

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Report February 2016



Leadership in Science and Technology

Alligator snapping turtle eggs.



Alligator snapping turtle hatchling.

In the final tally of alligator snapping turtle hatchlings from the 2015 year class, 623 have been added to the hatchery population. Nesting began on May 10th and ended on June 21st with a total of twenty-four clutches found. Egg counts in nests ranged from the smallest of twenty-two to the largest of forty-five, with the average size at thirty-five eggs per nest. The weight of each hatchling varied from a low of 15 grams to a high of 19.4 grams, with the average weight at 16.6 grams. Volunteers from Missouri State University have tagged 397 hatchlings as a preliminary step to maintain genetic identification. The tags are very small numbered tags, typically used to track bees. The overall survival rate this year increased to 74.1% from last year's rate of 58%.



*Alligator snapping turtle hatchling
with bee tag.*

WORK FORCE

Training and workshop opportunities were numerous in February.

- Aaron White and Scott Oliver went to NCTC for “Introduction to Fish Health”;
- Ralph Simmons and Brian Fillmore attended the “Mid-Continent Warm Water Fish Culture Workshop” in Nebraska;
- Kerry Graves attended a meeting of the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Unit with state and federal attendees;
- Ralph Simmons attended the American Fisheries Society Meeting in West Virginia presenting to the Alligator Gar Technical Committee on “Four Years of Alligator Gar Production at Tishomingo NFH”; and
- Kerry Graves, Brian Fillmore, and Ralph Simmons attended the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference in Oklahoma City.

Adult alligator gar in Tishomingo NFH pond.



FACILITIES

A backlog of routine maintenance has been cleared, readying vehicles and equipment for the upcoming spawning season. Batteries, filters, brakes, and tires have been inspected, replaced or repaired.

An emergency fuel shutoff has been installed at the diesel fuel house, along with an armored cable and GFCI outlet inside.

Several potable water leaks were repaired with replacement of isolation valves and valve boxes.

A water leak occurred under one of the lined ponds, causing the liner to float. Staff repaired the leak and pumped water off the liner before any damage occurred.



Water gathers under pond liner causing it to float.

Water leak in Pennington Creek embankment.



Work is continuing on the deferred maintenance project repairing the canopy over circular tanks at Tishomingo NFH. The metal structure is being painted with an epoxy mastic to provide extra protection for the metal surfaces of the canopy. Fiberglass circular tanks are covered with plastic sheeting for protection as staff works on the canopy.



Canopy over circular tanks.



Bald eagle in flight (left), and with fish for dinner (right).

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