

# Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery



## Aquatic Species Habitat Conservation and Management

*2014 alligator gar  
ready for stocking.*



The Chesapeake State Fish Hatchery in Missouri transported about 850 year class 2014 alligator gar from Tishomingo NFH as part of the effort to reintroduce the alligator gar in their native range. The gar were tagged and then released at ten sites in southeast Missouri. The remaining 570 alligator gar at Tishomingo NFH, measuring eleven to thirteen inches in length, were implanted with coded wire tags and stocked in Hugo Lake as part of an ongoing Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation effort to re-establish alligator gar in Oklahoma waters.



*Tagging alligator gar for Hugo  
Lake.*

Approximately 2,000 paddlefish were tagged and stocked in Grand Lake O' the Cherokees. These paddlefish were about eleven inches in length and part of the management plan to augment the population of paddlefish in the Arkansas River drainage area.



*Paddlefish to be stocked in Grand Lake.*

Alligator snapping turtles began hatching on August 11<sup>th</sup>, after eighty-four days of incubation. Hatching will continue through the first week of September. During the 2014 alligator snapping turtle production, a total of twenty-five nests were discovered around the three turtle ponds. In these nests, about 750 eggs were incubated after being harvested from around the ponds, with an average clutch size of 31.7 eggs.



*Alligator snapping turtle eggs hatching in vermiculite-filled plastic tubs.*

## Public Use

The University of Oklahoma Biological Station toured the Tishomingo NFH with about 45 students this month. They were shown paddlefish, alligator gar, alligator snapping turtles, and got to feed channel catfish. Following the tour, the students seined Pennington Creek for various aquatic species and plants.



*Pennington Creek at  
Tishomingo NFH- - always a  
seining favorite for students.*

The Oklahoma Herpetology Society toured the Tishomingo NFH with 30 members. They were captivated by the Turtle Culture Building, with its air and water line customization, viewing the hatchling alligator snapping turtles as well as the adult turtles. They also got to compare a map turtle, red-ear slider turtle, and common snapping turtle with the alligator snapping turtles' characteristics. This group of herpetologists specifically enjoys this tour and requests repeat visits each year in order to view the culture techniques developed at Tishomingo NFH for the alligator snapping turtle, designated a species of concern in Oklahoma.

*Alligator Snapping Turtle  
Building.*



*Moving alligator gar after spawning.*



**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

[www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html)

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