



Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Report for August 2016

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

The Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery alligator snapping turtles began hatching in early August, after 90 days of incubation. Approximately 70% of the eggs successfully hatched. Each hatchling was weighed, measured, and tagged with two bee tags on the carapace which allows individual monitoring until the turtles are large enough to be implanted with a micro-chip. Individual marking also prevents releasing siblings at the same re-introduction site.

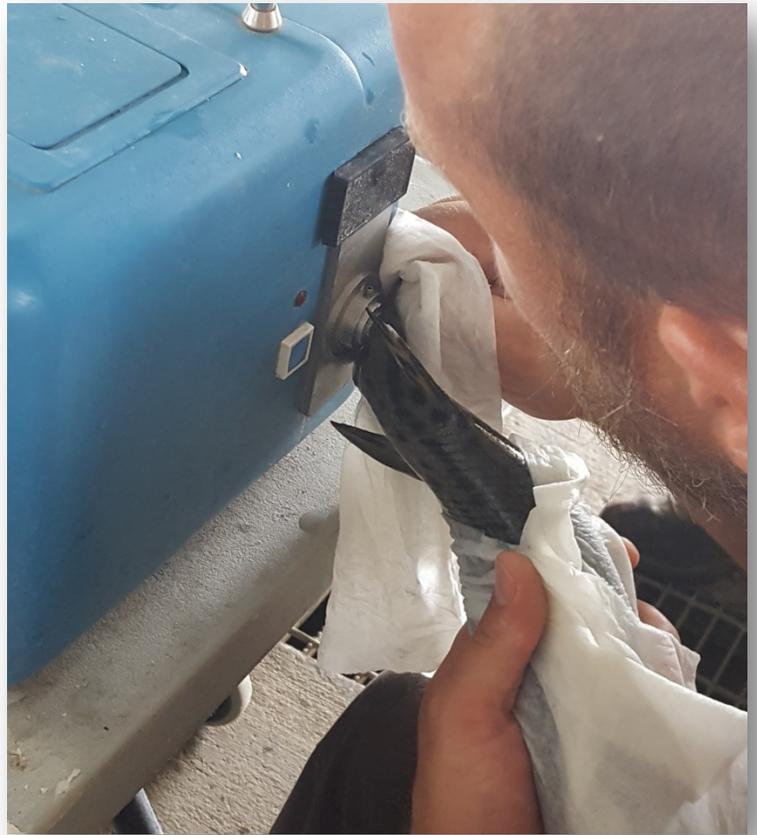


Alligator snapping turtle eggs hatching.



Bee tags on alligator snapping turtle hatchling.

On August 9th, Tishomingo NFH staff loaded 881 alligator gar averaging 13.92 inches in total length onto a hauling tank from the Missouri Department of Conservation. The fish, representing the 2016 commitment of 12 inch alligator gar, were transported to Missouri, tagged using coded wire tags, then released into 11 different State conservation areas in the Saint Francis River system of the Southeastern part of the state. On August 15th, 456 alligator gar, averaging 14.06 inches in total length were transported by Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation employees to Hugo Lake in Oklahoma. An additional 77 alligator gar were tagged with coded wire tags, 12 of which also received Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags. All study fish will be retained for use in a tag retention study and a feed intake study, to be conducted by hatchery staff.



An alligator gar receives a coded wire tag in its tail from an injector. The tag can be read in the future to identify it as hatchery reared and yield migration and growth data.

WORK FORCE

Ralph Simmons, Assistant Hatchery Manager, attended the American Fisheries Society Meeting in Kansas City in August. While in attendance, he also received training in the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software.

VISITORS AND OUTREACH

Comparison of alligator snapping turtle (left) and red-eared slider (right) for visitors to view in hatchling stage.



Tours during August at the Tishomingo NFH included both the Oklahoma University Biological Station and the Oklahoma City Herpetological and Invertebrate Society. Fish Biologist Brian Fillmore informed the groups on the importance of the species reared at the hatchery and answered the many questions asked by the groups while touring the facility.



OU Biological Station visitors tour hatchery.



Comparison of alligator snapping turtle (left) and red-eared slider (right) eggs for visitors to view.

The Marietta Senior Citizens Group viewed paddlefish and learned about the history of the Tishomingo NFH during their tour in August.

In August, the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery delivered approximately two hundred fifty 17- inch channel catfish to Lubbock, Texas for the “Vamos a Pescar” kids’ fishing event. Fish Biologist, Brian Fillmore was interviewed by local TV host, Christy Martinez-Garcia. Ms. Garcia’s family sponsors the event annually in honor of her father-in-law. The event was a great success with over 4,000 people in attendance.



Aerial view of the Buddy Holly Lake in Lubbock, Texas, site of “Vamos a Pescar”.



YCC staff check alligator snapping turtles’ eggs for hatching.

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html>

Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation

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