



Monthly Accomplishments

May 2013

Fisheries Activities

Channel catfish spawning season has occurred at Inks Dam NFH this month with approximately 466,875 eggs taken so far for the Fiscal Year 2014 stocking season. A total of 237,210 fry have been hatched. A total of eight mortalities have occurred in the broodstock population. No disease or parasites were found during examination of the mortalities. Low mortalities are typical during the spawning season.

Staff has been in contact with the Regional Office staff and both the Arizona and New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCO) to determine Tribal Trust stocking requests for FY14. The request numbers have yet to be determined.

Staff stocked into Lake LBJ a total of 1,741 channel catfish averaging 3.03 fish per pound (fpp) because the Jicarilla Apache Tribe didn't need fish this year. The lakes on Jicarilla lands, according to the New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, had plenty of catfish already in them and more stockings would create stunting of this species. Total length was approximately 10.31 inches.

Currently there are 46,402 FY 2012 channel catfish averaging 4.35 fpp and 9.12 inches in total length. A total of 845 mortalities were recorded by staff for the month for the 2012 population due to external Columnaris

caused by *Flavobacterium columnare*. Seven ponds were treated with a top-coating of feed with the antibiotic Terramycin. Within five days mortalities had stopped in all of the seven ponds.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population moved over to the recirculation tanks in March of 2012 is still doing very well. The 158 fish have now been on station for almost three years. A single male mortality was recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

The (FY2012) Clear Creek gambusia population collected in partnership with TPWD and the Texas FWCO totaled 36 females and 5 males at the beginning of the month. By month's end all of the 2012 gambusia were lost.

Fish samples were sent to the Dexter Fish Health Lab in Dexter, New Mexico for diagnosis at the end of last month but they were unable to detect anything from the samples. Staff later found that the mortalities were caused by "Cotton-Wool Disease". This disease is caused by *Flexibacter columnaris*. Prior to diagnosis, hatchery staff had treated for fungus with formalin and salt. After diagnosis, and as the disease progressed, staff treated with antibiotics and a form of malachite. In their weakened state, the remaining treated gambusia succumbed to starvation.



Above: Cecilia Johnson, Friends Group member and volunteer, showing students from Marble Falls ISD channel catfish spawn as part of the Hatchery Outdoor Program.

Below: Another group of students from the Marble Falls ISD showing off their solar developed pictures they created from flowers, leaves, rocks and other outdoor items they could find around the hatchery.



Hatchery staff harvested and loaded the second of Fort Hood's FY13 reimbursable agreement. Staff loaded a total of 698 fish and a total weight of 720 pounds. These fish were 0.97 fish per pound. Total length was 14.99 inches.

Hatchery staff also performed



Gregory Landry, Robert Vorous, Richard Nichols (volunteer) harvesting channel catfish for the DOD Fort Hood reimbursable agreement.

Tribal Trust stockings in Arizona and New Mexico this month. One load of channel catfish was delivered to the Navajo Nation from the Uvalde NFH and the second, from Inks Dam NFH, went to the Zuni Pueblo. The Navajo Nation received 12,441 channel catfish from the Regional Distribution Unit (RDU) averaging 5.49 fpp and 8.5 inches in total length. The Zuni pueblo received 4,956 channel catfish averaging 3.10 fish per pound (fpp) at 10.25 inches in total length.

Personnel

Greg Landry, Fish Biologist, has been taking the Writing with Clarity class via the internet. This class is offered through DOI Learn and is a once per week class. Greg says it has been very helpful and he is eager try out his new skills on the upcoming annual gambusia report.

Paul Dorman introduced all the local school district children, teachers and volunteers to Inks Dam NFH during the HOP Event. Paul and Robert Vorous, Maintenance Worker, took channel catfish to the Steve Harvey Event and stocked 400 fish into the fishing pond there.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. The 2012 DM work on the ponds



Work on Pond 10 was nearing to finish by the end of May (above) as well as Pond 7C below

liners was almost finished by months end. The work is going



very smoothly, the weather has cooperated and the work is ahead of schedule. By month's end the pre-final inspection was completed for Pond 10 but more work needed to be done for pond 7C. All work should be completed before the end of June, which would be one month ahead of schedule.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

The month of May was a very busy month for outreach activities for Inks Dam NFH. Inks Dam NFH staff assisted with the Steve Harvey Mentoring Program held in the Dallas area. This is the second year Inks Dam NFH has aided the Arlington, Texas Ecological Services Field Office (ESFO). Inks Dam NFH stocked 400 channel catfish that average 1.73 fpp and a total length of 12.43 inches. Staff also included brochures on Regional Hatcheries and Technology Centers and the USFWS pencils for the event.

The hatchery had many visitors during the month of May, with a total of 237 people counted by staff. The hatchery also held the Hatchery Outdoor Program (HOP) for three local school Districts. A total of 473 children, forty parents, and numerous teachers participated in the five day event. Twenty one volunteers from the Friends Group or the local Highland Lakes Master Naturalists assisted for each the events. No events were rained out, like the last couple of years, and everyone had a great time!

As for volunteer activities during the month, the Friends Group and other volunteers spent a total of 630 hours in preparing and working the HOP event. These folks worked hard, made the event very enjoyable and the kids, parents and teachers all learned about the great outdoors, Inks Dam NFH, and the USFWS.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation



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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