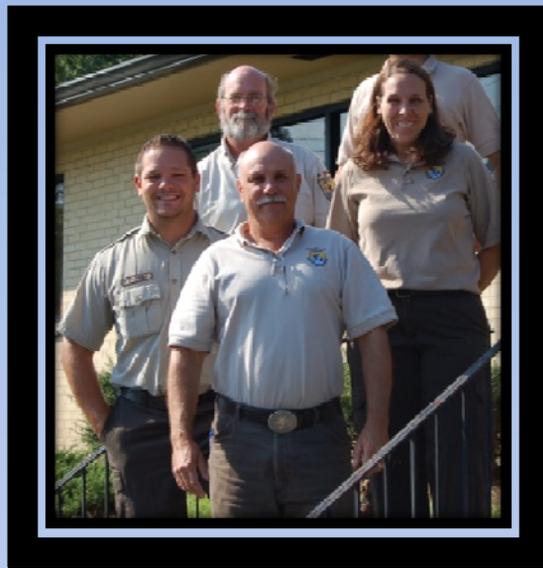


Warm Springs Fish Health Center

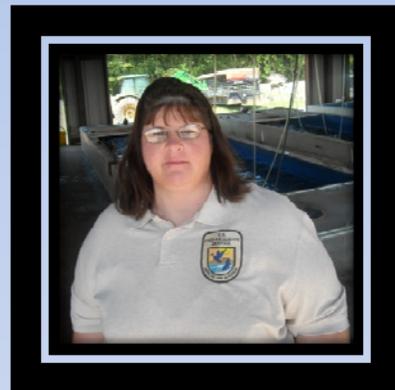
December 2010-February 2011 Activity Report



Norm Heil, Project Leader
Brian Hickson, Fish Biologist
Devin Chappell, Fish Biologist
Allison Hernandez, Fish Biologist
Nikki Persons, Fish Biologist
(below)



The Fish Health Center (FHC) is a component of the Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center (RFC) and was developed to improve and enhance fisheries management. More specifically, the FHC provides a wide range of services from disease diagnostics to ploidy inspections.



Goals:

- Provide service, expertise and information that contributes to the health, survival, enhancement, restoration, and recovery of fish and other aquatic species in support of national and regional priorities.
- Supports hatchery operations to provide quality fish that contribute to ecosystem objectives.
- Assists in the development of management strategies through assessment and applied research to support the protection of wild stocks and recovery of threatened and endangered species.
- Educates key audiences about the elements of comprehensive fish health and its critical significance to healthy aquatic ecosystems.

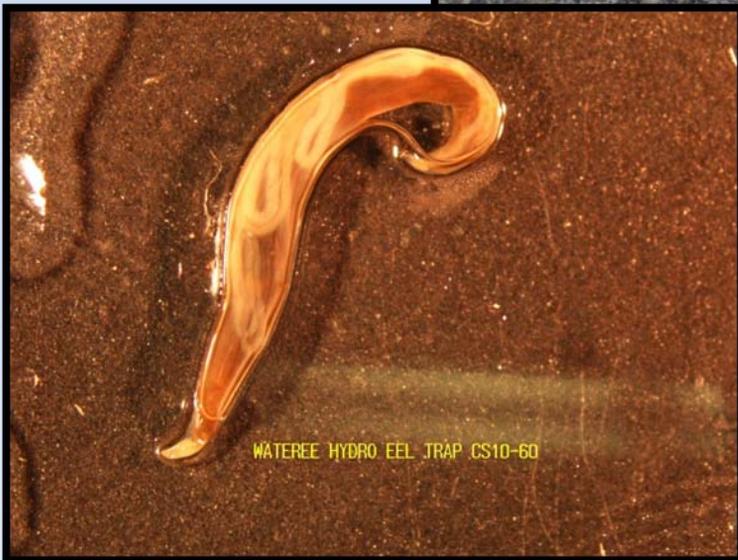


5308 Spring Street, Warm Springs, GA 31830, Phone: 706-655-3382

<http://www.fws.gov/warmsprings/FishHealth/index.html>

Fish Health Diagnostics

Parasite checks were performed on American eels from the Wateree River by Allison and Brian in January. The nematode found in their swim bladders was most likely *Anguillicola crassus*, pictured at the bottom of the page.



