



Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Activity Report

April 2015



Staff

Project Leader • Vacant

Acting Project Leader • Rick Echols

Fish Biologist • Rick Echols

Engineering Equipment Operator • Cirilo Alonzo

Maintenance Worker • Rene Guerra

Administrative Assistant • Mark Dietrich

Biological Science Technician • Catherine Baxter

Volunteer • Mike Brown

Workforce Management

Rick Echols continued in the role of acting project leader during April. He also attended the 2 day water reuse course held in Phoenix.

Administrative assistant Mark Dietrich completed a week of Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) training at regional headquarters in Albuquerque.

Volunteer Mike Brown's last day of service was April 7th. Mike was extremely valuable as an animal care taker and his trade skills proved very useful. He and his wife Joan plan various volunteer stints in Virginia this summer. They are undecided as to whether they will return to Uvalde in the fall.

Partnerships and Accountability

As identified in approved Recovery Plans, refugia efforts continue for the Texas Wild Rice, Fountain Darter, Comanche Springs Pupfish, Devil's River Minnow, and San Marcos salamander. All species are performing well.

The station continues to maintain communications with the San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center (SMARC) and Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program for existing and upcoming refugia activities of threatened and endangered species native to the Edwards Aquifer system.

Uvalde National Fish Hatchery continues to consult with Dave Straus and Cindy Ledbetter of the Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National Aquaculture Center to work out details of a copper sulfate toxicity study on Comanche Springs pupfish.

The Directorate Fellowship Program slot has been filled by Justin Crow. He is a graduate student at Texas State University and has experience working with endangered salamanders at the San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center. He will begin his 11 week program in mid May and finish by late August.

Aquatic Species Activities

Copper sulfate toxicity experiments on Comanche Springs pupfish got underway in earnest this month. Range finding trials were completed using our well water and pond water. Replicated trials were completed using well water.

Yearling channel catfish destined for our annual fishing derby average 13 to 15 inches in length.

Spawning cans were placed in the channel catfish broodstock pond in early April. Initially,

several spawns were collected, but spawning has slowed recently due to cool, cloudy weather.



Checking spawning containers for channel catfish eggs

Facility Maintenance

Abundant rainfall has caused an explosion of grass and weed growth around the hatchery. Staff spent many hours cutting grass and spraying weeds.

An extension of kettle walls was completed in our derby pond. This will increase its capacity during harvest and reduce handling stress.

To comply with a request to reduce our fleet of vehicles, Cirilo Alonzo and Rene Guerra removed the flat bed and autocrane from our Chevy S-10 and replaced them with the original bed. The truck will be available for surplus during the month of May.



Completed kettle reconstruction of our derby pond

Outreach

Catherine Baxter and Rick Echols represented the hatchery at Dia de Los Nino's of Uvalde "Day of the Children". Children and adults were made aware of the mission of the hatchery and current projects being conducted as they viewed examples of the fish on station. The importance of aquatic species conservation was discussed and promotional and informational materials were available.



Catherine Baxter answers questions at the annual "Day of the Child Event"

Facility Visitors

The hatchery hosted approximately 70 visitors for the month. Activities ranged from bird watching to hatchery tours.

Weather

Temperatures for April ranged from a low of 44°F to a high of 88°F. Overall, high temperatures were well below normal with the observed average high for the month at 78°F compared to the 111 year average of 83°F. Low temperatures were normal as the average for the month and the 111 year average were both 59°F. Measurable rainfall occurred on 10 days in April with precipitation totaling 5.47 inches. According to US Climate Data, April's monthly precipitation averages 2.05 inches. The Edwards Aquifer is currently at 824.6' compared to 824.1' in March and 831.3' this time last year.

Upcoming Events

Rueben Mendoza will be returning to our facility to complete the third year of his Pathways Program. This year he will be conducting a study to see if our hatchery is suitable for raising Rio Grande silvery minnow.

Our annual kids fishing derby will be held on May 30, 2015 from 8 a.m. until noon. Children from 4 to 15 are welcome to participate.

A San Marcos salamander reproductive study should get underway within the next few months.

Delivery of 4 additional large rice tanks should occur towards the end of May.

Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

754 County Road 203
Uvalde, Texas 78801

PHONE:
(830) 278-2419
FAX:
(830) 278-6042

[http://www.fws.gov/southwest/
fisheries/uvalde/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/uvalde/index.html)

Uvalde National Fish Hatchery April 2015

Species	Year Class	Geographic Origin	Approximate Number
Channel Catfish Broodstock	2013	Domestic Strain	185
Channel Catfish	2014	Domestic Strain	3,000
Comanche Springs Pupfish	Mixed	Phantom Springs	80,799
Devils River Minnow (F1)	2013	San Felipe Springs	268
Devils River Minnow (F2)	2014	San Felipe Springs	105
Devils River Minnow (F2)	2015	San Felipe Springs	97
Fountain Darter (W)	2012-2014	Upper Comal River	41
Fountain Darter (W)	2012-2014	Lower Comal River	39
Fountain Darter (F1)	2013/2014	Comal River	517
Fountain Darter (F1)	2015	Upper Comal River	24
San Marcos Salamander (M)	2013	San Marcos River	10
San Marcos Salamander (F)	2013	San Marcos River	10
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	San Marcos R. (A)	54
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	San Marcos R. (B)	37
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	San Marcos R. (C)	15
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	San Marcos R. (D)	12
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	San Marcos R. (F)	19
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	San Marcos R. (G)	17
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	San Marcos R. (J)	3
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	San Marcos R. (K)	12
Texas Wild Rice	N/A	SMR (Unknown)	25

Species and number at Uvalde NFH at the end of the month.