



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

November 2015

Fisheries Activities

Incoming hydrological parameters continued improving in all areas this month. This month's average dissolved oxygen level for the incoming water was 3.92 parts per million (ppm). Monthly pond dissolved oxygen levels increased and averaged 7.52 ppm (92% saturation), at an average pond temperature of 19.0° C.

Staff has completed stocking FY15 fish from grow-out ponds into larger production ponds. To date, 63,010 have been placed into production ponds for FY16 Tribal requests. These fish average 8.61 fish per pound (fpp) and 7.34 inches in total length. A total of seven mortalities were recorded for this population.

Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 3,603 averaging 2.18 fish per pound (fpp) and 11.55 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded for the month. These fish will be used as future brood stock and future reimbursable fish.

Currently there are 3,520 FY13 channel catfish averaging 0.99 fpp and 15.02 inches in total length. These fish will be used as brood stock in FY16 and future reimbursable fish. A total of 512 adults were split from this population and put into a separate future spawning pond this month. Additional production also includes 544 FY12 catfish averaging 0.22 fpp and 24.85 inches in total length. These fish will be utilized for

brood stock in FY16 and Fort Hood Reimbursable contract requests. No mortalities were recorded for each population of fish this month.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population has now been in recirculation tanks for three full years and currently five years in refugium. There are now only five original refugium fish. A single mortality was recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation totals 67 fish. A total of nine mortalities occurred during the month. This increase in mortality can be attributed to marking and tagging these adults for genetic testing. The genetic testing is taking place with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's assistance. Data should be coming back by December so staff can get the fish put into tanks for spawning.

There currently is 48 FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. A total of 25 mortalities have occurred for the month. Again, this increase in mortality can be attributed to marking and tagging these adults for genetic testing. The majority of mortalities occurred in the males because of their extremely small size. Mortality, in both populations, has been minimal by month's end.

All FY14, FY15, and F1's adults are now on a 12 hour on and 12 hour off light cycle. Water

Facility staff and Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) provided a tour to Akins High School from Austin, Texas. The Austin ISD School brought students from two separate classes; the Energy and Natural Resources class and Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecology Management class. A total of 40 High School students received a partial day tour then broke for lunch on hatchery grounds and enjoyed the outdoors!



The tour was split into two groups and the Energy and Natural Resource class received information and demonstrations on our solar panel work for the production ponds while the Wildlife, Fisheries and ecology course were introduced to the USFWS mission and Inks Dam NFH role in its fulfillment of that mission.

temperatures are lowered to better represent the fall and winter seasons. Other water quality indices are being monitored to duplicate optimum water conditions for pre-spawning conditions. Adults will be put into spawning tanks by January and monitored for reproductive behaviors.

The FY 15 F1 Clear Creek gambusia total of 196 F1's of which; 130 are female and 66 are males. A total of 16, F1 mortalities occurred during the month. These fish were the "test" for the genetic marking and tagging project and faired only slightly better mortality wise. Again, the majority will male fish.

Personnel

Many of the staff is taking time off for the annual leave "use or lose" requirements and the Thanksgiving Holiday. Matt Paulson took off time for the arrival of his newest addition to his family, a baby girl.

Tammy Simmons continues working with Regional Budget staff, and Marta Estrada from the SMARC on budget and Administrative duties. She will meet with Josh in December and hopefully after Marta returns and on-site training can occur.

Gregory Landry provided the Austin ISD High School students with how, why and where Inks Dam NFH uses solar power in its fish production. Scott Walker accomplished the majority of tagging and marking of the Clear Creek gambusia for genetic testing. Jerry Crouch performed monthly FBMS for Fleet and Utilization on the equipment and vehicles for the facility.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Jerry Simmons and Larry Guerro have started on the annual maintenance of all the facility's equipment.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 230 visitors for the month despite the on and off rainy and cooler temperatures again this month. The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 86 hours for the month of November, assisting staff, working around the bird blind, Education Building, and providing tours.

FOIDNFH provided a tour to Pack 226 from the city of San Antonio, Texas. The Pack brought a total of 76 visitors, both parents and kids, for a partial day tour. FOIDNFH took the tour up the Overlook Trail and discussed geology, habitat, and the native plants before being introduced USFWS mission and how Inks Dam NFH partakes in accomplishing its role. They also got to feed the brood stock fish, a Master Caster Class and then had fish morphology, catfish production, and even got in some birding to finish the tour.

FOIDNFH and hatchery staff also provided a slightly different tour to Akins High School from Austin, Texas. The Austin ISD School brought students from two separate classes; the Energy and Natural Resources class and Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecology Management class. A total of 40 High School students received a partial day tour then broke for lunch on hatchery grounds and

enjoyed the outdoors for another hour or so before heading back to Austin. The tour was split into two groups and the Energy and Natural Resource class received information and demonstrations on our solar panel work for the production ponds while the Wildlife, Fisheries and ecology course were introduced to the USFWS mission and Inks Dam NFH role in its fulfillment of that mission. The classes were then changed and they also got



Boy Scout Pack 226 from San Antonio, Texas is being introduced to fish morphology and fish culture at Inks Dam NFH.

to feed the brood stock fish.



Boy Scout Pack 226 from San Antonio, Texas, parent and siblings heading out to feed the adult channel catfish brood stock. Despite the cold and very wet weather, everyone had a great deal of fun!

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
Tammy Simmons	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