



# Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



## Monthly Accomplishments

September 2014

### Fisheries Activities

All FY14 Channel catfish have been stocked into their over-wintering ponds by month's end. One additional pond will be stocked out in October for future Ft. Hood reimbursable fish in FY16. Only half of the brood fish have been placed into their over-wintering ponds and the remainder will be stocked in October.

Currently there are 71,538 FY14 Channel catfish averaging 49.62 fish per pound (fpp) and 4.12 inches in total length. Early ponded fish from this year class are ranging from six to seven inches in total length. A total of 406 mortalities were recorded for the month. Incoming water quality continues to be extremely poor and has contributed to this increased mortality. Incoming dissolved oxygen averaged for the month 1.91 ppm and a temperature 27.1°C.

Currently there are 3,954 FY13 channel catfish averaging 2.63 fpp and 10.86 inches in total length. Additional production also includes 1,930 FY12 averaging 0.64 fpp and 17.20 inches in total length. These fish will be utilized for brood stock in FY15 and future Fort Hood Reimbursable contract fish. No mortalities were recorded for the month on both of these year classes.

The original (FY2010) Clear Creek gambusia refugium population has now been in recirculation tanks for two full years. The 50 remaining fish

have been on station for almost four years. Two mortalities were recorded in the FY2010 population during the month. No external parasites or disease signs were observed in the mortality and was probably due to attempts at spawning or normal life expectancy. To date no fertilization has taken place or observed by staff.

Staff has spent the month preparing two new isolation/quarantine systems for the new FY14 population of Clear Creek gambusia to be brought on by the end of the month. Staff set up chiller s, purchased two new pH control systems, and worked up a protocol for the control of Asian Tapeworm. Hatchery personnel will work with the Texas FWCO and a staff member from Texas Parks and Wildlife in the collection of the new FY14 gambusia population.

### Personnel

Paul Dorman attended the Project Leaders Conference in Albuquerque, NM. The remainder of his time was spent sending in paperwork to hire three new employees, FIS, Defensive Driving Class and preparing for EOY EPAP's.

Scott Walker finished all of his EEO and Diversity training and was done in record time before the September 30 deadline. Considering it takes most of us a year to do it, he completed his in under two weeks. Scott also directed fish stocking for the FY14 Channel catfish, put

Friends of Inks Dam NFH members Phil Wyde and Sherry Bixler provided a hatchery tour to two families that live in the area and heard about the hatchery but have never been here before. The 9 children and 4 adults started out with a general introduction of the hatchery, what it is and what we do and then got to feed the catfish in Pond 1.



The kids did the Back Yard Bass game teaching them about the different types of fish and rules and regulations for each species while learning how to cast a fishing pole. The parents learned about the catfish production, paddlefish production and work being done for the endangered Clear Creek gambusia.



Everyone hiked up the hill talking about the differing ecology from the bottom of the hill to the top.

together the two new Clear Creek gambusia isolation and quarantine systems and developed the SOP for the control of Asian Tapeworm for review by SWNARRC and Fish Health Staff review.

Gregory Landry completed the monthly Net DMR's for the State of Texas. He also moved his office from the wage grade-office building back into the break room/office/lab. This will allow more space for the two new maintenance staff. The remainder of his time was spent moving fish for next year's stockings.

Julie Burks spent the month performing monthly charge card reconciliation, procurement of supplies and equipment, payroll, budget monitoring, review, and reporting for year-end closing and preparation for FBMS black-out period. She also coordinated the receiving and delivery of purchase orders for riverbank repair rock and ice maker for the hatchery, and submitted the necessary forms to the Regional Office to close-out those accounts. Monthly fleet utilization was conducted a few days earlier than usual, due to FBMS black-out period. Assisted Project Leader with personnel actions forms and supporting documentation for two Wage Grade positions and Fishery Biologist.

Because of the slight rainfall we received this month Larry Guerro has been mowing and working ponds trying to keep pace with the grass and the growing Channel catfish fingerlings. He has also spent time repairing the mowing equipment.

## Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Most of the monthly effort was cleaning, grading ponds, and filling for splitting the FY 14 fingerlings into the production ponds.

## Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had a more normal month with Outreach and Outdoor Education. The hatchery had 134 visitors for the month of September. Many are still first time visitors except the fishermen and women who enjoyed the better angling during the month. Several groups of folks utilized the old boat ramp area to launch kayaks to enjoy fishing and the Lake LBJ.

The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 41 hours for the month of September. Most of the



Thanks to a skilled volunteer the irrigation water supply house is finished. The new cedar door (replaced a plywood one) should last for many years and won't warp allowing bugs and varmints to take up residence.

FOIDNFH membership started leaving the state during August and September to avoid the "heat" of these months. Most will return in October and November so participation and hours should increase in those months.



Robert Savage, volunteer, changed the door swing, new lockset and fresh coat of paint. He also noticed that the backside of the roof needed repaired to keep the mice out.

Robert Savage, the volunteer that does construction and was recruited last month, worked again this month painting and finishing up the oxygen injection building and the residence's irrigation system. These block buildings now are lockable, freshly painted and soon to be bug and varmint free. Julie Burks, Administrative Assistant, has assigned Robert several tasks for him to do in the office so he is going to be "booked" for a while now.

The Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) came out again this month a spent a day mowing and weed whipping. They did the Park/Picnic area, along the river, and around the Visitor Center. The six man crew put in a total of 36 hours and greatly assisted the hatchery staff in keeping the facility looking presentable.

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Southwest Region  
Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery  
345 Clay Young Road  
Burnet, TX 78611  
Phone 512/793-2474  
[http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/inks\\_dam/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/inks_dam/index.html)

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## Current staff members

Paul Dorman .....	Project Leader
Scott Walker .....	Assistant Project Leader
Vacant .....	Environmental Education Specialist
Julie Burks.....	Administrative Technician
Gregory Landry .....	Fisheries Biologist
Vacant .....	Animal Caretaker (Term)
Larry Guerro .....	Motor Vehicle Operator
Vacant .....	Maintenance Worker
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