifying and analyzing the aquatic invertebrate samples for the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande in 2014. The TXFWCO continues to sort and identify invertebrate samples collected in the San Felipe Creek.

## Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Workshop

Pete Diaz gave a presentation on the status of aquatic invertebrates in Texas with emphasis on the Edwards Plateau, to The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at their 2014 Surface Water Monitoring Workshop.

**Monitoring the Sprawl**

- Two projects within the Edwards
  - *Eurycea* Toxicity Project
    - 21 Springs in Travis, Williamson and Hays Counties
  - Hill Country Urban Intensity Index
    - McMahon and Cuffney 2000
    - ~60 Sites



### November/December Schedule of Activities:

14 November 2014: Spring sampling in Dripping Springs

17-21 November 2014: Paddlefish radio tracking

17-21 November 2014: West Texas sampling trip

18-19 November 2014: Camp Maxie and Bowie fish collection

1-3 December 2014: Devils River minnow monitoring

3 December 2014: Rio Grande silvery minnow stocking at Dryden

15 December 2015: Pecos pupfish monitoring/Phantom restoration