

Monthly Report

October/November 2019

GAVINS POINT NFH



Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)

Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery—Yankton, SD

Pallid Sturgeon Tagging

Researchers from Nebraska Game and Parks and the USGS spent time at the hatchery installing telemetry tags into wild fish that we spawned last spring. These 12 wild fish went back into the Missouri where their movements will be tracked by a multi-agency team of scientists.



KWS Dace Experiments

Experiential trials were conducted on surplus F-1 KWS dace. We found that MS-222 was a safe anesthesia and it allowed us to continue to experiment with tagging methods. Currently elastomer tag locations are under development for the species.

Wild Flathead Chub Collection

Wild flathead chubs were collected from from two different streams. State of Nebraska assisted with capturing 130 wild chubs from Verdigree creek in Nebraska. USFWS Great Plains FWCO assisted with collecting 100 wild chubs from Bull Creek in South Dakota.



Halloween at the Aquarium

This highly-successful event attracted over 400 children and featured spooky-themed aquarium displays, yard games and of course lots of candy treats. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the aquarium and Friends Group to a local crowd that may be less likely to stop at the facility during the “tourist season.”



Scouts Earn Fish Badge

Scouts earned a fisheries management certification. They worked with Sam to identify all the fish species in the aquarium and got a lesson in aging fish using fish scales. The scout group was led by Colonel John Hudson (Commander of the Omaha District, USACOE).

Jeff Powell Presents at MRRIC

Jeff Powell gave a presentation to a stakeholder group (Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee) about pallid sturgeon propagation efforts.



Cleaning the Pipes

The well water contains high levels of manganese which precipitates out of solution once aerated. The manganese build up on the inside of the pipe causing reduced water flows. Tim Schroeder leads the yearly effort and sewer jets the entire well water supply lines around the facility. Every fitting and piece of pipe needs the yearly cleaning.



Pond Liner Project Complete

Three fish production ponds were lined with EPDEM material. The project had some complications but R-6 Engineer Jason Crownholm did an excellent job keeping the pond project moving forward. The lined ponds will really benefit our paddlefish program.

Looking Ahead

- *KWS dace Spawning and experimental rearing*
- *Determining wild pallid sturgeon reproductive status*
- *Fish Culture Equipment 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

- Sam Stukel was a guest lecturer at the University of South Dakota . His 70 minute lecture focused on aquatic invasive species with emphasis on zebra mussels and Asian carp.
- Two wild pallid sturgeon were caught by Nebraska Game and Park staff and Gavins Point NFH transported the fish back to the hatchery for recovery actions.
- Gavins Point hosted friends group meetings in October and November.
- Gavins Point hosted a office addition kick-off meeting with R-6 engineering staff as well as the contractors
- Nick Starzl and Sam Stukel hosted university tours at the facility, these tours are more in-depth and are designed off the curriculum from the class.
- Hatchery winterization activities took place: water lines were freeze-drained, sprinklers systems blown-out , fish culture equipment winterized, leaf removal and a whole host of fall clean-up activities.



Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)