



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

March 2013

Fisheries Activities

All FY 2012 channel catfish are currently being cultured in eleven production ponds at Inks Dam NFH for the FY 2013 stocking requests. Density levels for the production ponds are approximately 7,000 fish per acre. Currently there are 55,422 FY 2012 channel catfish averaging 5.67 fpp and 8.38 inches in total length. Staff recorded a single mortality for the month in the 2012 population and one from the 2011 population. They were presumed Osprey-caused mortalities due to talon markings found in both fish.

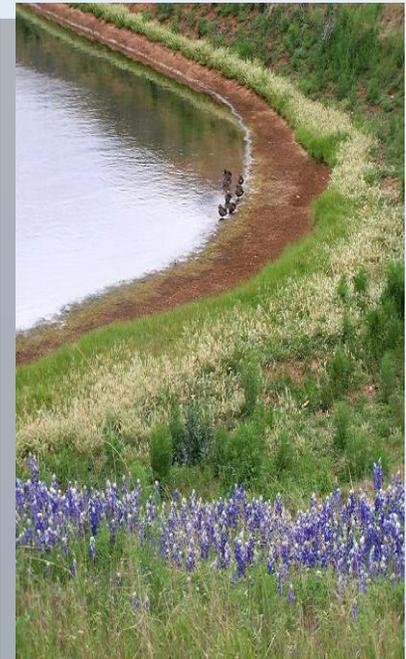
Staff has been in contact with both the Arizona and New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCO) to determine Tribal Trust stocking requests for FY14. These numbers have yet to be determined and spawning season is less than one month away.

The original (FY2010) gambusia refugium population moved over to the recirculation tanks in March of 2012 is still doing very well. The 125 fish have now been on station for more than two and half years. A total of two mortalities, in the male population, were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month. No disease or parasites were found during examination of the mortalities. Over the course of the years it would appear that male Clear Creek gambusia may be shorter lived than the female of the species.

The new FY2012 population collected in partnership with TPWD and the Texas FWCO are doing well. The new fish have been separated by sex, quarantined, and will remain that way for the 180-day quarantine requirement. Inks Dam NFH has a total of 50 females and 15 males in refuge from the 2012 population. Two male mortalities were recorded in the FY2012 population during the month. Again, no disease or parasites were found during examination of the mortality.

Hatchery staff installed a new recirculation system for the 2012 lot of gambusia this month, as well as, integrating it with the current system for the 2010 fish. Now that all the gambusia are on recirculation systems, the small well has been shut off to save the hatchery an average of about \$500 each month in energy expenses related to pumping ground water. An extra benefit to this final recirculation system is that it has now freed up further culture space. Inks Dam NFH can now be called upon for T&E species that may need to be salvaged from streams, rivers or lakes should the prolonged drought continue in Texas.

Last month's meeting with the private landowner at the Wilkinson Springs site, for the Clear Creek gambusia, has finally created a detailed work list for repairs to the dam. It would appear this project is finally moving to fruition and



This group of Blue-winged teal is enjoying the last of the water in the facilities' sump pond. Typically the pond receives well water flowing from the isolation building holding the hatchery's population of Clear Creek gambusia. With the new recirculation system, and the continuing drought, water is becoming harder to find for these migratory visitors.

the landowner appears to be serious about staying on his 90 day dam completion schedule.

Personnel

In March, four of the staff members, Paul Dorman, Mark Yost, Gregory Landry, and Julie Burks, participated in the American Heart Association's Heart Saver First Aid, CPR, and AED course. During the course everyone was given training to assist other staff or visitors in the event of a medical emergency. Robert Vorous and Larry Guerro did not participate in this training since they will receive the same training at the Wage Grade meeting during the second week of April. Staff endeavored this month to complete mandatory trainings outlined for DOI employees or to further their skill and competency using DOI Learn or other online training opportunities.

Paul Dorman and Julie Burks assisted Jae Ahn, Region 2 Facilities Coordinator RO, with the FY12 energy audit report and the Five Year Facility Condition Assessment. Jae spent several days and long hours performing this task and the Inks Dam NFH would like to "Thank" Jae for his diligence with the work he did.

Paul also attended the quarterly Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Regional Council Meeting. The quarterly topic was water quality in the basin and the Highland Chain-of-Lakes. Paul also gave a presentation to the Highland Lakes Master Naturalists on Zebra and Quagga mussels within Region 2.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Hatchery staff removed the main waterline meter and sent the unit in for repairs. The cause for the needed repairs was an electrical storm and the majority of the unit was burnt. By month's end a purchase order was in place and many "Thanks" goes out to Maria Bullard and Rey Aragon for their quick response to this purchase. The meter should be back online by the first week in April.

The 2012 Deferred Maintenance (DM) kettle work on Ponds 10 and 7C is almost complete with the contractor finishing up several small details this month. That project should be closed out by the first or second week in April.

The 2012 DM work on the ponds liners is still ramping up. Submittals and a pre-award meeting with contractors have occurred so far. Contracting and General Services should have this project ready by the second or third week in April ready to start.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

The hatchery had many visitors during the month of March, with a total of 376 people counted by staff. Many visitors came out due to the above average

temperatures and the migration of the White bass up the



A few of the seventeen, volunteer, "Weed Warriors" prepping their non-toxic chemicals to start the eradication of Multi-star thistle

Colorado River arm that feeds Lake LBJ. As for volunteer activities during the month, the Friends Group volunteers spent a total of 124.5 hours helping



Another segment of the "Weed Warriors" surgically removed China-berry saplings from the facility grounds. Both the China-berry and Multi-star thistle are invasive species.

around the hatchery. One reason for the increase in volunteer activities was that a group of "weed warriors" ganged up to help control invasive Multi-star thistle and China-berry tree populations. The thistles were sprayed with a 9% solution of vinegar and non-phosphate dish soap and the china-berry trees were controlled with a cut-stump treatment.

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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