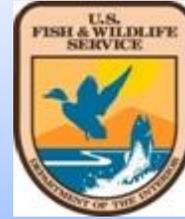




# Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

## Monthly Activity Report



December 2012

### ***Uvalde National Fish Hatchery Staff***

*Project Leader – Grant Webber*

*Assistant Project Leader – Karin Eldridge*

*Administrative Technician – Sandra Castaneda*

*Engineering Equipment Operator – Cirilo Alonzo*

*Maintenance Worker – Rene Guerra*

*Fish Biologist – Rick Echols*

*Animal Caretaker – Vacant*

*Volunteers – Patricia Schenk and Thomas Jetzer*

### **Partnerships and Accountability**

In partnership with the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program, the station continues propagation efforts for razorback sucker. As identified in approved Recovery Plans, refugia efforts continue for the Texas wild-rice, fountain darter, Comanche Springs pupfish, and San Marcos salamanders.

It appeared that the tank ruptured at one of its seams, collapsing with a couple thousand gallons of water. Staff spent three days cleaning and hauling off the debris. Fortunately the tank ruptured in the middle of the night so the event caused no injuries. The building damage will be assessed for repairs.

### **Workforce Management**

Rick Echols and Sandra Castaneda traveled to Temple, Texas to activate their SMART Department of Interior identification cards.



### **Facility Maintenance**

Reconstruction of the new holding house was finally completed this month; however, our south water storage tank ruptured, fell over, and of course, landed on the completed holding house. It is believed that the tank ruptured due to old age and dry rot of the fiberglass. The tank has been on station for several decades.





The GE transfer switch that transfers power to the tankhouse from the CAT generator during power outages is malfunctioning again and will need to be replaced. When the main power goes off the transfer switch now has to be switched manually to generator power, instead of the unit automatically switching. There also appears to be a malfunction with the CAT generator. The generator's breaker switch sometimes trips before it can start up. It is believed that this issue is unrelated to the transfer switch but will be evaluated further by a technician trained in generator repairs.

December's air temperatures ranged from a low of 28 degrees Fahrenheit to a high of 83 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation totaled 0.10 inches this month. According to The Weather Channel the average precipitation for December is 1.09 inches. According to Uvalde rainfall records, 2012 was the 10<sup>th</sup> driest year on record since 1904.

### **Additional Facility Activities**

New plumbing was installed behind the new holding house building. The plumbing will allow for well or pond water for aquaculture purposes. New 1" PVC water lines were installed at the new building for domestic water hose connections.



The station's two volunteers replaced roof panels and side screens for the south Texas wild-rice raceways. The old fiberglass roof panels were deteriorated due to age and weathering. Each wind event would break away rotted roof panels, creating a safety hazard. In addition, the volunteers removed and replaced an eight-foot long wall section for the south wild-rice storage area. An old metal framed window was removed and replaced with metal wall panels. The old wall was extremely rotten and falling down.



### **Facility Visitors**

The hatchery was visited by 11 individuals this month for bird watching, tours, and other outdoor visitation activities.