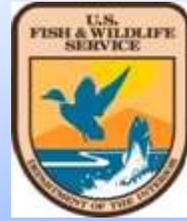




Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Activity Report

October 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

Partnerships and Accountability

In partnership with the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program, the station continues propagation efforts for razorback sucker and began the fall stocking trips to the San Juan River. By the end of October, 6,696 razorback sucker fish have been stocked into the San Juan River. As identified in approved Recovery Plans, refugia efforts continue for the Texas wild-rice, fountain darter, Comanche Springs pupfish, and San Marcos salamanders.

In partnership with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Uvalde NFH provided 55,275 - 2012 YC channel catfish for recreational fishing opportunities. Staff from the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery picked up, transported, and stocked the channel catfish into Lake Buchanan, Texas.

Workforce Management

In an effort to minimize driving stress to staff and to get the razorback suckers into their destination waters sooner, this year we decided to send two distribution trucks each

week of distribution. Previously, one truck was sent each trip and upon its return, would get back on the road for another trip. The back to back trips were very stressful on the staff because some drivers did not have much time to rest between trips. This “doubling” of trips will also get the fish into the river quicker. This is somewhat of a constraint on normal hatchery operations as we only have a staff of six personnel. This year, we have recruited drivers from other stations to assist with our distribution trips. The recruited drivers will accompany our experienced drivers and biologists during the trips. Sandra Castaneda, Uvalde’s Administrative Technician, went on her first ever, fish stocking trip this month. We want to thank Sandra, Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery, and the Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office for providing stocking assistance. Larry Guerro from Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery and Diego Araujo from the Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office graciously volunteered to help us. We greatly appreciate their time and energy that is required for the 36 hour round trip drive. As always, we want to thank the New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office for coordinating the trips and assisting staff with the stockings.



Rene Guerra and Rick Echols tempering fish.



Razorback suckers released into the river.



Cirilo Alonzo tempering fish.



Razorback suckers released into the river.



Weston Furr stabilizing fish transport tube.

Facility Maintenance

Sherwin Williams was contracted to install linoleum floating flooring in the kitchen and bathroom of Quarters 1.

Power outage simulations were ran on both water supply wells back up and alarm systems. An electronic component in the well control flow system was found to be malfunctioning. Components have been ordered to fix the situation.

One of the four fans that recirculate air in the cooling system of the feed cooler was repaired.

October's air temperatures ranged from a low of 43 degrees Fahrenheit to a high of 93 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation totaled 0.23 inches this month. According to The Weather Channel the average October rainfall is 2.88 inches.

Facility Visitors

The hatchery was visited by 8 individuals this month for bird watching, tours, and other outdoor visitation activities.