



Monthly Accomplishments

April 2016

Fisheries Activities

Water Quality

This month's average dissolved oxygen level for the incoming water was 5.50 parts per million (ppm) and a mean temperature of 19.7°C. The Lower Colorado River Authority has decided to release water for downstream agriculture, and now flood protection this year, which is creating the much cooler water temperatures and lower dissolved oxygen levels. Monthly pond dissolved oxygen levels averaged only slightly lower at 7.15 ppm (80.50% saturation), at an average pond temperature of 21.42° C which is a needed increase from last month. Staff has continued the increased time for manual backwash to once every thirty minutes on the filter since the productivity has increased in the lakes above us.

Channel catfish

All of the FY15 fish are in their larger over-wintering production ponds. To-date, 47,828 are in production ponds for FY16 Tribal requests. These fish currently average 4.92 fish per pound (fpp) and 8.85 inches in total length. Overall, we still behind in length and weights on these fish because water temperatures are now being influenced by water releases from Lake Buchanan. Twelve mortalities were recorded for the month with several ponds having minor outbreaks of *Flavobacterium columnare*.

Hatchery staff seined and harvested ponds for the first Tribal Trust stocking this month

with shipment beginning May 2, 2016. These fish averaged 4.92 fish per pound (fpp) and 8.85 inches in total length to meet a request of 8.5 inch channel catfish.

Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 3,541 averaging 1.70 fish per pound (fpp) and 12.53 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded for the month. These fish will be used as future brood stock and future reimbursable fish.

Currently there are 2,156 FY13 channel catfish averaging 0.79 fpp and 16.18 inches in total length. These fish are being used as brood stock this year and reimbursable fish.

Hatchery staff transferred 784 fish from this population to the Fort Hood Natural Resources staff for the season's second stocking. These fish weighted a total of 714 pounds and averaged 1.10 fish per pound and total length was 14.50 inches. Three mortalities were recorded for this population during the month and due to handling.

Additional production also includes 539, FY12, catfish averaging 0.16 fpp and 27.38 inches in total length. These fish are being utilized for brood stock this year and Fort Hood Reimbursable contract requests later in the year after spawning. Spawning has started and No spawning has started yet this year because of the water temperatures. No mortalities

One of the best things about Outdoor Education at Inks Dam NFH is having fun. The great thing about having fun is it has no age limit! Try to pick out a frowning face from these people trying to become "Master Casters" while on tour at Inks Dam NFH.



Senior tour above and Cub Scouts and families below



were recorded for the FY12 population of fish this month.

Clear Creek gambusia

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population has now been in recirculation tanks for three full years and currently five and a half years in refugium. These original refugium fish all expired during the month but they provided a great deal of data and life history information for the future. Mortality was probably "old age".

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation totals 56 fish. No mortality occurred during the month. There are currently 38, FY15, Clear Creek gambusia. A single female and two male mortalities occurred during the month in this population. Mortality, so far this year, has been greatly reduced during this spawning season. No external parasites were found.

All FY14, FY15, and F1's adults are now on a 14 hour on and 14 hour off light cycle. Staff has increase time so these fish are now on full light regimes for spawning. Water temperatures have also been increased gradually to better represent the late winter and spring seasons. Other water quality indices are being monitored to duplicate optimum water conditions for pre-spawning conditions. All of the FY14 and FY15 Clear Creek gambusia adults (100% pure) are doing well and staff has now taken a total twenty (20) F1 fry from two spawning females and still with the month of May to go, which was the busy month last year.

The FY15 F1 Clear Creek gambusia total 238, of which;

147 are female and 91 are males. A total of five F1 mortalities occurred during the month. No external parasites were observed on the mortality and probably due to spawning.

Hatchery staff decided to see if we can get these fish to spawn, unaltered, in their first year. By spawning these we should get age 1 fecundity numbers for life history data since most of the fish we get from the wild are of unknown age. They will be genetically tested after spawning in FY16. To date we have produced through our spawning technique a total of 263 F2's. Many more of the F1 females are showing signs of being gravid and have been separated into spawning tanks.

Personnel

All facility staff has their yearly EEO and Diversity training and their yearly FISSA training completed by month's end. Additionally, all employees mid-year EPAP review have been completed.

Paul Dorman has been undertaking interviews for the replacement of Larry Guerro, WG-Motor Vehicle Operator. There should be a selection made by the beginning of May.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Some minor repairs still need to be conducted but the all of the vehicles and heavy equipment have been serviced for the year. Jerry Simmons has been fitting the new trailer for the fish hauling tank picked up last month from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice

in Huntsville, Texas with support equipment. Oxygen bottle holders, tool box, spare tire and battery electrical. This trailer also received a new 10,000 pound suspension overhaul. This tank will allow us to haul fish greater distances and utilize a trailer we have on station that has not been used for a long time.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 318 visitors for the month. The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 275.3 hours for the month. They performed the usual monthly stuff but they also had two tours and prepped for the Open House and the Hatchery Outdoor Program (HOP) for the beginning of May.

The first tour was Cub Scout Pack 3461, from Austin, Texas. There were 23 Cub Scouts 6-10 years old, 36 adults and 12 siblings in the visiting group. During the visit the scouts and siblings were introduced to the hatchery, had an interpretive hike of along the Ashe Juniper Trail and tried to become "Master Casters".

The second tour on April 15th was a group of seniors toured the hatchery. These seniors were with the Silver Heart Seniors Group. There were 19 seniors in the group and they saw a slide show on IDNFH fish production, toured the native plant garden, feed catfish, looked at the fish in the hatchery's raceways and had a lot of fun trying to become "Master Casters."

The FOIDNFH also performed trash pickup along the road

along the hatchery property. It was part of the Month of April "Trash-Off" where volunteers clean local highways and roads of debris and litter. They did an "outstanding" job.



Friends of Inks Dam NFH and Friends of Inks Lake State Park combined forces in the April "Trash-Off". This is held in April and those folks that volunteered to keep roadways clear of litter or debris use this as their kick-off for the year. They all did an outstanding job and many "Thanks!"

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



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Current staff members

Paul Dorman	Project Leader
Scott Walker	Assistant Project Leader
Vacant	Environmental Education Specialist
Tammy Simmons	Administrative Technician
Gregory Landry	Fisheries Biologist
Matthew Paulson	Fisheries Biologist
Vacant	Animal Caretaker (Term)
Vacant	Maintenance Worker
Jerry Simmons	Maintenance Worker
Jerry Crouch	Maintenance Worker