

Inks Dam NFH

Paul Dorman, Project Leader

November

November 2012

Monthly Accomplishments

Fisheries Activities

All FY 2012 channel catfish have been split into eleven over-wintering production ponds at Inks Dam NFH for the FY 2013 stocking requests. Density levels for all the over-wintering ponds are approximately 7,000 fish per acre. Currently there are 55,425 FY 2012 channel catfish averaging 6.52 fpp and 7.99 inches in total length. These numbers vary from last month due to the final splitting of ponds and subsequent inventories. These fish are right on size and in excellent condition for next year's tribal stocking requests.

A total of 10,526 FY12 fish were stocked into area lakes at the beginning of November and after the determination was made that Uvalde NFH would supply fish for the early spring tribal request. Only two mortalities have been recorded and probably caused from handling during the final splitting process. A total 8,459 channel catfish from

FY11 spawning season have been ponded to meet the FY13 reimbursable contract for the Fort Hood Military Base and early spring derbies. They average 2.23 fpp and 11.43 inches in total length. No mortalities have occurred this month with the larger fish.

The original (FY2010) gambusia refugium population moved over to the recirculation tanks in March of 2012 is still doing very well. The 138 fish have now been on station for more than two years. No mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

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



Inks Dam NFH is known for fish, it's beautiful setting in the Texas Hill Country and the wide variety of flora and fauna found here. On occasion, even the best biologists are stumped by some of the "visitors" that migrate through our facility.

This wandering pair (?) of waterfowl has been nicknamed *Pinkleggandbillus bullseye* geese since they first migrated through two years ago. Back again this year, we are hoping that someone can tell us their true scientific name!

remain that way for the 180-day quarantine requirement. Inks Dam NFH has a total of 50 females and 18 males in

Personnel

Field staff participated in a monthly safety meeting centered on the annual refresher for “lock-out and tag-out” training. Staff completed their Google Email training for the transfer over to the new Bison Connect email system. Supervisory staff completed their Uniformed Services Employment and the Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA) and Veteran Employment Training for Hiring Managers. Julie Burks completed her FBMS Master Data Course training and headed up the first Administrative Conference call since Quincy Pence left the

Maintenance

Facility maintenance for November included control of unwanted aquatic vegetation and algae in the ponds by dragging and paddle wheeling to help stir up turbidity, and adding additional “blue water dye” to the ponds. The blue dye absorbs the blue and yellow wave lengths of sunlight for vegetation control. Additionally, the migrating Cormorants are just now moving into the area and the staff hopes that this dye will

refuge from the 2012 population. No mortalities were recorded in the FY2012 population during the month.

Region. Julie will serve as the conference call chairperson until Quincy’s position is filled.

Gregory Landry, Fish Biologist, Mark Yost, Assistant Project Leader, and Paul Dorman completed the FY 2013 Future Operational Needs (FONS) projects during the month. Mark and Gregory finished all of the SOP’s for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR’s) and completed submitting monthly discharge and semi-annual water quality data into the

prevent the Cormorants from landing and subsequently eating fish in the ponds as it does with the Ospreys.

Equipment maintenance for November included sewing 28 new filter socks, mending seines and nets. Maintenance staff made new battery cables for both electric carts and installed new batteries. They also replaced the primary clutch in both of

TCEQ Net DMR database for the ending six months of this year. Larry Guerro, Motor Vehicle Operator, assisted Uvalde NFH with the distribution of their Razorback suckers (*Xyrauchen texanus*) to New Mexico waters during the month.



The deferred maintenance construction on Pond 7C replaced the very old kettle and installed a new retaining wall which will increase staff safety when removing fish from this pond.

the diesel powered John Deere Gators. Staff also serviced the John Deere 2355 tractor and flail mower with new oil, filters and the mowing blades. A leak was detected in the fuel

tank of the John Deere 322 mower and this is currently being tagged-out for safety reason until a solution resolves the issue of no parts being available for such an old mower.

Deferred Maintenance (DM) construction of the two new



The deferred maintenance construction on Pond 10 is replacing the very old kettle but leaving the newer retaining wall.

kettles and one new retaining wall for Ponds 7C and 10 continued this month. The majority of the kettle in 7C has been completed, as well as, the entire retaining wall for 7C. The floor and drain line for 10 has been completed and the construction of footers and tying rebar has taken place to date. Mike Zamora and Robert Baca, both from the Region 2 Division of Engineering, performed an onsite inspection of the new

kettle construction and were pleased with the progress. The remainder of the work hopefully will be completed ahead of schedule.

Staff placed gravel behind the kettle walls in Ponds 11A and 16A and in some of the sink holes around other pond kettles to level the approach to these without any tripping hazards. There was a carport built next to the feed room for employees to park under and the installation of new LED outdoor lighting around the carport for safety and energy efficiency. Three new E-Mons electrical meters were installed around the hatchery to better monitor electric usage on the facility.

Volunteers from the Friends of Inks Dam NFH continue to implement the restoration of wood signs around the facility. So far the volunteers have restored 20 signs and are working on several more. The wooden sign restoration project by the volunteers and Friends Group did not get finished by November but they have only six left and it will be done by December.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Despite no special activities conducted at the hatchery during November, the staff counted a total of 99 visitors

during the month, with 26 of these visiting on the Thanksgiving holiday. Staff working the holiday and following weekend said that many of the visitors were thrilled to see the catfish feeding in the ponds as they conducted brief tours for them. Much help was also supplied to the hatchery during the month with a total of 43.5 hours spent by the Friends of Inks Dam Fish Hatchery (this included 23.5 hours for administrative support, three hours



Volunteers have assisted hatchery staff with repairing and repainting wooden hatchery signs. The work not only improves safety but shows the pride the staff, volunteers and Friends Group has in the facility.

landscaping, four hours assisting with fish culture activities, and 13 hours spent on visitor amenities. The crew from the Intermediate Sanction Facility also assisted with mowing around the offices, ponds and facility grounds for two days and put in a total of 91 hours.