



Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Staff Report for April 2014



Aquatic Species Habitat Conservation and Management

A successful paddlefish spawning season continued during the first two weeks of April as warmer temperatures raised water temperatures. Paddlefish brood stock collected from Fort Gibson Lake on the Arkansas River drainage area yielded healthy eggs after harvesting from six females. While the eggs were being harvested from Fort Gibson paddlefish, the eggs from Grand Lake paddlefish began hatching. By the end of April, paddlefish fry were occupying tanks in the culture houses, as well as the 20-foot circular fiberglass tanks outside, and consuming commercial feed. (CSF 5.2.1; CSF 5.1.2)



Paddlefish eggs hatching in jars.

Volunteers

Staff from Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the SCA resource assistant from the Tishomingo NWR volunteered during paddlefish spawning. While here, they also got to assist with staging the paddlefish eggs, rating the quality of milt from paddlefish, and pond water quality measurement. (CSF 52.1.2)



SCA assistant, Kelly Manktelow, and Tishomingo NFH staff prepare female paddlefish for spawning.



ODWC employee, Amy Jones, assists in paddlefish spawning.

Outreach

As in past years, Tishomingo NFH was asked to participate in the Johnston County Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Johnston County Emergency Management Service. This is a wonderful outreach opportunity for the hatchery; before and after each age group hunts for Easter eggs, we have quite the captive audience. It involves entire families in an outdoor venue, giving our staff the time to explain our purpose and show two important species, alligator snapping turtles and alligator gar, that are directly affected by recent conservation efforts of the Tishomingo NFH. (CSF 15.4.8)

Visitors enjoy display at Johnston County
Easter Egg Hunt



More than 41,000 visitors participated in activities and visited
booths during the free event located at beautiful Fair Park,
Dallas, TX.



The Tishomingo NFH, Tishomingo NWR, and Arlington ESFO joined forces to represent the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the 3rd Annual Earth Day Texas event on April 26-27, 2014 by staffing an informational booth. The free event covered a two day period at historic Fair Park in Dallas, TX with more than 41,000 visitors at over 800 booths and exhibits. The event showcased the world's largest public exhibition of environmental and water-conserving initiatives from businesses, environmental non-profits, schools, universities, and government agencies. The 2014 theme for the event was water, and all visitors at the

Tishomingo NFH booth were given the opportunity to see live examples of two seldom seen aquatic species; alligator gar and alligator snapping turtles. Interested visitors had the chance to compare the size of a pair of yearling alligator snapping turtles to a six year old turtle and watch as two alligator gar cruised through the waters of an acrylic show tank. Discussion included the status, range, and habitat of both large river species. The Earth Day Texas event was the first of two large, multi-day outreach events on the 2014 calendar for the Tishomingo NFH and the hatchery hopes to attend again next year. (CSF 15.4.8)

Work Force

Aaron White and Matt Cooper attended the Heavy Equipment Safety Training at Hagerman NWR in order to maintain their certification to operate heavy equipment at Tishomingo NFH.



With the use of heavy equipment, ponds are ready for 2014 fish production.

U.S. Department of the Interior
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<http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

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Photos courtesy of FWS staff.



**Fisheries
& Habitat
Conservation**