

Monthly Report

# GAVINS POINT NFH

December 2019

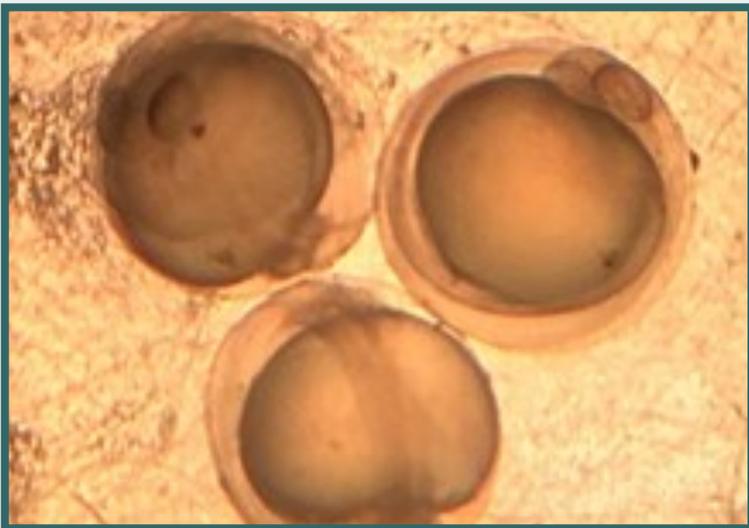


Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)

Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery—Yankton, SD

## Reproductive Status

All 19 wild pallid sturgeon were evaluated using ultrasound. We have 6 reproductive females and 1 reproductive males going into the 2020 season. Our new wild broodstock holding program has really increased the number of reproductive fish we use for the propagation program.



## KWS Dace Spawning

KWS dace were spawning multiple times during December. Most of the spawns took place over the weekend. The hard part is identifying which day a particular fish will spawn but we are starting to develop a pattern for some of the fish.

## KWS Dace Spawning Tanks

Hatchery staff constructed 6 new “spawning tanks.” The tanks are circular to provide current and spawning boxes are placed in each tank. One male and female will be paired up and placed in the spawning tanks for up to a month. This new design system will maximize our ability to capture the genetics from each individual fish.



## College Class in The Field

Sam Stukel continued his partnership with the biology department at Mount Marty College by giving detailed 90-minute hatchery tours to three separate classes (Honors Bio, Wildlife Bio, and Ecology). Endangered species, AIS, water quality and native Missouri River fish were amongst the topics each class covered.



## Assisting Neosho NFH

Chris has been reviewing pallid sturgeon ultrasound images that were taken at Neosho National Fish Hatchery in Region 3. Neosho Staff came to Gavins Point to be trained on using ultrasound to determine reproductive readiness in pallid sturgeon. This review is a follow-up to the previous training.

## Backwash Pump Replaced

The backwash pump in the rotary drum filter in the Endangered Species Building failed and needed replacement. Tim designed a new pump location so the entire filtration system would not have to be drained in-order to provide repairs of the pump. This will provide faster service in the future if a failure occurs.



## *Looking Ahead*

- *KWS dace Spawning and experimental rearing*
- *Pallid Sturgeon Middle Basin Meeting*
- *Fish Culture Equipment repairs*
- *Generator Repairs*
- *SOP development*

## Hatchery Staff

Jeff Powell—Project Leader

Nick Starzl—Assistant Project Leader

Diane Von Eschen—Admin. Officer

Tim Schroeder—Maint. Mechanic

Chris Hooley—Fish Biologist

Sam Stukel—Fish Biologist

Terry Hall—Biological Science Tech

## In Brief

- The paddlefish SOP was developed then requested by Pratt State Fish Hatchery in Kansas. Gavins Point will work closely with our partner over the next year as their new program is developed.
- Various pallid sturgeon parental data was provided to the USGS Columbia and Southern Illinois University as part of a massive genetic project. This project should result with cheaper, faster, and more accurate pallid sturgeon identification genetic markers.
- Nick finished the Standard Operating Procedures for all the warm water species on the facility.
- All hatchery alarms were tested and the Sensaphone was reprogrammed to incorporate the new alarms.
- The roof of the well building was insulated and asphalt repair on the main road were completed.



Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)