



## TISHOMINGO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT MARCH 2014



### Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Paddlefish spawning season began with one brood stock collection trip to Grand Lake O' the Cherokees (Grand Lake) on the Arkansas River drainage. The collection on Grand Lake yielded six males and four females for spawning. Due to cold water temperatures, these paddlefish are being held in ponds at the Hatchery until water temperatures warm to a more desirable spawning temperature. (CSF 5.2.1; CSF 5.1.2)



*Paddlefish brood stock collected at Grand Lake, OK.*

Adult alligator gar were collected from the Red River with the assistance of Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). These gar are being kept in ponds at Tishomingo NFH until water temperatures warm to a suitable spawning temperature. The



largest alligator gar collected measured six feet long and weighed over one hundred pounds.

(CSF 5.2.1;  
CSF 5.1.2)



*Ralph Simmons fishing for and catching alligator gar.*

## Leadership in Science and Technology

Paddlefish stocking in Caddo Lake in Texas went as planned in the joint effort with Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas FWCO. All fifty of the paddlefish provided by Tishomingo NFH swam away, ready to be monitored by Texas FWCO, using the implanted transmitters as they pass buoys equipped with receivers placed strategically in the river above Caddo Lake and in the lake itself.

(CSF 5.2.1; CSF 5.3.7)



*Tishomingo NFH staff transfer paddlefish to Texas Parks & Wildlife trucks.*

Dr. Jim Long, from the Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and his Master's candidate student, Anthony Civiello, both from Oklahoma State University, visited the Tishomingo NFH to discuss paddlefish culture techniques. They are researching how to measure paddlefish age in number of days by studying the otoliths. (CSF 5.3.7)



*View of paddlefish mouth and gill arches.*

## Volunteers

An SCA student from the Tishomingo NWR volunteered at the Tishomingo NFH for three days to assist in paddlefish spawning, and was given a tour of the station as well. Kelly Manktelow, from upper state New York, has been serving as a resource assistant at the Tishomingo NWR since last August, where she worked with invasive species and assisted in bird and owl surveys. She graduated from the State University of New York at Oneonta, and has served with the SCA for three years in Nebraska, Mississippi, and now Oklahoma. Prior to that, she worked with the Conservation Corps in Nevada. Ms. Manktelow's goal is to work in educational outreach with invasive species after achieving her most recent degree in Biology, which accompanies her previously-earned English degree.

**(CSF 52.1.2)**



*SCA student, Kelly Manktelow, assists in moving paddlefish.*

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## Outreach



Biologist Brian Fillmore was interviewed by Karen Shade from the “Oklahoma Magazine” for an article on alligator gar. Her request for the interview was precipitated by the story published by the Chickasaw Nation and later carried by the Associated Press. The primary focus of the interview was a general overview of the alligator gar, its spawning habits, status of the species, and which states have expressed an interest in obtaining alligator gar from the Hatchery.

**(CSF 15.4.8; CSF 15.4.12)**

*Volunteer holds alligator gar caught on Red River during brood stock collection.*

## Work Force

Aaron White attended the two-week Fisheries Academy at NCTC. Dan Ashe (via Webinar) and representatives from each region in the Fish and Wildlife Service met with the Academy participants to foster mentoring and answer any questions.

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*Photos courtesy of Tishomingo NFH staff.*

*March 2014*