



TISHOMINGO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT FEBRUARY 2014



Leadership in Science and Technology

At the request of Texas FWCO, fifty paddlefish had been allowed to grow at the Tishomingo NFH from the 2012 year class. In February, the Tishomingo NFH and Pete Diaz, Texas FWCO, implanted sonic transmitters in the abdominal cavity of these paddlefish. The average length of these two-year-old fish was 31 inches. To begin the implant procedure, the paddlefish were moved from a circular holding tank into a smaller tank where anesthesia was administered. Then each fish was placed in a wooden cradle; a small incision was made to allow the transmitter to be implanted and the transmitter wire threaded through a catheter into the abdominal cavity. The incision was sutured for successful healing; paddlefish were released into a large circular tank for recuperation. During the last week in February, Texas Parks and Wildlife staff will test their hauling equipment using five paddlefish not implanted with transmitters. These fish will be taken to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Aquarium at Athens, Texas, for display. In March, after the trial run, Texas Parks and Wildlife staff will stock the paddlefish with implanted transmitters in Caddo Lake and Texas FWCO will begin monitoring. Buoys with receivers have been placed strategically in the river above this lake and around the lake to log the transmitter number of individual paddlefish passing near each buoy. This endeavor also brought Susan Ogrocki of the Associated Press and Jay Hardy of The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas to film the procedure at Tishomingo NFH.

Paddlefish shown with transmitter wire on left side.



Tishomingo NFH staff and Pete Diaz, Texas FWCO, implant sonic transmitters in paddlefish.

(CSF 5.2.1;
CSF 5.3.7)



Sonic transmitters used in paddlefish monitoring.

Nicole Farliss, a research assistant at Oklahoma State University, returned to the Tishomingo NFH this month to check the temperature loggers she had set on a previous visit. She also seined an area of Blue River and Byrd's Mill Spring with Nature Conservancy staff. These springs are fed by the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer. Ms. Farliss is monitoring temperatures and fish species near the springs.

(CSF 5.2.1; CSF 5.3.7)

*Blue River seined by OSU
research assistant.*



Outreach

Brian Fillmore and Ralph Simmons were interviewed by Brian Brashier on KCNP Radio, the official radio station of the Chickasaw Tribe. During the interview, questions were answered about paddlefish, alligator snapping turtles, alligator gar, Arkansas River shiners, and the history of the Tishomingo NFH. This radio interview and the article on the hatchery written by K. C. Cole, Media and Community Development Specialist for the Chickasaws, are being done to raise awareness of the natural beauty and aquatic opportunities our area has to offer. The story done by Mr. Cole has even been picked up by national press, the Indian Country Today. **(CSF 15.4.8; CSF 15.4.12)**



Ralph Simmons and Brian Fillmore interviewed on radio

Maintenance

Vandals struck the Tishomingo NFH on February 21st. They discharged six fire extinguishers that were kept on each piece of heavy equipment. When the extinguishers were discharged, the white flame retardant was sprayed over the heavy equipment creating quite a mess and handles were broken in the process. All six extinguishers had to be replaced for a total of \$330, but the real cost is in our manpower hours used to clean the equipment and repair any damage done by the retardant.

Work Force

Staff from Tishomingo NFH attended a 7-hour Safety Training Course at the Tishomingo NWR, where they were joined by the refuge staff, staff from Hagerman NWR, and Little River NWR staff. This course was sponsored by the Regional Office.

Aaron White attended the two-week Fisheries Academy at NCTC where Dan Ashe was going to be a guest speaker.



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Photos courtesy of Tishomingo NFH staff.

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