



Monthly Accomplishments

July 2013

Fisheries Activities

Fish Health staff from the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC) came early in the month to perform the Annual Fish Health Inspection. All year classes of fish were sampled and no visual problems were observed by the Fish Health staff. It will take approximately 28 days to obtain the results.

With only one remaining Tribal Trust stocking left for the year, hatchery staff focused on reducing Sport and Recreation fish during the month to just essential numbers of fish. This will create available production space for new species at this facility in the future.

Inks Dam NFH staff stocked 23,001 fish averaging 3.39 fish per pound and 9.86 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 has now reduced the number of carry over channel catfish to just the two year classes of broodstock and next year's fish for the Fort Hood reimbursable agreement.

Hatchery staff also harvested and loaded the fourth of Fort Hood's FY13 reimbursable agreement. Staff loaded 474 fish weighing 510 pounds. These fish averaged 0.93 fish per pound and a total length of 15.24 inches. Fort Hood has been very pleased with the quality of fish and

asked if we could extend the contract again for FY14.

Currently there are 182,108 FY 2013 channel catfish averaging 58.53 fpp and 3.84 inches in total length. A total of 1,154 mortalities were recorded by staff for the month due to external Columnaris. Antibiotics were administered and by the end of the treatment period the mortalities had fallen to near zero.

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. Fourteen mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month but ten of these were for the Annual Fish Health Inspection. No external parasites or disease were observed in any of the mortalities.

Personnel

Hatchery staff continued working on completing their mandatory training for the year and Julie Burks has been working diligently with CGS in getting all the Purchase Requests in for the end of the Fiscal Year. Mark Yost assisted the Fish Health staff with the Annual Fish health Inspection. Mark, Robert Vorous and Larry Guerro hauled the eleven loads of FY12 channel catfish during



Above: Friends of Inks Dam NFH member Jerry Stacy discusses fish production with High School students from New Horizons Academy in Smithwyck, Texas. This was only one segment of the tour that these students received during their tour in July at Inks Dam NFH.

Below: Just a few of the students and parents, from San Saba, Texas that made it to the top of the Overlook Trail. Again, this is only one of the numerous things they got to do during their tour in July.



the month.

Paul Dorman and Gregory Landry assisted Pat Mc Dermitt with the Annual Safety Inspection for the facility. Gregory also performed the Annual Safety Inspection at the Austin Ecological Services Field Office in Austin, Texas during the month. Paul attended numerous meetings, along with staff from the Texas FWCO, all the Texas Ecological Services Field Offices and Uvalde NFH, at the San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center to first determine a set of criteria that could be used to rank species based upon species status and needs, as well as, Service infrastructure and support. Other meetings were working sessions where existing knowledge and information about previously developed ranking criteria and individual species were outlined and discussed. By August, the members should have developed a ranking system for the imperiled species of Texas.

Robert Vorous, Maintenance Mechanic WG-6/7, has resigned to return to his home state of Virginia. 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. Several old butterfly valves were replaced by staff this month to conserve valuable water due to the drought in Texas. Staff also performed a complete service of the John Deere 310G backhoe and front end loader. While servicing this equipment they noticed a crack in the metal fuel

tank so it was replaced. Maintenance staff also replaced several of the boom pins.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

The hatchery had a total of 334 visitors for the month of July. Many of these folks were eager to observe the little fish and broodstock feeding. Others participated in the trail walks or bird watching. Despite the extremely warm temperatures more folks are making Inks Dam NFH a destination to stop and see the many different things we have to offer.

As for volunteer activities during the month, the Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 85.5 hours. These volunteer hours provide a great opportunity for those donating



This young man looks like he wants to become a future USFWS Fisheries Biologist or at least go fishing!

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 the mission we have undertaken. Many “kudos” go out to our Friends and volunteers.

Towards the end of the month the FOIDNFH provided two tours. The first was for ten High

School students from the New Horizons Academy in Smithwyck, Texas. The second tour was for 27 home schooled students from San Saba, Texas. Both groups were provided a variety of things that ranged from hiking the Overlook Trail, fish morphology (the little ones LOVED the fish pillows!), learning to casting on the lawn (for “Yard Bass”) and in the broodstock pond, fed the fish and did a Q & A at the Education Building.



Two of the students from New Horizons Academy learning from Phil Wyde, President of the FOIDNFH, how casting is easier than it seems for beginners.

The Intermediate Sanction Facility also assisted on two days 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 48 hours for the two days of labor. We greatly appreciate everything they do at this facility and are thankful they can find the time to add us to their long list of places they service.

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