



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

August 2015

Fisheries Activities

Poor incoming hydrological parameters continued this month. The month's average dissolved oxygen level in the incoming water was 0.641 parts per million (ppm). Monthly pond dissolved oxygen levels ranged from 1.4 ppm to 10.2 ppm (134% saturation), at an average pond temperature of 30.5° C. This constant, poor water quality has aided in an increase in the mortalities for the smallest fish on station. The FY15 channel catfish have suffered 781 mortalities and multiple ponds are/were given medicated feeds for Motile Aeromonas septicemia (MAS). Staff has also begun to see some mortality with gas bubble disease because of oxygen super saturation issues. The organic loading in the water (from the filling of Lake Buchanan with early spring rainfall) has created large algal blooms that are difficult to control with these temperatures.

Staff continued stocking FY15 fish from grow-out ponds into larger production ponds. To-date, 42,738 have been placed into production ponds for FY16 Tribal requests. An additional two to three ponds will be stocked in early September. Early spawning, consistently warmer water temperatures and now poor water quality has all be contributors to splitting the small fish earlier this year.

Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 4,680 averaging 2.86 fish per pound (fpp) and 10.71 inches in total

length. No mortalities were recorded for the month. The remainder of these fish will be utilized for the Texas FWCO Youth Fishing Program and Replacement brood stock in FY17.

Inks Dam NFH staff stocked the last of the FY15 Tribal requests for New Mexico and Arizona during the month. Ohkay Owingeh received 7,325 fish averaging 2.93 fpp and 10.43 inches in total length. White Mountain Apache Nation received 17,000 Channel catfish averaging 41.32 fpp and 4.30 inches in total length.

Currently there are 3,521 FY13 channel catfish averaging 1.16 fpp and 14.26 inches in total length. These fish will be used as future brood stock and future reimbursable fish. Additional production also includes 647 FY12 catfish averaging 0.26 fpp and 23.42 inches in total length. These fish will be utilized for brood stock in FY16 and Fort Hood Reimbursable contract requests. A single mortality was recorded for each population of fish this month.

In August, Inks Dam NFH staff transported American paddlefish back to Tishomingo NFH for tagging and release into Lake Eufaula in Oklahoma. Despite the large losses suffered earlier in the production year, due to *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* (Ich), staff shipped 704 paddlefish averaging 2.13 fpp and 14.95 inches in total length. Upon arrival at Tishomingo the fish

Since Inks Dam NFH staff finished the tribal requests this month, I thought it might be appropriate to show some of the behind the scenes during fish transport.

(Below: Staff member from the New Mexico FWCO (4-5AM) inspects the tanks for non-target species and fish quality.)



Once the okay is given to the drivers they are on the road again to their, and the fishes, final destination, the stocking spot.



Sunrise and the end of a 16 to 18 hour journey for both the fish and the drivers!

looked very good and for several days they continued looking good and healthy. Marking of these transferred fish is to start in early September.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population has now been in recirculation tanks for two full years and approaching five in refugium. There are now only seven original refugium fish. No mortality was recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation totals 89 fish. A total of 15 mortalities occurred during the month. These were equally distributed between males and females. No external parasites or disease signs have been noticed. Hatchery staff did send six fish, to Southwestern ARRC Fish Health Unit, for analysis on the possibility of these fish having Mycobacteriosis (*M. marinum*). This might explain our inability to find anything in or on these fish yet continue to have chronic mortality.

There currently is 93 FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. There was a corresponding increase in mortalities from this year class as well. A total of 23 occurred for the month. The mortalities, in this population as well, were equally distributed between males and females. No external parasites or disease signs have been noticed. Staff sent in six fish from this population as well to the SWARRC FHU for the same analysis.

All FY14 and FY15 adult female gambusia have been returned to their respective tanks. No more birthing has taken place this

month. These adults are being placed into light control. Water temperatures are going to be progressively decreased to a natural "normal" water temperature for spawning next year and by September they will be on a 12 hour on and 12 hour off light cycle.

The FY 15 F1 Clear Creek gambusia total of 223 F1's of which; 137 are female and 86 are males. An additional 84 juveniles have yet to be separated because of their lack of maturity. A total of 30 F1 juvenile mortalities occurred during the month and due primarily to handling.

Personnel

Paul Dorman continued working with Mark Reiser, Senior Project Manager, for McMillen - Jacobs Associates on the incoming water filter project. Incoming water sampling continues with two more samples to obtain. The Lower Colorado River Authority has been moving a lot of water from Lake Buchanan to Inks Lake. Paul continued working with Pedernales Electric Company, CGS and Regional staff to get the FY15 DM residence housing electrical rehabilitation back on track.

Tammy Simmons has been working with Teresa Martinez on the budget and Marta Estrada with learning the systems. She is also getting to know quite a few of the Regional folks, as well as, local area administrative folks. She is making a great addition to our staff.

Scott Walker has been work with the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAPP) in Bozeman, Mont. He is also working with Manuel Ulibarri, from SWARRC since

Teresa Lewis is now gone and he is filling the role as Study (INAD) Monitor for the Region.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Inks Dam NFH staff's main focus has been on moving fish, stocking fish and maintaining pond water quality.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 113 visitors for the month despite the extremely warm weather. Most of the folks came over from the State Park to visit and see what it is we do, enjoy some fishing in the river and participate in hiking on the trails or bird watching.

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 75 hours for the month of August. Everyone is trying to escape the heat so work time for the FOIDNFH and other volunteers was limited to morning and very early afternoons. The FOIDNFH membership spent the majority of the month with weekly bird surveys, bird feeder filling, trail grooming and smaller activities around the Education Center to avoid the afternoon heat.

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)
Larry Guerro	Motor Vehicle Operator
Jerry Simmons	Maintenance Worker
Jerry Crouch	Maintenance Worker