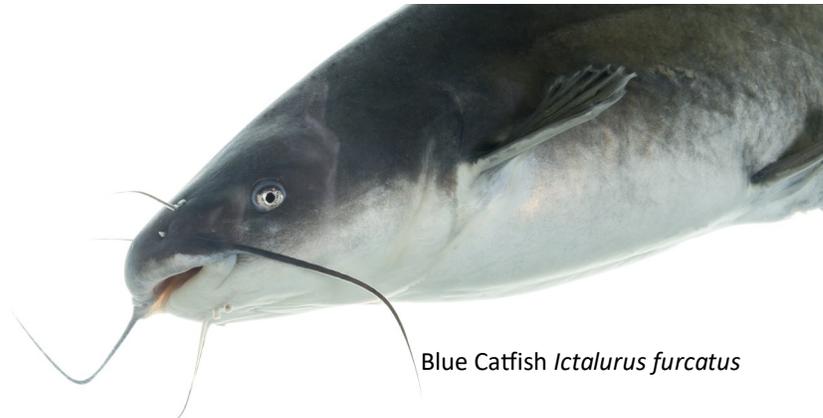


Monthly Report

JULY 2020

# GAVINS POINT NFH



Blue Catfish *Ictalurus furcatus*

Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery—Yankton, SD

## Moving on!

Hatchery Manager Jeff Powell accepted a position in Bozeman MT as the center director. His energy and presence will be missed. We are in the process of turning his office into a hatchery billiard room.



## Mussel Host Experiments

Black sandshell mussels host trials with flathead chub continued. With the assistance of staff at the Genoa NFH, it was determined through the host trial that flathead chubs are a moderate host for the black sandshell mussel. Although not as good of a host as other species, what makes the flathead chub viability exciting is that it naturally inhabits many of the tributaries in Nebraska where native mussel propagation is proposed.



## Pallid Sturgeon Stocking

The remaining 2019 pallid sturgeon yc were successfully stocked July 14 and 15. The fish were stocked in 5 locations along the Missouri River in the Middle Basin (Gavins Point Dam to St. Louis). The fish averaged 13.4" and 8 different family lots were represented .



## Blue Catfish collection

14 adult blue catfish were collected with the help of Jason Kral FWS and Mark Pegg at UNL. Blue catfish is a species that has been proposed for re-introduction above Gavins Point Dam in Lewis and Clark Lake. The fish will hopefully spawn next year to produce our first offspring.



## Paddlefish Production

Paddlefish continue to be reared in 5 production ponds at the hatchery. Approximately 4000 lbs of fish food was dispensed in July through the floating feeders to allow the paddlers to grow about an inch per week. The ponds will be harvested in early August to tag and then pond cultured again for another 30 days to reach 12”.

## Kendall's Warm Springs Dace

A new group of wild dace were collected and shipped to Gavins Point NFH via the help of the USGS crew located at Jackson NFH. The 15 fish will augment our current wild population that is used to create the refugia population on station in the Dace Room.



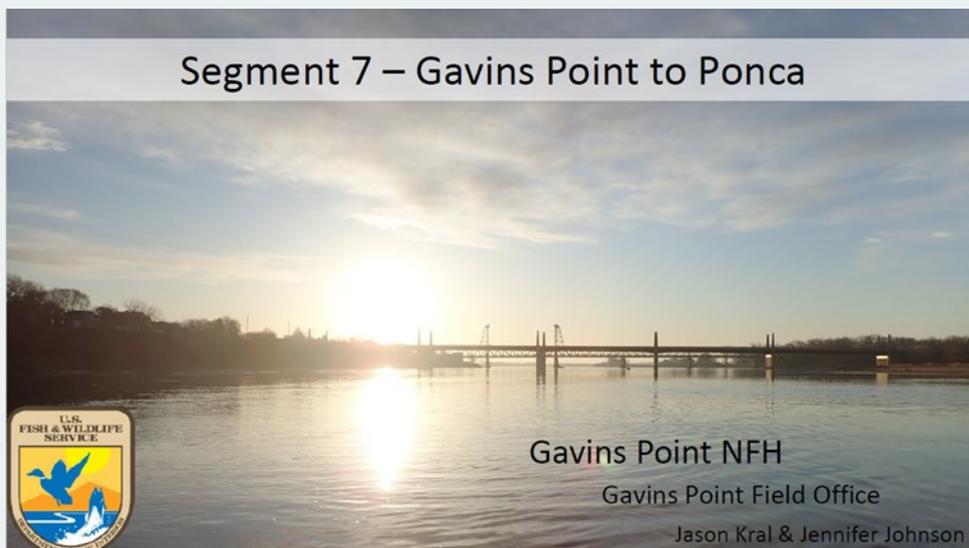
## Asian Carp



We spent several days in the field attempting to capture young-of-the-year silver, bighead, and grass carp. This project will provide professional-quality images of Asian Carp for outreach and education purposes. As a result of our field collections, Sam has photographed five additional species for the USFWS National Digital Library.

## Pallid Sturgeon

- We made contact with three acoustically tagged pallid sturgeon in the unchannelized portion of the Missouri River during a sweep of the segment.
- We assisted with PIT tagging of the remaining 2019 year class prior to stocking in the lower Missouri River.
- We participated in the Middle Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup webinar. As sub-chair of the workgroup, Jennifer organized the webinar. Chris provided an update on pallid sturgeon stocking and broodstock, and Jason provided an update on our 2020 field work.



## *Looking Ahead*

- *Paddlefish tagging*
- *Paddlefish Phase 3 Culture*
- *Environmental Compliance reporting*
- *Distribution truck and tank prep for paddlefish stocking in September.*

## Hatchery Staff

Nick Starzl—Acting Project Leader

Diane Von Eschen—Admin. Officer

Tim Schroeder—Maint. Mechanic

Chris Hooley—Fish Biologist

Sam Stukel—Fish Biologist

Terry Hall—Bio Tech (Term)

Cole Moderegger— Bio Tech (Seasonal)

Ron Grande Bio Tech (Seasonal)

Jennifer Johnson—Fish Biologist (River)

Jason Kral—Fish Biologist (River)

## In Brief

- Wild Dace were successfully shipped from KWS
- 1 species of fish has been sent to fish health for the annual fish health assessment
- Staff transition of Jennifer and Jason from Great Plains to Gavins Point is moving forward.
- Paddlefish phase 1 ponds were finished harvesting with a total of 225k 4" paddlefish moved to new ponds for phase II grow-out in July.
- Dace room RAS system was disassembled and cleaned for routine maintenance.
- The Middle-Basin Pallid Sturgeon Mtg was held via webinar on July 30th with Jennifer Johnson facilitating, and Jason Kral and Chris Hooley presenting.