

Monthly Report

MARCH 2020

GAVINS POINT NFH



Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)

Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery—Yankton, SD

Pallid Sturgeon Broodstock

A total of 7 pallid sturgeon were transferred to the hatchery in March. The State of Missouri and Nebraska as well as the USFWS crew captured the fish while sampling for the population assessment program. Hatchery staff are constantly on standby and when a crew catches a fish a staff members drives to the closest boat ramp to receive the fish



Interpretative Signage

Sam created new interpretive signage including: eight new 18x24" framed posters for the headquarters building and 30 new 8x10" signs for below the aquarium windows. He also finished the offseason aquarium cleanup project.



KWS Dace Experiments

KWS dace are susceptible to Costia, a parasite that is found in their native habitat. Research suggests that Costia can not survive temperatures above 86 F and KWS dace were successfully reared at 90 F for 24 hours. These thermal tests will allow staff to develop non-chemical methods for treating the dace when they are brought into captivity.



River Crew

Jennifer Johnson and Jason Kral will now be under the Gavins Point NFH org chart. The transfer from Pierre FWCO was coordinated to better align with station specific goals. Welcome Jennifer and Jason!



Pond Filling

Fish production season is ramping up and extensive culture activities are being implemented. Five production ponds were filled and another 8 ponds are filling.

Drum Filter Panel Replacement

Tim and Cole changed out the dirty 30 micron drum filter panels with fresh ones. This is performed twice a year and is a critical control point in preventing zebra mussel infestation as well as increasing water clarity for the UV systems to work efficiently. The two drum filters continually filter about 2000-3000 gallons of lake water per minute.



Looking Ahead

- *Pallid Broodstock collection*
- *Pallid Sturgeon Staging*
- *Pallid Sturgeon Spawn*
- *Pallid Sturgeon Stocking*
- *Yellow Perch Eggs*
- *Sportfish broodstock pairing*
- *Filling paddlefish ponds*

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



Black crappie

In Brief

- Three staff members attended the pallid sturgeon upper basin meeting in Billings MT.
- Gavins Point hosted the monthly Friends Group meeting at the hatchery.
- One staff member attended the pallid sturgeon population assessment meeting held at the ACOE office in Yankton SD.
- Terry and Nick assisted the USGS with their razorback sucker study.
- Distribution equipment and vehicles were tuned up for the year, new tires, oxygen stones, etc.
- Tanks and the jar battery were acid cleaned in preparation for walleye eggs.
- Numerous conference calls occurred during the month of March.
- Due to COVID-19 hatchery staff developed protocols for social distancing
- Nick and Cole took the in class-room chainsaw training. Their field day is currently postponed.