



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

June 2015

Fisheries Activities

With the past month's flooding and heavy rains collecting in the Highland Chain-of-Lakes, Inks Dam NFH is experiencing some poor hydrological parameters in its incoming water supply. Averaged dissolved oxygen, for the month of June, has fallen off to an average of 3.25 ppm with many days below one (1) ppm. Water clarity is almost zero but by month's end is clearing up. Staff is monitoring water quality parameters twice a day in all production ponds.

Channel catfish spawning season is over and staff has now collected the entire FY16 request for Channel catfish eggs. Staff have ponded all channel catfish for late FY15 and FY16 requested numbers in grow out ponds. Some ponds were stocked without little to no preparation and much work will need to be done to get those ponds cleaned out of rooted aquatic vegetation. Ponded fish are all now sight-feeding and growing rapidly.

Production numbers for the FY15 Channel catfish are 205,478 averaging 587.79 fish per pound (fpp) at 2.15 inches in total length. FY14 production Channel catfish number 19,530 averaging 3.14 fish per pound (fpp) and 10.28 inches in total length. Mortalities, for both year classes have been minimal to date. Inks Dam NFH staff stocked, for the month of June, 12,586 channel catfish for the Navajo Nation, Ohkay Owingeh, Zia request in New Mexico.

These fish averaged 3.10 fpp and 10.22 inches in total length. Currently there are 3,582 FY13 channel catfish averaging 1.23 fpp and 13.97 inches in total length. These fish will be used for future brood stock and future reimbursable fish. Additional production also includes 784, FY12 averaging 0.30 fpp and 22.36 inches in total length. These fish will, and have been utilized for brood stock in FY15, Fort Hood Reimbursable contract requests and the Steve Harvey Event. Hatchery staff provided 709 FY11 fish, from this year class, for the fourth Fort Hood stocking of FY15. These fish averaged 0.13 fpp at 29.81 inches in total length.

The month of June was hard on the paddlefish received from the Tishomingo NFH in mid-April. Staff had moved the paddlefish out to the 20ft. circular tanks and the fish were eating and growing very well when *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* was detected by staff close to month's end. Treatments were immediately undertaken but towards the beginning of this month, losses were close to 24% for the total production for FY15 paddlefish at Inks Dam NFH. Total production now stands at 1,500 fish with some losses continuing.

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 8, original refugium fish. Three

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH, volunteers, and staff put on several tours during the month so that area youth and their families can learn about, and develop an appreciation for the outdoors. Besides it's just great fun! Approximately 100 youth from Marble Falls ISD and Highland Lakes Elementary received tours this month.



Staff thought it appropriate to add some pictures of the "results" of our labors. Many times we don't get to see what happens with the fish we stock....thanks Chris!



mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation now number 107 fish. A total of 14 mortalities occurred during the month. The mortality was evenly split between the 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 148 FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. There was a corresponding increase in mortalities from this year class as well. A total of 17 occurred for the month. The majority of mortalities, in this population as well, were female but staff is finding that these smaller fish may be having issues passing offspring at birth. All female mortalities had very developed offspring not yet born. At this point staff is unable to document the cause of this problem.

Inks Dam NFH collected an additional 31 F1 juveniles this month and now has on inventory a total of 402 F1 juveniles from the FY14 and FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. The F1 juvenile mortality increased this month to 13 fish so staff started formalin treatments on all the juvenile tanks and so far mortality has decreased. The mortality might have been the early stages of "cotton mouth" disease or a fungal infection which have been seen in the gambusia here before. Most of the older F1's have been separated by sex. Current inventory shows 69 males and 96 females that were easily determined to be either sex. Several of the separated females

"appear" to be gravid. These females have been moved and isolated to see if they produce offspring.

Personnel

Paul Dorman worked with site visit contractor FY15 DM projects; Drain Line 6, Equipment Storage Bldg. Rehab, and the incoming water line 3 replacement. He continues working with Pedernales Electric COOP (PEC), electrical contractors and Region 2 engineering staff to finish up the Residences Electrical rehab for the houses on station. Julie Burks, Administrative Technician, has left to go to Region 4 and working with Refugees again.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. The majority of maintenance has focus on ponds, grass, and getting caught up with 22 days of rain last month.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 292 visitors for the month. Many folks are still coming out to see the neo-tropical birds and now their offspring, some fishing, although it has been slow because of the rains but the majority is coming to see what it is we do because they are in the area to do outdoor things and enjoy the area.

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 130 hours for the month of June. This month the FOIDNFH membership spent the month performing weekly bird surveys, milkweed seed collection, and improvements to the bird blind.

On June 9, hatchery staff stocked 357 fish for the Steve Harvey Mentoring Event in Dallas, Texas. Total pounds stocked were 530 pounds and average fish per pound was 0.67. Total length in inches was 16.9. Hatchery staff also took ten (10) 4 year-old fish that were 26.5 inches long that weighed almost 6 pounds apiece for some additional excitement for the young men. For the fourth year in a row Inks Dam NFH has provided the excitement you see.



Young men from the Greater Dallas Fort Worth area were invited to the Steve Harvey Mentoring Event held at his ranch. This young man may be experiencing his first ever catch!



Fishing was a popular event at the Steve Harvey Ranch. It has been said that Regional Director Dr. Benjamin Tuggle had the task of cooking fish but no pictures have surfaced that record that!

More information at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/AboutUs/harvey2015.html>

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
Vacant	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