



## Monthly Accomplishments

September 2015

### Fisheries Activities

Incoming hydrological parameters improved in some areas and other stayed about the same. The month's average dissolved oxygen level in the incoming water was 0.74 parts per million (ppm) which is only a slight increase. Monthly pond dissolved oxygen levels increased ranged from 3.4 ppm to 11.7 ppm (157% saturation), at an average pond temperature of 27.5° C.

Staff has begun to see, consistent, minor mortality with gas bubble disease due to the afternoon oxygen super saturation issues. The organic loading in the water (from the filling of Lake Buchanan with early spring rainfall) has created large algal blooms that are difficult to control with these temperatures.

Staff is attempting to control this issue with our Integrated Pest Management Plan to reduce organic loading and reduce light penetration into the ponds.

Staff continued stocking FY15 fish from grow-out ponds into larger production ponds. To-date, 59,699 have been placed into production ponds for FY16 Tribal requests. All of the requested FY16 Channel catfish have been placed into grow-out and over-wintering ponds. One last additional pond will be filled and stocked for either a Kids Fishing Program in Lubbock, Texas or the Veterans Hospital in Temple, Texas.

Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 3,603

averaging 2.85 fish per pound (fpp) and 10.56 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded for the month. These fish will be used as future brood stock and future reimbursable fish.

Hatchery Staff transferred 1,044 FY14 Channel catfish to the San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center to be utilized for the Texas FWCO Youth Fishing Program. These fish had a total weight of 458 pound and averaged 2.28 fpp and 11.4 inches in total length. Several bags of feed were also transferred since the derby is almost three weeks away.

Hatchery staff also provided fish for Ft. Hood Kids Fishing Program and the City of Burnet, Texas Kids Fishing Programs during the month of September. Ft. Hood staff received 102 fish averaging 20.5 inches in total length and 0.39 fpp. The City of Burnet received 68 fish total and these fish averaged 0.39 fpp and almost 20.5 inches in length. Both events had extremely great results with lots of kids leaving with smiles on their faces!

Currently there are 3,521 FY13 channel catfish averaging 1.12 fpp and 14.42 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 0.24 fpp and 24.18 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. A single 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 marked decrease in mortalities in this population. These fish will undergo another Praziquantel treatment for Asian tapeworm before genetic sampling occurs later this month.

There currently is 88 FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. There has been a substantial decrease in mortalities from this year class as well. A total of five occurred for the month. The mortalities, in this population were primarily females. 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.

All FY14 and FY15 adult female and male gambusia have been returned to their respective tanks. No more birthing has taken place again this month. These adults are now on a 12 hour on and 12 hour off light cycle. Water temperatures are also being lower to better represent the fall and winter seasons.

The FY 15 F1 Clear Creek gambusia total of 211 F1's of which; 132 are female and 79 are males. An additional 84 juveniles have yet to be separated because of their lack of maturity. A total of 17 F1 juvenile mortalities occurred during the month and due primarily to handling, cleaning and bacterial infection.

### **Personnel**

Tammy Simmons has continued working with Teresa Martinez on the budget and Marta Estrada with learning the systems on the End-of-Year Closeout. Scott Walker finished, this month, all of his INAD reporting with the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAPP) in Bozeman, Mont. He is awaiting final approval on the last of this year INAD's from the Study Monitor.

### **Maintenance**

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. At the end of month staff started the arduous task of trying to locate a domestic water leak. The lack domestic water affected three on-site residences, the Visitor Center, Wage Grade Office, Office, feed room, and Education Center. The broken line did get repaired by the beginning of October but the dry conditions, clay as hard as concrete, and no blue prints or plans of the system aided in our ability in not finding the line break sooner. The Project Leader would like to extend kudos to staff and families for sticking it out and getting the job done as quickly as we did.

### **Visitors, Education and Outreach**

Inks Dam NFH had 103 visitors for the month despite the extremely warm weather. This

doesn't include a tour given to Austin Pack 61. The Pack brought a total of twenty eight 14/16 year old Boy Scouts and 16 adults. The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) took the tour up the Overlook Trail and discussed geology, habitat and native plant and then were introduced to what it is the USFWS does and how Inks DAM NFH does it. They also got to feed the brood stock fish and then had fish morphology and catfish production to finish the tour.

The FOIDNFH and other volunteers had a total of 111.5 hours, for the month of September, assisting staff or working around the facility. Many of the FOIDNFH volunteers worked on the Audubon Society's visit and making sure they had plenty of birds to view even though this was not the best time of year to view birds. Work focused on tidying up the bird feeding areas, and the natural watering station. Four of the best birders from the FOIDNFH, and the Project Leader, then took out the Audubon's group for almost half a day noting vegetation, the bird blind, number of visitors to the facility, acres of property, management practices and many other topics were discussed. In the end it appears we will try to partner with Inks Lake State Park and try to obtain either a Continental or Global IBA. This will require another year or two worth of data before that can occur.

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
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