



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

July 2015

Fisheries Activities

Poor incoming hydrological parameters continued this month. At months end, the average incoming water dissolved oxygen level had fallen to 0.85 parts per million (ppm). Average pond dissolved oxygen levels were at 3.4 ppm which is below the stress level for Channel catfish. Staff has been creative, with feeding practices, to still maintain fish health and growth.

Staff has also begun splitting FY15 fish from grow-out ponds into larger production ponds. To date, 28,800 have been placed into production ponds for FY16 Tribal requests. Splitting these ponds is approximately four weeks earlier than has occurred in the last ten years. Early spawning, consistently warmer water temperatures and now poor water quality has all be contributors to splitting the small fish earlier.

Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 4,680 averaging 3.07 fish per pound (fpp) and 10.38 inches in total length. Mortalities have been higher this month when a shipment of Channel catfish intended for New Mexico broke with Motile Aeromonas septicemia (MAS) over the weekend prior to shipment. Losses totaled approximately 800 fish.

Inks Dam NFH staff stocked the last of the FY15 Navajo Nation and Ohkay Owingeh requests in New Mexico by months end.

These fish averaged 2.93 fpp and 10.43 inches in total length. A total of 14,081 Channel catfish were stocked to meet Tribal requests.

Currently there are 3,522 FY13 channel catfish averaging 1.20 fpp and 14.11 inches in total length. These fish will be used for future brood stock and future reimbursable fish. Additional production also includes 648 FY12 averaging 0.27 fpp and 23.15 inches in total length. These fish will be utilized for brood stock in FY16 and Fort Hood Reimbursable contract requests. There was one recorded mortality for the month on these populations of fish. Hatchery staff provided 405 fish, from this year class for the Fort Hood stocking of FY15. These fish averaged 0.20 fpp at 21.85 inches in total length.

In mid-June the American paddlefish at Inks Dam NFH became infected with *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* (Ich). Staff treated with a combination of daily salt and copper sulfate treatments and by month's end began to see result. Mortality for the month of July was 126 and 60 of those were for Fish Health. Current inventory stands at 1,418 fish with an average size of 9.0 fpp.

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.

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH provided a tour during the month to the Marble Falls Independent School District's Summer ACE Program. Taking part in the tour were 14 middle school children, (12 to 14 years old) and 6 adults. The ACE Program is a before and/or after school program designed to engage students in a variety of educational programs, including technology programs, designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic programs offered to students during the regular school day.



Above: The kids enjoyed the Master Caster Class and instructor Phil Wyde assists with casting techniques Below: Getting ready to hike the Overlook Trail.



One mortality was recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation now number 104 fish. A total of 9 mortalities occurred during the month. These were equally distributed between males and females and it could be associated with age, spawning, or giving birth. No external parasites or disease signs have been noticed.

There currently is 116 FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. There was a corresponding increase in mortalities from this year class as well. A total of 14 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.

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.

Inks Dam NFH staff have now determined sex and segregated the majority of F1 males and females. Staff has now inventoried a total of 253 F1's of which; 148 are female and 105 are males. An additional 84 juveniles have yet to sexed because of their lack of maturity. A total of 25 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 was delayed until the Lower Colorado River Authority started to move water, from Lake Buchanan to Inks Lake, to get the best, of the worst, water quality for the testing. He has also been working with Pedernales Electric Company to get the FY15 DM residence housing electrical rehabilitation back on track. Scott Walker assisted the SWNARRC Fish Health personnel with the Annual Fish health inspection. Jerry Crouch got his Non-Commercial, political, herbicide, pesticide license for the State of Texas. A new member has joined the Inks Dam NFH staff. We proudly introduce Tammy Simmons who is taking over the Administrative duties since Julie Burks left.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Inks Dam NFH maintenance staff has focused on getting ponds prepped for splitting fish into larger production ponds. Staff has been mowing fire breaks since all the rain we got in May has no evaporated and the area wide burn ban is in effect...again!

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 197 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.

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 112 hours for the month of July. This month the FOIDNFH membership spent the month with weekly bird surveys, trail grooming and smaller activities to avoid the afternoon heat.

The FOIDNFH put on a tour for the Marble Falls Independent School District's Summer ACE Program. The ACE Program is a before and/or after school program designed to engage students in a variety of educational programs, including technology / vocational programs, designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic programs offered to students during the regular school day. A total of 14 middle school children, (12 to 14 years old) and 6 adults participated in the tour.

The FOIDNFH also got verification from the Audubon Society that this September will be the site visit to determine whether or not Inks Dam NFH will get their Important Birding Area (IBA) designation. This is a large step to take and the FOIDNFH has worked hard collecting three years' worth of data to make this happen. Every Sunday they are out here in the early morning hours collecting this data. If this occurs, which it should, it will increase the number of bird watchers from all over the state and visitors from other states as well.

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