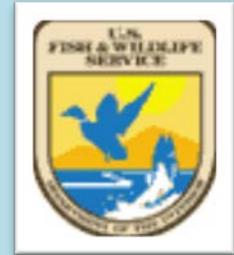


# Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery



## Monthly Report December 2015



### Leadership in Science and Technology

Alligator snapping turtle data was taken in December by Dr. Day Ligon from Missouri State University, and his research assistant, Sarah Spangler, as well as Denise Thompson from Oklahoma State University at the Tishomingo NFH. This data will be used in ongoing studies undertaken by Spangler and Thompson. A total of twenty-two adult alligator snapping turtles were collected from two ponds. Blood samples were taken to investigate stress levels associated with seasonal water temperatures and handling. Ultrasound x-rays were taken of each alligator snapping turtle to determine the progress of egg development. All females showed the presence of egg follicles. Two transmitters were determined to be faulty, and replaced.



*Aaron White and David Alberson assist Dr. Day Ligon with ultrasound on alligator snapping turtle.*



In the study of food and habitat preference for hatchling alligator snapping turtles in Pennington Creek, ten out of thirteen hatchlings were located by using transmitter telemetry. One of the hatchlings had travelled south to the walking bridge across Pennington, about 400 yards from the release site.

*Sarah Spangler holds hatchling alligator snapping turtle in Pennington Creek found using transmitter telemetry.*

*Denise Thompson works in lab with turtle embryos.*



*Centrifuge used for separating plasma from blood.*



## OUTREACH

Twelve paddlefish, about eighteen inches in length, were given to the Oklahoma Aquarium for their "Native Fish of Oklahoma" display. These fish were in addition to stocking commitments already met.



*Paddlefish for Oklahoma Aquarium.*

## FACILITIES

The Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery was hit with yet another round of severe weather at month's end. Rainfall amounts totaled seven inches on an already saturated ground, and strong winds damaged trees. A large tree fell at the corner of

a concrete block building used for boat storage. The building was not damaged, but the overhead doors were blocked preventing any use. Another tree fell across the metal roof of a storage building, demolishing the roof sheet metal and wood trim. Repairs to the roof have been completed by our staff. Various trees and limbs across hatchery property were downed without damaging any structures. The Nature Trail experienced more wash-out, with limbs and debris obstructing passage.



*Inaccessible boat storage building.*



*Storage building roof demolished, left; staff repairs roof, right.*



*Trees downed by high winds  
across several trails on Hatchery  
grounds.*

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**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html>  
**Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation**  
**Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery**  
**5501 OK Highway 7W**  
**Tishomingo, OK 73460**  
**Phone: 580-384-5463**  
**Manager: Kerry G. Graves**

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