

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery



Monthly Report November 2015



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Distribution Trips in November 2015:

- ❖ 4,000 channel catfish were stocked at Fort Sill Military Base to complete the 2015 reimbursable agreement with Department of Defense. These catfish were ten – twelve inches in length.



Harvesting channel catfish.



- ❖ 500 derby-sized channel catfish were stocked at the request of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe. The fish were stocked in several ponds used for recreational fishing.

Leadership in Science and Technology



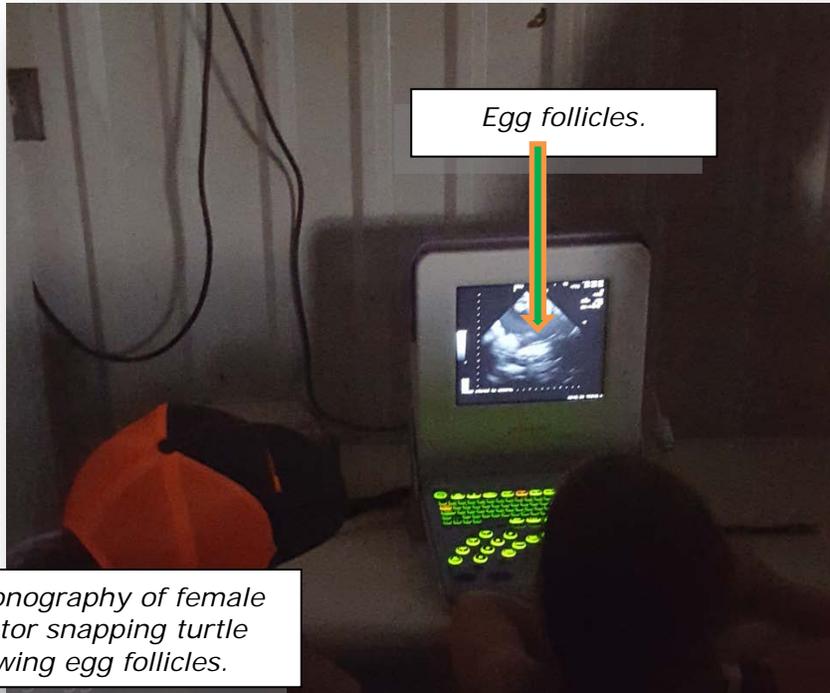
Brian Fillmore performs blood collection from alligator snapping turtle.

During November, Dr. Day Ligon from Missouri State University, and his research assistant, Sarah Spangler, joined Denise Thompson from Oklahoma State University at the Tishomingo NFH for alligator snapping turtle data collection on the two studies undertaken by Spangler and Thompson. A total of seventeen adult alligator snapping turtles were collected from two ponds. Blood samples were taken to investigate stress levels associated with seasonal water temperatures and handling. Ultrasonography was used on each alligator snapping turtle to determine the presence or absence of egg development. All females showed the presence of egg follicles. Dr. Ligon took the opportunity to use the Go-Pro underwater camera while snorkeling in one of the turtle ponds to document turtle movement. Another underwater camera was attached to the back of a female alligator snapping turtle for four hours and then removed. The turtles were all released back to the ponds after data collection.



Dr. Day Ligon filming with GoPro in turtle pond.

Data collection continued on the hatchling alligator snapping turtles in Pennington Creek. This study is to determine food and habitat preference. Despite recent heavy rains, all eleven hatchlings were found using radio telemetry, although a few had ventured downstream slightly from their original release point.



Ultrasonography of female alligator snapping turtle showing egg follicles.

OUTREACH

The local CBS affiliated television station requested an interview with Brian Fillmore about alligator snapping turtles. In addition to the question and answer session on turtles, the reporter was given a tour of the station and got to see a paddlefish for the first time.



Brian Fillmore interview with local CBS affiliate on alligator snapping turtles.



Bald Eagles Return to Tishomingo NFH in November.

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