

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Report
November 2014



Aquatic Species Habitat Conservation and Management

Alligator gar production for 2014 yielded about 850 juvenile gar being shipped to Chesapeake State Fish Hatchery by Missouri Department of Conservation and 570 being shipped by Oklahoma Department of Conservation for stocking in Hugo Lake. Production began with about five thousand fry being received from Private John Allen NFH in Mississippi. The alligator gar fry were introduced to feed a week later in the form of bloodworms mixed with a flake food and warm water fish pellet. After about three to four weeks, alligator gar fry are moved into more tanks to separate density, access to feed, and most notably to limit obvious cannibalism. This separation continues each week through the growing period. At about six or seven weeks, a floating pellet food was introduced to the gar with no luck. Freeze-dried krill was introduced with success, and used until at 2 months of age, a straight diet of warm water fish pellet was used. Weekly tasks included sample counts, visual detection of cannibals, and separating tank densities. The 570 alligator gar stocked in Hugo Lake had coded wire tags inserted in snouts for future studies. During the 99-day growth period at Tishomingo NFH, the alligator gar experienced growth of .11 inches per day or 3.32 inches per month, yielding a stocking size of 11.71 inches.



Alligator gar as they grow.



Outreach

With the return of the pair of bald eagles to the Tishomingo NFH, the number of visitors to the hatchery continues to increase this month, with the majority being bird watchers and enjoying the Nature Trail along Pennington Creek.



Bald eagles at Tishomingo NFH.



Facilities

Site preparation began for the new office modular building with utility locators placed, ground leveling, and concrete footing preparations being made by the contractor. Annual maintenance tasks such as cleaning sediment from lined ponds, weed removal from canal and ponds, and heavy equipment maintenance are being performed.



Concrete footings for Office Building.



Late fall colors at Tishomingo NFH.

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