



Monthly Accomplishments

July 2016

Fisheries Activities

Water Quality

This month's average dissolved oxygen level, for the incoming water, was 2.50 parts per million (ppm) and a mean temperature of 27.90°C. Monthly pond dissolved oxygen levels averaged the same as last month at 5.92 ppm (76.0% saturation), at an average pond temperature of 29.27° C.

The filter system is still self-cleaning every 30 minutes to prevent fouling but the manual cleaning is now performed every eight to ten days. The majority of the filter issues are trying to push more water and the slightly larger than 50 micron particles from the water source. With this year's filling of Lake Buchanan, after many years of drought, the increase in plugging the filter is not a big surprise.

Channel catfish

All of the FY15 fish are in production ponds. To-date, 9,889 are left in the production ponds for FY16 requests. A portion of these fish will go to the San Marcos ARRC for their Kids Fishing program while the remainder will go to Alabama Coushatta in Texas. These fish currently average 3.64 fish per pound (fpp) and 9.71 inches in total length.

Hatchery staff stocked Zuni and Navajo this month to finish all request for New Mexico. A total of 8,576 fish were transported to those locations. The FY15 fish

averaged 4.87 fish per pound and 8.85 inches in total length.

Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 2,586 averaging 2.08 fish per pound (fpp) and 11.72 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded for the month. A total of 217 of these fish were utilized for the Fort Hood reimbursable request for July. No mortalities for the month.

Currently there are 916 FY13 channel catfish averaging 0.73 fpp and 16.89 inches in total length. Hatchery staff shipped 122 of these fish with the other brood stock to meet the Ft. Hood request. They averaged 1.03 fpp and 14.80 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded for the month.

All of the FY12 Channel catfish were utilized for Fort Hood reimbursable contract requests during the month of July. Staff provided the Fort Hood Natural Resources with 526 of these fish. Total weight was 534.30 pounds and they averaged 15.1 inches in total length. Only one remaining stocking remains for Ft. Hood for FY16, which occurs early in September, and is a Kid's Fishing Program.

The Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center's Fish Health Laboratory staff was here to perform the Annual Fish Health Inspection this month. Hatchery staff finally got to meet Martha Keller, DVM, MS, who is the Fish Health Unit Leader.

As many of you know Inks Dam NFH provides warmwater sport fish the Region's Tribal Trust program. Facility staff spends many hours making sure these fish meet or exceed the requests we get from our tribal partners. The one thing we usually don't get to see is the smiles from folks that eventually catch or work. Chris Kitcheyan, from the NMFWCO, sent us some pictures of just that.....smiles!



Not sure I need to add more about those smiles!



Everything went well despite the extreme heat and no “obvious” issues were seen on the fish being examined. A total of 60 fish were taken from each year class and species on station. Result should be available in mid-to-late August.

Clear Creek gambusia

All FY14, FY15, and F1’s adults are now returning back to a normal light cycle regime. Water quality indices are being monitored to duplicate typical water conditions for spawning conditions. Spawning was suspended in July because no newly hatched fish have been found.

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation totals 43 fish. Eight mortalities occurred during the month in this population. There are currently 30, FY15, Clear Creek gambusia. Three mortalities occurred during the month in this population. Mortality, so far this year, has been greatly reduced during this spawning season. No external parasites were found in the mortalities of either population.

To date the FY14 and FY15 Clear Creek gambusia adults (100% pure) produced a total twenty-two (22) FY16, F1 fry. Currently there are only 18. Only two mortalities occurred this month.

The FY15 F1 Clear Creek gambusia total 202, of which; 129 are female and 74 are males. A total of twenty-nine F1 mortalities occurred during the month. No external parasites but quite of few of these were used for fish health examinations.

Hatchery staff wanted to get these fish genetically tested, and still will, but it probably won’t occur until this fall now. It does appear that we got some data on year 1 spawning data and fecundity. It is much easier to spawn the age 1 fish than the “older” fish. Additionally, despite their smaller size they produce more offspring.

To-date we have produced, through our spawning technique, a total of 550, FY16 F2’s of which we currently have 521. A total of 29 mortalities occurred in this population as well with the majority being the fish health examinations. Sexual dimorphism has already started to occur in the early born fish and those fish will be separated.

Personnel

Region 2 Division of Human Resources (DHR) sent the certificates for the 5/7 Fishery Biologist position at the end of July. Scott Walker is going over resumes and conducting interviews. That position hopefully will be filled before the end of August.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. The kettles and pond liner Deferred Maintenance Projects (DM) projects continued this month. The painting project in



The raceway cover is an all-welded frame and roof over raceway 1 for the mussel program. This will allow for security for endangered species and have the ability to use natural water for these delicate species.

the Butler Building was completed and the raceway cover for the mussel program was started.

Hatchery staff would like to again “thank” Michael Zamora of the Division of Engineering (ENG) for his invaluable assistance with these projects. His knowledge and skill set is greatly appreciated.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 188 visitors for the month despite the heat. The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 101.0 hours for the month. They performed the usual monthly maintenance and two tours in the very oppressive heat of July.

The two tours, for the Marble Falls “ACE” Program and sponsored by the Marble Falls ISD and similar to the Burnet ISD program which involves children who are at risk and are in an afterschool program during the regular school year.

The other tour was for the Educational Travel Camp, out of Lubbock, TX, which is a summer program put on by Texas AgriLife sponsored through Texas A&M. All total, they provided two tours for a total of 19 kids and six adults.



Kids and adults, from the Educational Travel Camp, enjoying a Master Caster Class which like all these classes eventually turns into a fun competition.

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
Vacant	Fisheries Biologist
Vacant	Animal Caretaker (Term)
Jeffery Pivonka	Maintenance Worker
Jerry Simmons	Maintenance Worker
Jerry Crouch	Maintenance Worker