



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

October 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 1.74 parts per million (ppm). Monthly pond dissolved oxygen levels increased and ranged from 2.26 ppm to 9.05 ppm (111% saturation), at an average pond temperature of 23.6° C.

Staff continues to find minor mortalities associated with high saturated gas with gas bubble disease. Staff is continuing to control this issue with our Integrated Pest Management Plan to reduce organic loading and reduce light penetration into the ponds. By month's end the majority of the ponds have begun to respond.

Staff has completed stocking FY15 fish from grow-out ponds into larger production ponds. To date, 63,017 have been placed into production ponds for FY16 Tribal requests. These fish average 12.81 fish per pound (fpp) and 6.38 inches in total length. A total of 50 mortalities have occurred in this population, mostly with the gas bubble disease issue.

Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 3,603 averaging 2.47 fish per pound (fpp) and 11.07 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 3,521 FY13 channel catfish averaging 1.08 fpp and 14.58 inches in total length. These fish will be used as brood stock in FY16 and future reimbursable fish. Additional production also includes 544 FY12 catfish averaging 0.23 fpp and 24.49 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 six original refugium fish. No mortality was recorded in the FY2010 population during the month.

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation totals 89 fish. No mortalities occurred during the month. This is a continuing decline in mortalities in this population. There has been an 80% reduction in mortalities over the last two months and may have to do with very limited handling over the last two months. These fish will undergo another Praziquantel treatment for Asian tapeworm before genetic sampling occurs later this month.

There currently is 86 FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. There has been a substantial decrease in

FOIDNFH provided a tour to Pack 160 from the city of Leander, Texas. The Pack brought a total of 64 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 to what it is the USFWS does and how Inks Dam NFH is part of that. 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.



This is most of the 64 people that came to enjoy the Outdoor Education provided by for the Friends group for Scout troop 160 from Leander, Texas. They are waiting to see the four year old Channel catfish brood stock feed. They don't know yet they are going to get very wet! (See below)



mortalities from this year class as well. A total of two mortalities have occurred for the month. No external parasites or disease signs have been noticed. These fish will also undergo another Praziquantel treatment for Asian tapeworm before genetic sampling occurs later this month. The duplication of the praziquantel treatments for FY14, FY15 and F1's is due to an investigational examination of these fish back in late August and "part" of a cestode (spp) was detected but unidentifiable.

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

The FY 15 F1 Clear Creek gambusia total of 199 F1's of which; 125 are female and 74 are males. A total of 13, F1 mortalities occurred during the month and receive the duplicated praziquantel treatments to ensure they remain clean.

Personnel

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.

Scott Walker finished, this month, all of his INAD reporting, FY15, with the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAPP) in Bozeman, Mont. Scott Walker is taking over the supervision of the biological staff starting this

month, as well as, getting the gambusia program geared up for another spawning season.

Stewart Jacks, ARD for the FAC office in the Regional Office, stopped by for a brief visit to Inks Dam NFH while in Texas this month.



He presented Jerry Crouch with a Letter of Special Recognition, from the Regional Director, for Jerry's assistance to a motorist and passenger who were in a car wreck in front of hatchery.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Hatchery staff has started the maintenance on facility equipment for the year and creating new SOP's for the new equipment we finally received for FY15. Several items still need to be received but the new tractor has been a relief to finally get; the old one was on its last leg/wheels!

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 242 visitors for the month despite the on and off rainy and cooler temperatures. The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 85 hours for the month of October, assisting staff, working around the facility, Education Building, Butterfly Garden and providing tours.

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Part of the tour for Pack 160 was "How do biologists enumerate Channel catfish fry so biologists know how many fish are in a pond? Friends Group member Celia Escamilla is demonstrating the "Displacement Method" of enumeration.



A couple of scouts from Pack 160 from Leander, Texas learning how to become "Master Casters" with the aide from the Friends of Inks Dam NFH!

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