



Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Accomplishments

September 2016

Fisheries Activities

Water Quality

This month's average dissolved oxygen level, for the incoming water, was 1.1 mg/L with a mean temperature of 27.6°C. Monthly average pond dissolved oxygen levels were similar to last month at 6.50 mg/L (84.0% saturation), at an average pond temperature of 30.4° C.

The filter system is still self-cleaning every 30 minutes to prevent fouling but the manual cleaning is now performed every eight to ten days. With a high load of organic material in Inks Lake (due to heavy rainfall earlier in the year), the necessity for frequent manual cleanings is not surprising.

Channel catfish

Currently on station are an estimated 116,858 FY16 fish with an average length of 5.77 inches. During the month of September, hatchery staff split 4 ponds into an additional 6 ponds for a total of ten production ponds. Four additional ponds need to be stocked before Inks Dam NFH offers excess fish to our state partners at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

All of the FY15 fish are currently being held in one production pond. To date, an estimated 4,410 remain on station for future brood stock and outreach use. No mortalities were recorded for the month.

Hatchery staff delivered 378 FY14 fish to Ft. Hood Military

Base and provided 62 fish for the Burnet, TX "Kids Day" event. Average fish length was 13.9 inches at 1.25 fish per pound. Production numbers for the FY14 Channel catfish are 2,146 averaging 1.68 fish per pound (fpp) and 12.59 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded for the month.

Currently there are 540 FY13 channel catfish averaging 0.37 fpp and 20.82 inches in total length. No mortalities were recorded for the month.

Clear Creek gambusia

All FY14, FY15, and F1's and F2's are currently on a 12:12 light:dark photoperiod. Water quality indices continue to be monitored daily to provide optimum growing conditions.

The FY14 Clear Creek gambusia currently in isolation totals 42 fish. There was one male mortality during the month with no indication of external parasites or bacterial infection. There are currently 26 FY15 Clear Creek gambusia. Two mortalities were recorded during the month with no external parasites or signs of bacterial infection.

The FY15 F1 Clear Creek gambusia total 201, of which; 128 are female and 73 are males. There were no mortalities observed during the month.

To date we have produced, through our spawning technique, a total of 550, FY16 F2's of which we currently have 514. A total of

five mortalities occurred in this population during the month of September. Necropsies did not reveal signs of external parasites or bacterial infection. Hatchery staff continue to separate individuals by gender as sexual dimorphism occurs.

Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month.

Visitors, Education and Outreach

Inks Dam NFH had 159 visitors for the month. The Friends of Inks Dam NFH (FOIDNFH) and other volunteers had a total of 27.0 hours for the month.

Personnel

After 10+ years of service, Project Leader Paul Dorman retired from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We wish Paul well as he enters the next phase of his life.

Ralph Simmons (Assistant Project Leader at Tishomingo NFH) will serve as the Inks Dam Project Leader until the position is filled.

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

Current staff members

Ralph Simmons	Acting Project Leader
Scott Walker	Assistant Project Leader
Vacant	Environmental Education Specialist
Tammy Simmons	Administrative Technician
Gregory Landry	Fisheries Biologist
Vacant	Fisheries Biologist
Vacant	Animal Caretaker (Term)
Jeffery Pivonka	Maintenance Worker
Jerry Simmons	Maintenance Worker
Jerry Crouch	Maintenance Worker