

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery Monthly Report



September 2015

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

In the month of September, Tishomingo NFH stocked a total of 6,123 paddlefish into Lake Eufaula to complete the 2015 stocking process, bringing the grand total paddlefish produced for 2015 to 31,689. This commitment restores paddlefish populations to their native waters of the Arkansas River and Red River. Of the grand total, 5,025 went to Kansas Department of Wildlife and Tourism into John Redmond Reservoir; 2,000 went into Spring River above Grand Lake O' the Cherokees; and 23,964 paddlefish went into Lake Eufaula on the Arkansas River. The remaining 700 will overwinter here at Tishomingo NFH for visitors to view, and to fulfill commitments to zoo exhibits and researchers.



Paddlefish cycle (top left to bottom right) broodstock caught, eggs harvested, fry develop, juveniles tagged for stocking.

Alligator snapping turtles produced by the Tishomingo NFH were stocked in September at two locations in north central Oklahoma. A total of 40 turtles were released in the Caney River; a total of 120 were released in the Verdigris River. These sites were predetermined to be a stable source of food and excellent habitat based on previous surveys.



Stocking alligator snapping turtle in Caney River.



Stocking alligator snapping turtles in Verdigris River.

Caney River, above Hulah Lake

<u>Year Class</u>	<u>Total Turtles Released</u>	<u>Avg. Length (In)</u>	<u>Avg. Weight (Lbs)</u>
2011	10	4.44	.95
2012	10	3.85	.67
2013	20	2.98	.28

Verdigris River, above Lake Oologah

<u>Year Class</u>	<u>Total Turtles Released</u>	<u>Avg. Length (In)</u>	<u>Avg. Weight (Lbs)</u>
2010	24	5.65	1.63
2011	96	3.87	.60

LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The research study that Sarah Spangler from Missouri State University is performing on alligator snapping turtles at Tishomingo NFH is proceeding. Small transmitters are attached on each of ten hatchlings. These turtles are in Pennington Creek and being monitored daily by data received from the transmitters, as well as an underwater camera. She is recording data on movement, temperature, and habitat selection, which will be compared to data received on ten additional hatchlings stocked in a hatchery pond.



Alligator snapping turtle with transmitter attached.

Visitors and Outreach



- Tishomingo NFH provided channel catfish to Hagerman NWR for their Kids' Fishing Derby held on Saturday, September 5th. About 80 kids plus their parents attended the annual event.

*Hagerman NWR Fishing Derby.
Photo taken by Refuge Volunteer William H. Powell.*

- The tenth annual Oklahoma Wildlife Expo was held for three days during the last weekend in September. The first day of the Expo was designated as “Schools Only” day so that schools from across the state could attend. In past years the attendance has reached into the 45,000 range for all 3 days, and this year’s attendance surpassed even that, with 48,000 in attendance. This event was designed to educate the public on hunting, fishing, outdoor activities, and wildlife/fisheries conservation. Our booth demonstrated “What Happens at a National Fish Hatchery” and consisted of aquaria showing alligator gar and alligator snapping turtles in front of our large display of pictures showing staff working with the fish and turtles that we raise here.



10th Annual Oklahoma Wildlife Expo.



Early Fall on Pennington Creek at Tishomingo NFH.

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