



## Monthly Accomplishments

April 2013

### Fisheries Activities

All FY 2012 channel catfish are currently being cultured in eleven production ponds at Inks Dam NFH for the FY 2013 stocking requests. Density levels for the production ponds are approximately 7,000 fish per acre. Currently there are 55,422 FY 2012 channel catfish averaging 4.62 fpp and 9.02 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded by staff for the month for either the 2012 population or the 2011 population.

Staff has been in contact with the Regional Office staff and both the Arizona and New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCO) to determine Tribal Trust stocking requests for FY14. These numbers have yet to be determined and spawning season is here. All brood stock were ponded as late as possible in the month but water temperatures dictated they be put into the spawning ponds.

The original (FY2010) gambusia refugium population moved over to the recirculation tanks in March of 2012 is still doing very well. The 121 fish have now been on station for more than two and half years. Four female mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month. This coincides with female losses that occurred last year during the “peak” of the gambusia spawning period. No disease or parasites were found during examination of the mortalities.

The new (FY2012) population collected in partnership with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas FWCO are doing well. The new fish have been separated by sex, quarantined for the 180-day quarantine requirement. Inks Dam NFH has a total of 36 females and 5 males in refuge from the 2012 population. A total of 10 male and 14 female mortalities were recorded in the FY2012 population during the month. Again, no disease or parasites were found during examination of the mortalities. It may be that the spring spawning season may affect males as well, but samples were sent to the Dexter Fish Health Lab in Dexter, New Mexico for diagnosis anyway.

Hatchery staff harvested and loaded the first of Fort Hood's FY13 reimbursable agreement. Staff loaded a total of 720 pounds and these fish were 0.82 fish per pound. Total length was 15.89 inches.



Gregory Landry, Robert Vorous, Richard Nichols (volunteer) harvesting channel catfish for the DOD Fort Hood reimbursable agreement.



Inks Dam NFH, like many of the other National Fish Hatcheries is more than just fish or other aquatic species they have in their care. This young “Ringtail” *Bassariscus astutus* hasn't realized it is supposed to be a nocturnal critter. Ringtails are not marsupials but are of the Raccoon family and have that familiar “ringed-tail” like their raccoon cousins.



## Personnel

In April, Robert Vorous and Larry Guerro participated in training at the Wage Grade Meeting held in Winnie, Texas during the second week of April. The week long training, although varied from the initial schedule, involved a variety of classes that can also be utilized at the hatchery by all staff. Robert and Larry also had the opportunity to meet many different folks from the Southwestern Region including Regional staff.

Paul Dorman, Mark Yost and Gregory Landry all had a pesticide applicators license review with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The license review is a check on our license updates and logging of chemicals used on station. All passed with many compliments on how organized our logs and chemical storage was.

## Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Hatchery staff had to install a new main waterline meter do to an electrical strike close by the unit which shorted out all the motherboards. Extra precaution was taken installing the new meter by rubber mounting the entire unit and calling in a local electric company to ground the box, installing fusible links on both sides of the meter box to hopefully eliminate this issue in the future.

The 2012 DM work on the ponds liners is progressing very smoothly and ahead of schedule. Both the contractor and

subcontractor are working very well; communication is great and by the first full week of May the EPDM liner, a first at Inks Dam NFH, will actually be laid in Pond 10.

## Visitors, Education and Outreach

The hatchery had many visitors during the month of April, with a total of 235 people counted by staff. Visitation had peaks and valleys which coincided with the extreme cold and warm days throughout the month. Some days twenty to thirty visitors



Levee rebuilding once all the vegetation was removed (Pond 10 above and Pond 7C below) has taken up most of the contractors' time this month.



came out, other days none. As for volunteer activities during the month, the Friends Group volunteers spent a total of 75.5 hours in preparing for the was

working hard finalizing dates and times with the local school districts for the approved Hatchery Outdoor Program (HOP). This program is the largest outreach and environmental education we put on for the year. This year all three local school districts, Marble Falls, Burnet and Llano will participate with the possibility of 375-425 kids, parents and teachers starting on May 13th.

The Burnet County Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) worked two days doing mowing and weed eating around ponds, kettles and hatchery building. They also assisted with burying 150 feet of irrigation line that was plumbed into our water catchment feature at the Education Building.

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Southwest Region  
Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation



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## Current staff members

Paul Dorman .....	Project Leader
Mark Yost .....	Assistant Project Leader
Julie Burks.....	Administrative Technician
Gregory Landry .....	Fisheries Biologist
Larry Guerro .....	Motor Vehicle Operator
Robert Vorous .....	Maintenance Worker