

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Report
August 2015



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Hatching continues with the 2015 year class of alligator snapping turtles, and should finish in early September. There were a total of twenty-four clutches found around the three turtle ponds. Average clutch size was thirty-five eggs. Based on historical data, an estimated 460 eggs should be viable.



Newly hatched alligator snapping turtle.

Fish Distribution

- 2,000 paddlefish, twelve inches in length, were stocked in the Spring River above Grand Lake to augment the paddlefish population in this area. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) transported the fish for us.

- 4,048 paddlefish were tagged and stocked in Lake Eufaula as part of the effort to return paddlefish to their native waters along the Arkansas River impoundments.

Tagging paddlefish.



- 100 derby-sized channel catfish were taken to Hagerman NWR for their Kids' Fishing Derby in September.



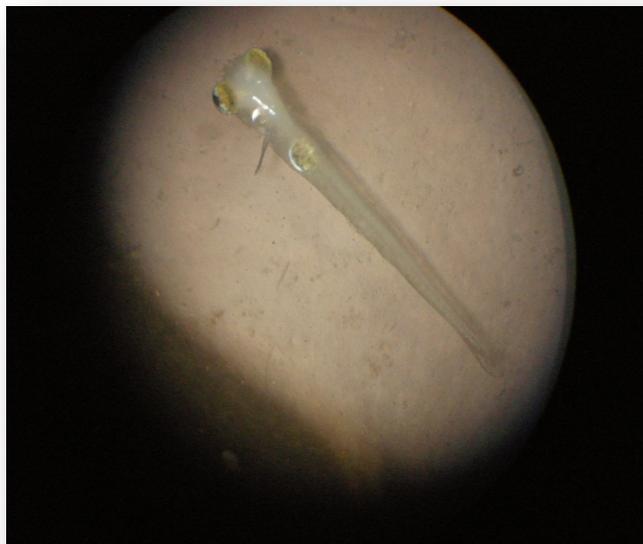
Proud of her channel catfish caught at the Derby.

TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP

Assistance was provided to the Chickasaw Nation with managing three newly-acquired ponds for youth fishing events. Advice for vegetation control and balancing the fish populations in their ponds was provided. This balance will provide the opportunity for youth to fish for several species.

LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- A technique used in large river fish for selecting brood stock was modified for use in Arkansas River shiners. The technique requires gently removing an egg from the females by palpating the abdomen. The egg is then examined microscopically to view the proximity of the germinal vesicle to the outer edge of the egg. Initial spawning trials using this technique have shown a three-fold increase in the number of



One-day-old Arkansas River shiner.

- Additional spawning trials with several year classes of brood fish are planned to further verify the technique.

- Staff biologist, Brian Fillmore, co-authored an article entitled, "Monitoring of a Reintroduced Population of Juvenile Alligator Snapping Turtles", which appeared in the June 2015 edition of *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*.

The Chelonian Research Foundation, publisher of this article, funds numerous research projects encouraging the expansion of knowledge in herpetology.



Research assistants gather field data on alligator snapping turtles.

- Hydrologist Peter Burck, from the Regional Office, visited Tishomingo NFH to install a transducer in a monitoring water well as part of a Settlement Agreement between the Service and Arbuckle Aggregates Mining Company. The transducer will allow monitoring of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer under the mining operation to detect effects of the mine on the aquifer.

FACILITIES

The emergency roofing project for Quarters #3 was given a Notice to Proceed for August 31, 2015. The contractor is Contract West Roofing from Salt Lake City, Utah. The roof was damaged beyond repair by heavy rains and winds in May and June.



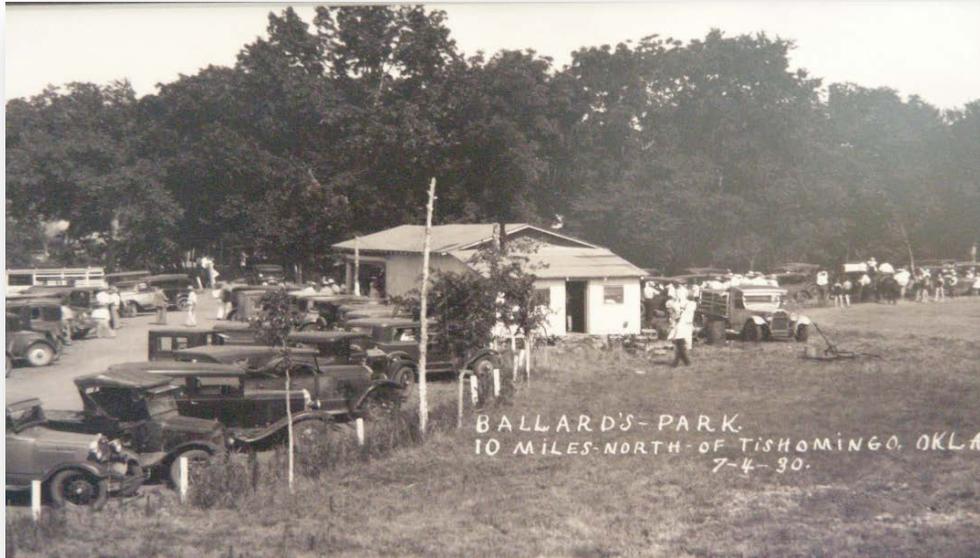
Quarters #3.

Visitors and Outreach

The month of August has brought fewer visitors due to the hot temperatures. However, the Tishomingo NFH has experienced more visitors wanting to fish in Pennington Creek. Each day throughout the month has brought at least one group of fishermen.

Scheduled Tours Given in August:

- The Oklahoma Herpetology Society toured the facility, including the Turtle Holding House.



1930 Site of Tishomingo NFH.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html>
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