

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Report
March 2015



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Three adult alligator gar were collected from the Little Glasses area of Lake Texoma through a joint effort with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). These fish were transported to Tishomingo NFH and released in a pond until water temperatures warm to appropriate spawning conditions. As each gar was transferred from the hauling tank to the pond, a measurement was taken of the vent scale that assists in determining sex of the alligator gar.

Alligator gar transfer to pond.



There were two successful paddlefish brood stock collection trips to Grand Lake O' the Cherokees (Grand Lake). Five females and six males were collected during the first trip and released into a pond at Tishomingo NFH until water temperatures warmed from the 13°C at Grand Lake to an optimal spawning temperature of 16°C.



Holding tank for paddlefish.

Paddlefish brood stock.



During the second trip, five females and seven males were collected. Since these fish were netted as they were staging for a natural spawning run in the upper part of the river channel, they were put into fiberglass holding tanks at Tishomingo NFH and spawned two days later. Eleven hatching jars were filled with paddlefish eggs. In about one week, the eggs began hatching and were transferred into rectangular grow-out tanks. Hatching jars are monitored carefully so that once the eggs begin to hatch, they can quickly be moved into rearing tanks. Moving them quickly is

beneficial to successful hatching because the water in the hatching jars contains proteins, normally present from the hatching process, and elevated ammonia levels. Once the hatchlings are moved into the grow-out tanks, the developmental process for paddlefish continues successfully.

Volunteers

Assisting in the paddlefish spawning were Richard Snow and Amy Jones, both biologists from the ODWC Lab in Norman. Also assisting was Bonnie Farris, Naturalist from Lake Murray State Park. With the help from these volunteers, spawning was accomplished quickly.



Paddlefish spawning preparation.

Visitors and Outreach

Informal tours of Tishomingo NFH were given on six occasions to visitors just passing by and curious to know what happens at a federal hatchery. Most were families, but one gentleman was from Italy. When he returns to Italy, he will have many photos and stories to share about paddlefish.

As in past years, the Tishomingo NFH was invited to participate in the Johnston County EMS Easter Egg Scramble. Since the time for the event was extended, there was more of an opportunity to meet the public and answer their questions. An estimated one thousand children participated in this event which serves as the traditional start of spring and outdoor activities for this community. The children and their parents enjoyed seeing alligator snapping turtles, four-year-old juvenile and 6-month-old hatchlings.



Johnston County EMS Easter Egg Scramble.

Facilities

The electrical rewire of Hatchery Quarters #4 began with contractors replacing old wiring throughout the quarters with safer wiring using the most current electrical code.

Work Force

Assistant Manager Ralph Simmons completed EEO Diversity Training presented by Bobbea Cadena from the Regional Office at Hagerman NWR in Texas.



Oklahoma State Tree, red bud, along Pennington Creek.

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