



Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

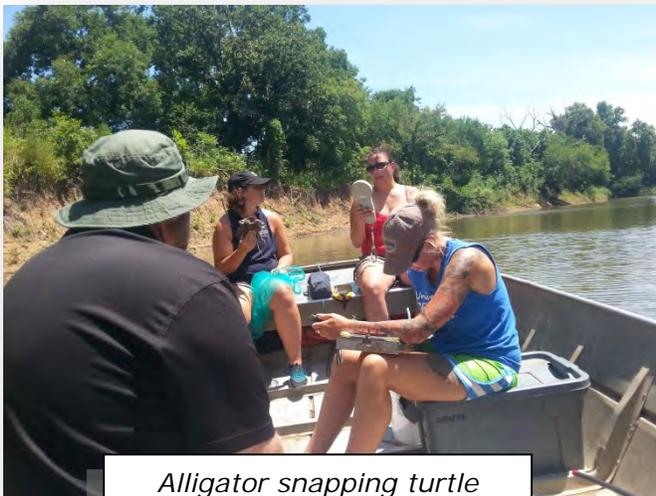
Monthly Report for July 2016

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery staff worked with Dr. Kay Backues, Tulsa Zoo; Dr. Day Ligon, Missouri State University; and PhD candidate, Denise Thompson, Oklahoma State University, to collect 23 alligator snapping turtles from captive broodstock ponds for research. The team conducted annual maintenance for turtles, which included removal and replacement of temperature data loggers for downloading, radio transmitters were replaced, and each turtle was measured, weighed, and examined by Dr. Backues for general body condition. Additionally, all females were sonogrammed to confirm each had successfully nested. Once everything was completed, all turtles were returned to the broodstock ponds.



Alligator snapping turtle stocking.



Alligator snapping turtle stocking on Caney River.

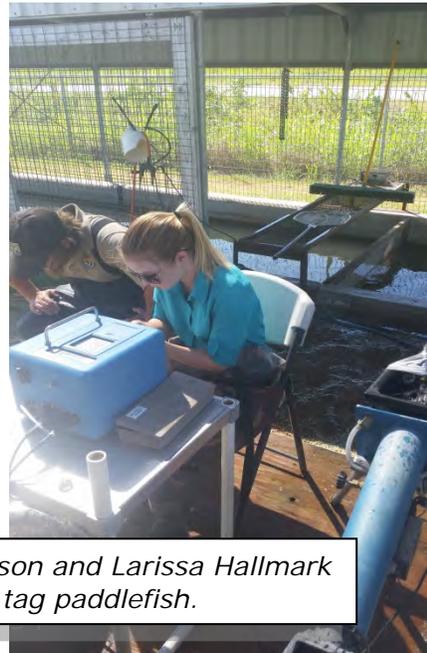
Forty alligator snapping turtles from three different year classes were prepped and transported to the Caney River in northern Oklahoma to complete a multi-state wildlife grant agreement. Each turtle was individually marked with a PIT tag; equipped with a radio transmitter and temperature logger; weighed and measured; then placed into divided containers with water for transport. Missouri State University

graduate student, Brandon Tappmeyer, found suitable habitat to stock each turtle into the river and will track each one for the next year in hopes of collecting valuable data on habitat selection, migration, growth, and survival.

For the past nine years, the Tishomingo NFH has tagged and released paddlefish into Lake Eufaula in support of an established ten-year stocking plan. All paddlefish are grown to a total length of twelve inches, individually tagged in the rostrum using numerically coded wire tags, and then transported to the lake in tanks having supplemental oxygen and aeration. In July, hatchery staff began its annual tagging efforts with help from Regan Hefner and Allison Pitmon, Youth Conservation Corps workers; Bonnie Farris and Matt Lyons, volunteers; Sarah Spangler and Daniel Jackson, Pathways Interns; and Larissa Hallmark, Oklahoma State University student and volunteer. Hatchery staff were grateful for the help of these young people in tagging approximately 20,000 paddlefish.



Allison Pitmon, YCC, and Sarah Spangler, Pathways Intern, tag paddlefish.



Josh Davison and Larissa Hallmark tag paddlefish.

WORK FORCE

As our Pathways Intern, Sarah Spangler, prepares to leave Tishomingo NFH, her final official duty was to attend and present at the Symposium for the Conservation and Biology of Freshwater Turtles in New Orleans, sponsored by the Turtle Survival Alliance and Zoo Med Laboratories.



Sarah Spangler presents alligator snapping turtle data at Symposium.

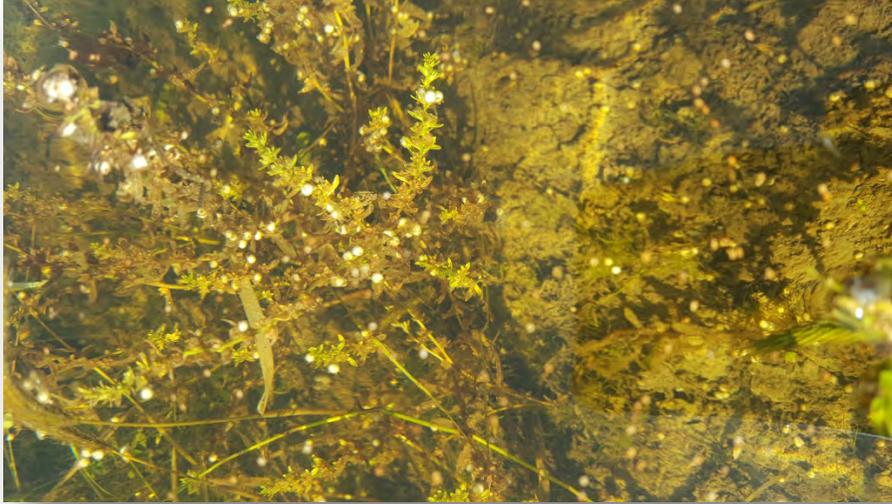
Ms. Spangler will be returning to studies at Missouri State University in the fall semester. She will also be continuing her research project, returning to Tishomingo NFH each month to gather data from transmitters attached to alligator snapping turtles.

Visitors and Outreach

The Tishomingo NFH has not had any scheduled tours during July due to the excessive heat that Oklahoma experiences mid-summer. However, there have been a large number of individual spur-of-the-moment tours given by our staff. Families travelling through on vacation, local families in search of something to keep children busy, and travelers retracing locations remembered from their childhood have stopped to ask questions and tour. One lady in particular lived here with her grandparents when she was a little girl in the 1940s, and could remember the golf course, swimming pool, and the café her grandparents operated.



The Old Highway 7 bridge on Tishomingo NFH before new highway was built in 1980s .



Alligator gar eggs in pond.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html>
Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation
Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery
5501 OK Highway 7W
Tishomingo, OK 73460
Phone: 580-384-5463
Manager: Kerry G. Graves

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