



Monthly Accomplishments

June 2014

Fisheries Activities

Currently there are 24,052 FY13 channel catfish averaging 4.35 fpp and 9.16 inches in total length. Staff has increased feeding to everyday with the increasing pond temperatures and good growth has occurred during the month. Water temperatures are approaching 28.0°C and dissolved oxygen levels are on the typical decline.

Mortality for the month was up. A total of thirty-three mortalities were recorded for the month. A total of eight (24.24%) were spawning catfish adults (normal) but the remainder came from a greedy Red fox trying to feed her kits (see pictures to right). Staff had noticed last month some unusual “bite” marks showing up on some fish. This month, directly after feeding, a pile of 16 fish showed up on the levee across from a feeding ring with the same “bite” marks. The “fish thief” has learned that fish will continue to feed on the floating food for some time, very close to the shoreline, making them easy prey. A change in feeding protocols has occurred and the fox and her little ones have been put on notice.

Staff stocked a total of 10,212 FY13 channel catfish at the Zuni and Ohkay Owingeh Pueblos during the month. Zia Pueblo received 2,836 fish. The fish delivered averaged 3.40 fish per pound (fpp) and 10.09 inches in total length. Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo received 7,349 fish averaged 3.40 fpp and 10.09 inches in total length.

Channel catfish brood stocks were ponded by the beginning of May for the FY15 spawning season by hatchery staff. A total of 294 four year-old and 380 three year-old brood stock were placed into separate ponds by staff with aide from volunteers and Friends Group membership. Another 129,425 eggs were taken during the month of June. Total eggs collected for FY14 was 257,625. Survival from eggs to hatch was 83.62%.

Staff has selected groups of these fry, from all these eggs to preserve genetics/spawn timing to fill late FY14 and all of the FY15 Tribal requests and reimbursable agreements. By months end a total of 100,022 fry had been stocked in ponds to meet requests. Average survival, from hatch to ponding, was 96.78%.

Staff and volunteers collected FY12 Channel catfish for the Fort Hood reimbursable agreement stocking in June. Fort Hood received 741 and a total of 719 pounds for the June request. These fish averaged 1.03 fish per pound and 14.93 inches in total length.

Inks Dam NFH has relied heavily on the assistance of volunteers and Friends Group membership to harvest ponds, collect eggs, and set out FY15 Channel catfish fry. Everyone’s help is deeply appreciated and the success of

“What does a fox say”....Yummy

Last month staff noticed that several production fish were showing up with unusual “bite” marks. No mortalities occurred until this month. It was conjectured then that a Red fox mother had learned how to “fish” and we now have the factual evidence!



With the assistance of a dedicated volunteer, armed with a camera, we can clearly show that “hidden” mortalities can be attributed to other things that we don’t normally consider! Who would have guessed?



harvesting these ponds goes to those that assisted.

Inks Dam NFH also provided Channel catfish for the Steve Harvey Mentoring Program 2014 National Camp [Dallas] The young men's mentoring experience encompassed personal enrichment and positive self-image programs, as well as, outdoor team building challenges and fishing and wildlife education. Inks Dam NFH stocked 431 Channel catfish several days prior to the event so the fish could acclimate and provide the best fishing possible for the young men. These fish averaged 1.17 fpp and 14.18 inches in total length.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population has now been in recirculation tanks for two full years. The 57 remaining fish have now been on station for almost four years. Thirteen mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month. Most of mortalities came from the pure males although several did come from the remaining hybrid females. No external parasites or diseases were observed in any of the mortalities and probably due to attempts at spawning or normal life expectancy since they have been on station this long. To date no fertilization has taken place or observed by staff.

The staff from the Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office collected sixty Clear Creek gambusia samples for fish health certification early in the month. This certification was to allow new fish, from the upper pool, to come to Inks Dam NFH and to supplement the existing Clear Creek gambusia already held in

refuge. The Dexter Fish Health Center confirmed, by microscope examination, that 16.67% of the sixty fish sample had contracted *Bothriocephalus acheilognathi*, or Asian Tapeworm. Staff is waiting for information and treatment regimens from the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SWNARRC) that have worked with this problem in the past. A local area DVM has agreed to work with Inks Dam NFH staff in the administration and protocols needed for these treatments to remove the tapeworms.

Personnel

Paul Dorman, Project Leader, performed interviews and made a selection for the Supervisory Fisheries Biologist (APL) during the month. He also worked with Region 2 engineering and local contractors on several FY14 DM projects that are up coming.

Gregory Landry performed the June Safety Meeting for the hatchery staff. He has also been trying to keep up the Surrogate Species Information Team between loads of fish to New Mexico.

Julie Burks has been working diligently on the FY14 PPR's to beat the tight deadlines. She has also been tracking travel and expenses with the increase in travel by staff and the Regional Distribution Unit (RDU) during the busy stocking season. She also attended the Administrative Conference call at the beginning of the month.

Larry Guerro has been mowing and working ponds trying to keep pace with the weeds and grass.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Most of the monthly maintenance effort was spent disinfecting and prepping the RDU for the next deliveries for our Tribal partners and maintaining vital infrastructure equipment.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had a busy month with Outreach and Outdoor Education as well. The hatchery had 128 visitors for the month of June. With the warmer temperature numbers have dropped off some from previous months but many of these visitors were new to the hatchery and remarked how enjoyable it was to see fish, fish in the river, hike, bird, and just enjoy the outdoors. Visitation is still up for the year and many are first



Small group of FOIDNFH removing China Berry trees from the 20 acres on the Southwestern portion of the facility grounds.

time visitors.

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 81.5 hours for the month of June. Most of the FOIDNFH hours were for a tour, and working on removing invasive species from the facilities property. The invasive species removal is part of the FY14 Invasives with

Volunteers grant Inks Dam NFH received from Refuges this year.



Several Friends Group members and volunteers, from several different local groups, assist with spraying Malta Star thistle around the hatchery grounds as part of the FY14 Invasives with Volunteers grant.



Scouts from Pack 585 enjoying a “competitive” Master Caster class while receiving a tour at the hatchery.

The FOIDNFH provided a tour for Scout Troop 585 from Dripping Springs with 21 Scouts (aged 11-13) and 6 adults. They toured the Holding House and learned about fish production by viewing Channel catfish eggs and fry, participated in the Master Casting program and hiked the Overlook Trail to learn about local geology, vegetation and animals on the granite hill.

The Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) came out and mowed and weed whipped the Park area along the river. The six man crew put in a total of 36 hours and greatly assisted the hatchery staff in keeping the facility looking presentable.



FOIDNFH tour guides George Burgnoli and Judy Parker explaining to the scouts how weather and water temperatures effects channel catfish spawning

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation



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Phone 512/793-2474
http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/inks_dam/index.html

Current staff members

Paul Dorman	Project Leader
Vacant	Assistant Project Leader
Vacant	Environmental Education Specialist
Julie Burks.....	Administrative Technician
Gregory Landry	Fisheries Biologist
Vacant	Animal Caretaker (Term)
Larry Guerro	Motor Vehicle Operator
Vacant	Maintenance Worker
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