



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

December 2015

Fisheries Activities

Channel catfish

This month's average dissolved oxygen level for the incoming water was 5.98 parts per million (ppm). Monthly pond dissolved oxygen levels increased and averaged 8.62 ppm (90.25% saturation), at an average pond temperature of 13.15° C.

Staff has completed stocking FY15 fish from grow-out ponds into larger production ponds. To date, 63,007 have been placed into production ponds for FY16 Tribal requests. These fish average 9.06 fish per pound (fpp) and 7.38 inches in total length. Some weight loss has occurred this month due to decreasing temperatures. A total of three mortalities were recorded for this population and were recorded as bird predation.

Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 3,603 averaging 2.04 fish per pound (fpp) and 11.80 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded for the month. These fish will be used as future brood stock and future reimbursable fish. This brood year has made only slight gains in body weight has occurred due to colder temperatures for the month.

Currently there are 3,520 FY13 channel catfish averaging 1.01 fpp and 15.00 inches in total length. These fish will be used as brood stock in FY16 and future reimbursable fish. Additional production also

includes 544 FY12 catfish averaging 0.21 fpp and 25.34 inches in total length. These fish will be utilized for brood stock in FY16 and Fort Hood Reimbursable contract requests. No mortalities were recorded for each 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 years in refugium. There are now only five original refugium fish. No mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

The genetic testing results came back from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) genetics lab, in San Marcos, at the A.E. Woods facility. Data showed that of the 147 genetic samples sent in to TPWD a total of thirteen fish were shown to be hybridized. This would equate to a hybridization rate of 8.84% which is an increase from the last time we had these fish genetically tested.

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation totals 58 fish. A single mortality occurred during the month. Seven fish were detected for hybridization and two were of unknown origin because not enough genetic material was collected. All hybridized fish were culled from the population. The "unknown origin fish" were moved into the



Paul Dorman attended the Project Leaders meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on December 1-2, 2015. The two day meeting covered a large variety of topics and was well attended by the Project Leaders and many of the Regional staff.

Inks Dam NFH staff would like to take this time to "Thank" all of the Regional FAC staff, and the multitudes of others in the Regional Office, that assist us with fulfilling our mission. Without this assistance we couldn't get our jobs done and all of the facility staff greatly appreciates everything you do!

FY10 CCG tank until they can be retested.

There currently is 42 FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. A total of two mortalities occurred for the month. Again, no mortalities had external parasites nor observed signs of disease. A total of six fish were detected for hybridization and only one “unknown” fish which was moved into the FY10 tank to be tested again at a later date. All hybridized fish were culled from the population.

All FY14, FY15, and F1’s adults are now on a 12 hour on and 12 hour off light cycle. Water temperatures are lowered to better represent the fall and winter 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) have been placed into spawning tanks by the end of this month and are being monitored for reproductive behaviors.

The FY15 F1 Clear Creek gambusia total 181, of which; 120 are female and 61 are males. A total of two F1 mortalities occurred during the month and both were female. No external parasites were observed on these mortalities. Approximately half of these fish will be stocked into spawning tanks by the beginning of January.

No genetic testing was performed on these fish this year. 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.

Personnel

Paul Dorman attended the Project Leader’s meeting in Albuquerque, NM during the month. Both Paul and Tammy Simmons meet with Josh in December to go over budget request, budget layout, and many other budgetary items during his visit. Many of the facilities staff continues taking time off for the annual leave “use or lose” requirements during the Holiday Season.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Jerry Simmons, Larry Guerro and Jerry Crouch have almost completed all of the annual maintenance of all the facility’s equipment. Several larger pieces of equipment need yet to be completed but these should be completed by February.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 225 visitors despite the colder temperatures late in the month. The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 42.5 hours for the month. They winterized the bird blind water feature and water catchment pump and tank. They also winterized the Education Building water catchment and pump systems for the building’s drip irrigation system prior to Decembers’ cold fronts.

Looking back over the year, the FOIDNFH provided a total of 16 tours to 722 children and young adults and 166 adults during FY15. The FOIDNFH provides a wide range of tour focuses. They cover geology, wildlife habitats, and native plants, feeding fish, and teach how to cast a fishing line accurately and safely, and finally, the USFWS mission and Inks Dam NFH role in accomplishing the Service’s mission. This amenity, for the benefit of the Service, brings many kids to the outdoors and we have gotten only positive responses back from parents.

Additionally, Inks Dam NFH had a FY15 total of 2,602 visitors, which does not include the tours given by the FOIDNFH, and primarily contacted by hatchery staff. These folks were provided information about the facility, its mission, and participated in things like hiking on facility trails, bird watching, watching staff feed or harvest fish, picnic, or fish in Lake LBJ. This is important because the majority of these folks are already in the area to “do” things in the outdoors. These folks are “our supporters” in the things the USFWS stands for and does, and we are glad to help them enjoy the little bit of outdoors we have!

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