



Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

June Events

- June 2016: Identification of Lower Canyon fish and invertebrate collections
- 06/13-17/2016: Paddlefish Tracking
- 06/07/2016 Salado Salamander Survey
- 06/20-24/2016: Texas Wild-rice Survey
- 06/23/2016: Install educational kiosk for Salado Salamanders
- 06/29/2016: TXFWCO Safety Inspection
- 06/28-30/2016: Pecos Pupfish Monitoring in Salt Creek

Contact Information

Project Leader: Mike Montagne

Phone: 512-353-0011

Fax: 512-392-0270

Email: mike_montagne@fws.gov

Web:

<https://www.fws.gov/Southwest/fisheries/txfwco/index.html>

May Activities

Dolan Springs Project

The Dolan Springs Project sampling continued in May of 2016. With the help of biologists from the San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center (SMARC) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the TXFWCO continues to collect of salamanders and aquatic invertebrates for its biotic community sampling for the Nature Conservancy at Dolan Falls Preserve.



USFWS biologist looking for salamanders at Dolan Preserve

Paddlefish Reintroduction Project

The TXFWCO, with help from Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery, TPWD, Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the Caddo Lake Institute, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others, kicked off Phase two of the Paddlefish Reintroduction Project, with the release of approximately 600 one-year old American paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) into the Big Cypress Bayou. Twenty one of the fish were implanted with radio transmitters so biologists from the TXFWCO can track their movements within the watershed. The town of Jefferson was holding their Paddlefish Festival at the time of the release and many of local schools participated in the events. For more information on the Paddlefish Reintroduction Project go to: <http://www.caddolakeinstitute.us/>



A Student releasing a paddlefish at the Festival

Lower Canyon RGSM Monitoring

May 15-22, 2016, scientists from the TXFWCO, TPWD, Big Bend National Park, and professors and students from Sol Ross State University conducted the Ecohydrology sampling trips through the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande. The trip consists of scientists collecting data on the fish and invertebrate community, spring contributions and water quality, as well as geomorphic data that records the changes in a transect across the river over time and different flows.

One of the main goals of the seven day canoe trip is to collect the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) that have been reintroduced in this stretch of the Rio Grande as part of the recovery of the species. Several of them were captured during the trip and one was captured farther upstream in this stretch than had been documented previously.



Rio Grande silvery minnow captured in the Lower Canyon Reach