

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Report
June 2015



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



Alligator snapping turtle with transmitter.

As part of a re-introduction project by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, seventy-five alligator snapping turtles from Tishomingo NFH were stocked in the Clear Creek Union County State Conservation Area for year two of this multi-year agreement. The stocked turtles are from three different year classes and have transmitters attached for tracking purposes. In addition, forty alligator snapping turtles were also stocked in the Boeuf Wildlife Maintenance Area in Louisiana as part of a re-introduction effort. As soon as flood waters subside in the Caney River in Oklahoma, forty alligator snapping turtles will also be stocked there for re-introduction.

Alligator snapping turtle headed to Louisiana.





Neosho NFH hauling vehicle and tank.



Catfish on the way to Urban Kids' Derby.

Fish Distribution

- 200 channel catfish, 16 – 24 inches in length, were provided for Neosho NFH to stock at the Urban Kids' Derby in Kansas City, Missouri. Dan Ashe, director of the Fish & Wildlife Service, attended this event designed to bring the outdoors to urban youth.
- 4,000 ten to twelve-inch channel catfish stocked at Fort Sill Military Base as per reimbursable agreement with Department of Defense.



Harvesting channel catfish.

- 200 derby-sized channel catfish were stocked at Muleshoe NWR for their Kids' Fishing Derby. The cost of rearing and delivering these fish to Tishomingo NFH was provided by Muleshoe NWR.

- 20,000 four to six-inch channel catfish to Fort Sill Military Base as per reimbursable agreement with Department of Defense.
- 500 eight-inch paddlefish went to Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in Wisconsin to continue toxicity studies involving invasive carp.



Measuring paddlefish.

FACILITIES

In June, another round of flooding rains hit the south-central portion of Oklahoma, breaking historical records of rainfall amounts and lake and river flood levels. The Tishomingo NFH continued to have damage to the Nature Trail, road and levee damage, and roof damage to Quarters #3.



Historic water wheel flooded by Pennington Creek.

Visitors and Outreach

The 21st Annual Kids' Fishing Derby was held the first Saturday in June to coincide with Recreational Boating and Fishing Week. With over three hundred anxious young fishermen and adults in attendance, two ponds of channel catfish were surrounded with families enjoying the warm weather and possibilities of catching their limit of five fish per fisherman. Healthy snacks were provided by the Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services for those in attendance. Chicken livers were used as bait and purchased by the John Bruno Memorial Fund administered by the Tishomingo Refuge Environmental Education Society (TREES), one of our Friends' Groups. This Memorial Fund also gives two of our area merchants funding to purchase prizes for the fishermen from their sporting goods suppliers. Forty-eight prizes, such as rod and reel combos, tents, life vests, water coolers,



Family fun at Fishing Derby.



21st Annual Kids' Fishing Derby.

tackle boxes, and lanterns, were given by drawing from the registration cards to the lucky winners. Appreciation goes to Linda Vannest from Southwestern Fish Health Unit who volunteered her assistance preparing for the Derby and at the Derby. Also volunteering at the Derby were Courtney Anderson, SCA student, and Jo Ann Ryan, Educational Specialist, from the Tishomingo NWR.

Boy Scouts attended hour-long sessions each week at the Tishomingo NFH to earn Citizenship in the Nation merit badges. This year's groups broke all attendance records with a hundred Scouts each week present for the tour. The Scouts saw and heard about alligator snapping turtles, paddlefish, channel catfish fry and watched the feeding of brood stock channel catfish. In addition to fish culture, the Scouts were taught about the federal structure of the Fish and Wildlife Service, its funding, and possible careers in the Service. Each week, a different group of campers is present. This camp is within ten miles of the hatchery and lasts six weeks, giving the hatchery an outreach audience of over six hundred Scouts and leaders from Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

Scheduled Tours Given in June:

- Group of about twenty American Fisheries Society members from California
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Camp from Murray State College with fifty students and leaders
- Tishomingo Economic Development Team Camp with sixty children and leaders

Derby fisherman.



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