



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

August 2013

Fisheries Activities

Fish Health staff from the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC) performed the Annual Fish Health Inspection in July. Results were forwarded this month and Inks Dam NFH has retained its Class A Fish Health Certification again. This will allow us to produce and stock fish throughout Region 2.

The remaining Tribal Trust stocking for this year was delivered to White Mountain Apache Tribe. The Arizona Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) requested 30,000 channel catfish from three to five inch total length range. Staff delivered 32,097 channel catfish averaging 38.26 fish per pound and 4.43 total inches. This was done one month earlier than in the past.

Inks Dam NFH staff stocked 66,278 fish averaging 33.58 fish per pound and 4.64 inches in total length. These fish were stocked in accordance with the Texas Park and Wildlife Department Management Plan for the Highland Chain-of-Lakes. This was to reduce any extra 'Sport and Recreation' fish to just essential numbers of fish. This will create available production space for new species in the future. This has now reduced the number of carry over channel catfish to just the two year classes of broodstock, next year's fish for the Fort Hood reimbursable agreement and possibly similar stocking

requests to FY13 for Tribal Trust.

Currently there are 60,183 FY 2013 channel catfish averaging 31.73 fpp and 4.71 inches in total length. These potentially could be used to meet Tribal Trust requests in FY14 and is similar in number to what was stocked out in FY13. A total of 122 mortalities were recorded by staff for the month due to *Trichodina spp.* Staff treated infected ponds with potassium permanganate and mortalities ceased.

Hatchery staff also harvested and loaded the fifth of Fort Hood's FY13 reimbursable agreement. Staff loaded 814 fish weighing 700 pounds. These fish averaged 1.16 fish per pound and a total length of 14.22 inches. The last of the Fort Hood reimbursable agreement stockings will take place in September. It will be a "Kids Fishing Day" to promote the Outdoors.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population moved over to the recirculation tanks in March of 2012 is still doing very well. The 140 fish have now been on station for almost three years. Five mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month. No external parasites or disease were observed in any of the mortalities.

Personnel

Most of the hatchery staff finished their mandatory



Above and Below:

Damage was incurred at Inks Dam NFH during the month when an isolated thunderstorm blew multiple trees down around the hatchery. One tree blocked the main entrance to the facility for several hours until staff cleared the fallen tree. The four stall vehicle garage and the wood and tool building received the most damage. The remainder of the facility received only minor damage to several other buildings. No staff or family members were injured in this storm.



training for the year. Julie Burks continues working meticulously with the upcoming closer of FBMS and the end of the Fiscal Year. Larry Guerro has serviced the Regional Distribution Unit for the year and is currently winterizing the unit. Gregory Landry's article on the Friends Group will be utilized for an upcoming article in Eddies.

Paul Dorman met with Mr. Patrick Stephens, Partnership Development Coordinator, with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) about the possibility of student employment here at Inks Dam NFH. Possible funding sources and housing for these students were also discussed.

Paul attended a conference call along with staff from the Texas FWCO, all the Texas Ecological Services Field Offices and Uvalde NFH, on the development of the ranking system for the imperiled species of Texas. Mike Montagne from the (TXFWCO) and Dr. Ken Ostrand along with Tom Brandt from (SMARC) had the initial ranking system developed and only minor modifications came from the group. Most of the changes were in definitions for the ranking system. By September, the ranking system should be readied for input and final discussions.

Mark Yost, Assistant Project Leader GS9/11/12, has decided to resign at the beginning of September to accept a position with the State of New Mexico Game and Fish. He will be missed, by staff, not only for his personality but his skills and dedication to the Service.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Staff also installed four new solar panels and 12volt air pumps for the ponds. Although



Hatchery staff increased our use of solar powered aeration two fold at Inks Dam NFH by installing four new units.

they don't add much oxygen they do a great job of water circulation and creating a constant temperature in the ponds. This has now doubled our use of solar powered pond aeration.

Rip-Rap rock started being delivered for the FY13 DM Project for Bank Stabilization here at Inks Dam NFH. A total of 563 tons will be delivered within several days. This rock is to prevent a cave-in from the fluctuating river levels found on the Colorado River that is adjacent to the hatchery.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

The hatchery had a total of 196 visitors for the month of August. Many of these folks got to observe fish being seined, loaded and stocked. Others watched fish feeding and asked questions about the facility and what we do. Various groups ask about seeing Inks Dam or participated in the trail walks or bird watching.

As for volunteer activities during the month, the Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of

42.0 hours. The volunteer hours were 20.5 for outreach, 13.5 for maintenance, 2.5 for landscaping, and 5.5 for assisting with hatchery operations. This activity provides a great opportunity for those donating their time to learn more about what the Service and this facility does but it also allows staff to focus more on the biological aspects of the species under our care and mission.

Towards the end of the month the FOIDNFH provided a tour for Boy Scout Troop #17 from San Antonio. Eighteen scouts and five adults participated in numerous activities including; Hiking the Overlook Trail, an overview presentation on the hatchery's mission in the Education Center, casting for "Yard Bass" and bird watching in the Ashe Juniper Bird Blind.

The Intermediate Sanction Facility also came out on one day during the month to mow and trim weeds in fields, around buildings and structures, and around the production ponds. They put in a total of 26 hours for the days labor.

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
Vacant	Maintenance Worker
Vacant	Maintenance Worker