

Monthly Report

JUNE 2020

GAVINS POINT NFH



Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)

Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery—Yankton, SD

Walleye Stocking

Walleye production was a huge success with over 953,000 fingerlings being stocked into Lewis and Clark Lake. Due to COVID-19 only 1.1 million walleye fry were obtained but overall survival rates were over 85%. This marks the second year in a row with overall pond survival for walleye production at over 85%.



Yellow Perch Stocking

With COVID-19 limiting field operations in the Mid-West, we took every opportunity to help out our State Partners. With a request of only 50,000 we produced 1,181,700 fry and 237,703 fingerlings for stocking in South Dakota and tribal waters. Without the trap and transfer program, these extra fish helped fill a gap caused by our current pandemic.



Mussel Host Experiments

Black sandshell mussels host trials with flathead chub are underway. Hatchery staff harvested the glochidia from the mussel and inoculated the gills of multiple flathead chubs. With the assistance of a microscope daily counts on how many glochidia fall off the gills are done on all 10 rearing buckets. After 14 days we should see how many transformers resulted from this evaluation and will be able to determine if flathead chubs are a suitable host species. This program will eventually turn in to a restoration program in Nebraska, this species has been eradicated from the state.



Warm Water Species

Sportfish species were harvested and all tribal and State request were exceeded. Black crappie- 224,489 fingerlings, largemouth bass- 37,850 fingerling, and bluegill- 600 fingerlings stocked. The rest of the bluegill fingerlings are used for forage for the captive broodstock programs.



Pallid Sturgeon Spawning

We are going into our third month of spawning pallid sturgeon! 161,638 embryos were collected and sent to Bozeman Fish Technology Center, and Miles City State Fish Hatchery for research purposes. These embryos are used for diet trials as well as fin curl evaluations. Stock photo– Greg and Larry spawning a pallid sturgeon.

Flathead Chub Spawning

Flathead chubs were spawned in June. Observations were documented on age at spawning, 2 year-olds, 3-year-olds, vs 4 year-olds. Approximately 40,000 eggs were collected. Currently these offspring will be used as part of the pallid sturgeon forage program.





Asian Carp

Jennifer and Jason began scouting locations for potential acoustic receiver deployment in the Vermillion River and began practicing surgical techniques to implant acoustic tags in Silver Carp. Jennifer enrolled as a study investigator in the AADAP National INAD Program to use AQUI-S® 20E as a sedative for Silver Carp undergoing acoustic tag implantation.

Jennifer participated in several webinars to discuss work plans for two project proposals, "Define the spatial distribution, and population demographics of Asian carp populations, and the associated fish community in the Missouri River Basin" and "Asian carp movement and habitat use in the Missouri River Basin to inform containment and control management actions".

Pallid Sturgeon

Jennifer and Jason actively tracked and recaptured a high priority female pallid sturgeon and conducted a reproductive assessment. They captured an additional nine pallid sturgeon and implanted one fish with an acoustic transmitter. They also checked in on an additional six other acoustically tagged pallid sturgeon in the unchannelized portion of the Missouri River.

They obtained an excess Sonosite portable ultrasound (at no cost to us; original acquisition cost \$56,257). This unit will be used for the broodstock program and will improve our reproductive assessment capabilities in the field.



Looking Ahead

- *Pallid Sturgeon Spawning/ Stocking*
- *Paddlefish Phase 1 Harvest*
- *Blue Catfish Capture*
- *Freshwater Mussel Experiments/culture*
- *Collection of YOY Silver and Bighead carp for photography*
- *Middle Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup meeting*
- *Wild Dace collection*

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—Bio Tech (Term)

Cole Moderegger— Bio Tech (Seasonal)

Ron Grande Bio Tech (Seasonal)

Jennifer Johnson—Fish Biologist (River)

In Brief

- Phase 1 paddlefish harvest has started with 6 ponds being harvested. Like last year, Phase 1 survival rates have been very good at over 66% percent survival
- 7 species of fish have been sent to fish health for the annual fish health assessment
- The first phase of a renovating project in the Aquarium is completed, a new rock wall was constructed behind the small aquarium displays
- The Friends of Gavins Point NFH provided a \$1,000 scholarship to Jakob Strom of Yankton, whom will be attending SDSU to study wildlife law enforcement this fall Kendall's Warm Spring dace spawning continued throughout June
- The rotary drum-filters were serviced, including new panels and a full inspection
- Sam consulted with DFP student Dana Arnold about photo management for the region and worked with her to update the GPNFH website