



Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery March 2015 Monthly Report



No fish were stocked this month.

248 visitors signed the guest registry in March.

The hatchery received 7,395 razorback larvae this month from collection efforts on Lake Mohave by BOR, FWS, NPS and Marsh & Associates.

The hatchery received 60 relict leopard frog tadpoles from Rebeca Rivera, UNLV. The tadpoles will be reared until morph stage and then returned to Rebeca for stocking in translocation sites.

Refuges conducted a heavy equipment assessment of all facilities including WBNFH and Achii Hanyo to have an accurate inventory of equipment. This will allow more opportunities for equipment sharing and cost savings.

Mark Olson, Project leader, attended a bonytail brood stock meeting at SW Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (SNARRC). The purpose of the meeting was to identify potential sites for a second brood stock to be housed and assemble an evaluation team to analyze the potential facilities for consideration.



Based on previous flow conditioning research done at Lake Mead Hatchery, WBNFH is experimenting with the use of flow during early rearing of Razorback Suckers to

increase feed conversion rates.

The previous investigation at Lake Mead Hatchery attempted to increase the fitness of Razorbacks prior to release to

aid in predator avoidance. This experiment also showed increased food conversion ratio. An experimental raceway with a velocity of 25 cm/s has been set up and the fish are being exercised 12 hours a day. The fish will be raised using this intermittent flow regimen for three months, and then growth efficiency will be quantified.

The new Low Head Oxygenation (LHO) system for the razorback recirculating raceways is now complete.

The oxygen levels after the LHO's is at or above saturation in all systems.

This improvement in rearing conditions will hopefully help growth rates and overall health of the fish.





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Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility

Preparation work on the last couple ponds was completed and the ponds filled. The facility received 14,000 bonytail from SNARRC, average size 80 mm. The fish were split into three ponds.

An increase in temperature has made the bonytail feeding more active so feeding times and quantities have increased.

Currently the focus is on increasing the turbidity in the ponds and trying to promote algae blooms to reduce unwanted plant growth. Staff is experimenting with leaves, as a fertilizer, to stimulate an algae bloom in two of our nine ponds. In those two ponds we are recording dissolved oxygen content daily to insure our levels stay within safe standards for fish production. In addition, aeration units have been installed in the ponds to reduce the risk of producing an anoxic environment.

Upcoming Events

An Environmental Audit of WBNFH will be conducted by the regional office in April.