Fish Health Diagnostics



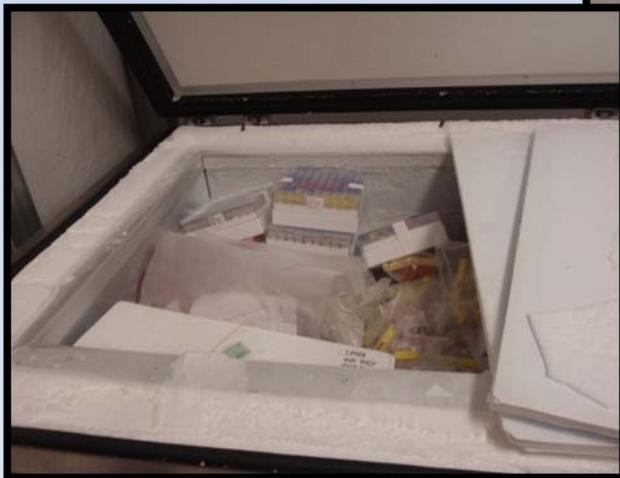
Cody Meshes, of the Youth Ambassador Program, conducted whirling disease checks with Allison in February.



Fish Health Diagnostics



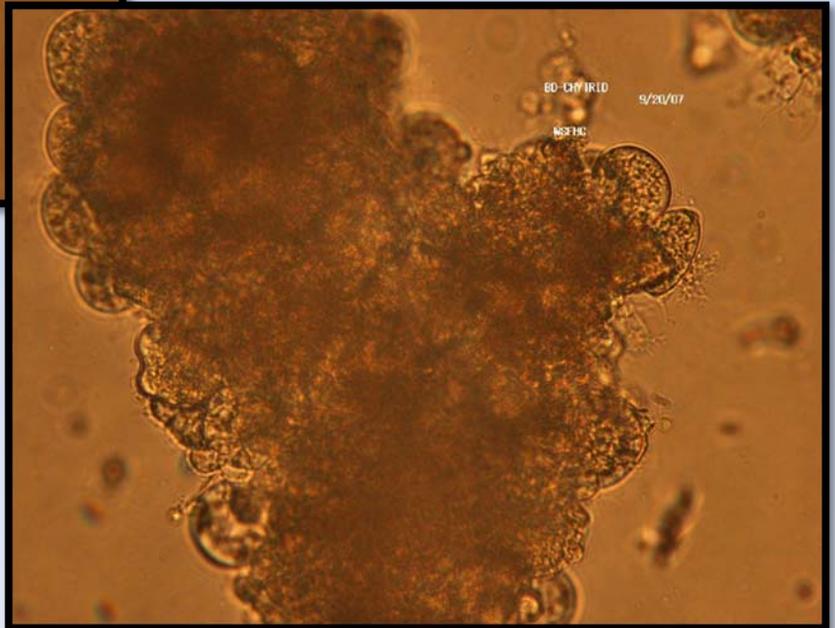
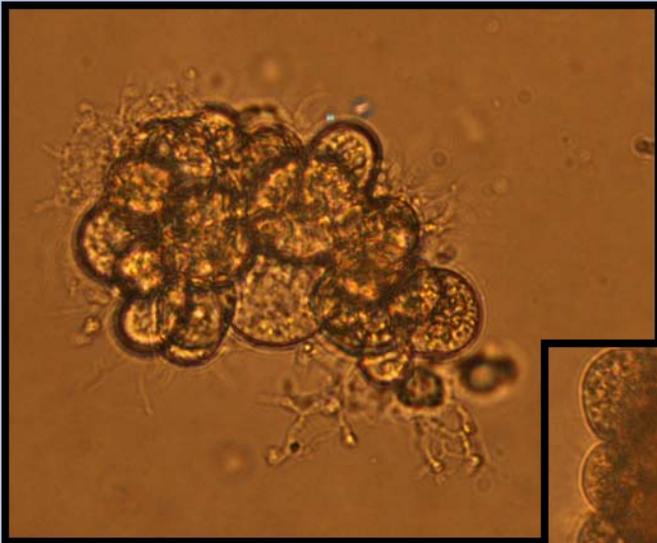
Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV) samples were archived and frozen by Brian and Allison in January to prepare for future PCR analysis.



Fish Health Diagnostics



Brian has been culturing Chytrid fungus (shown under microscope below) this quarter. He will use the cultures to collaborate on a study with Chester Figiel of the Fish Technology Center to potentially identify management practices for National Fish Hatcheries and distribution sites.



Fish Health



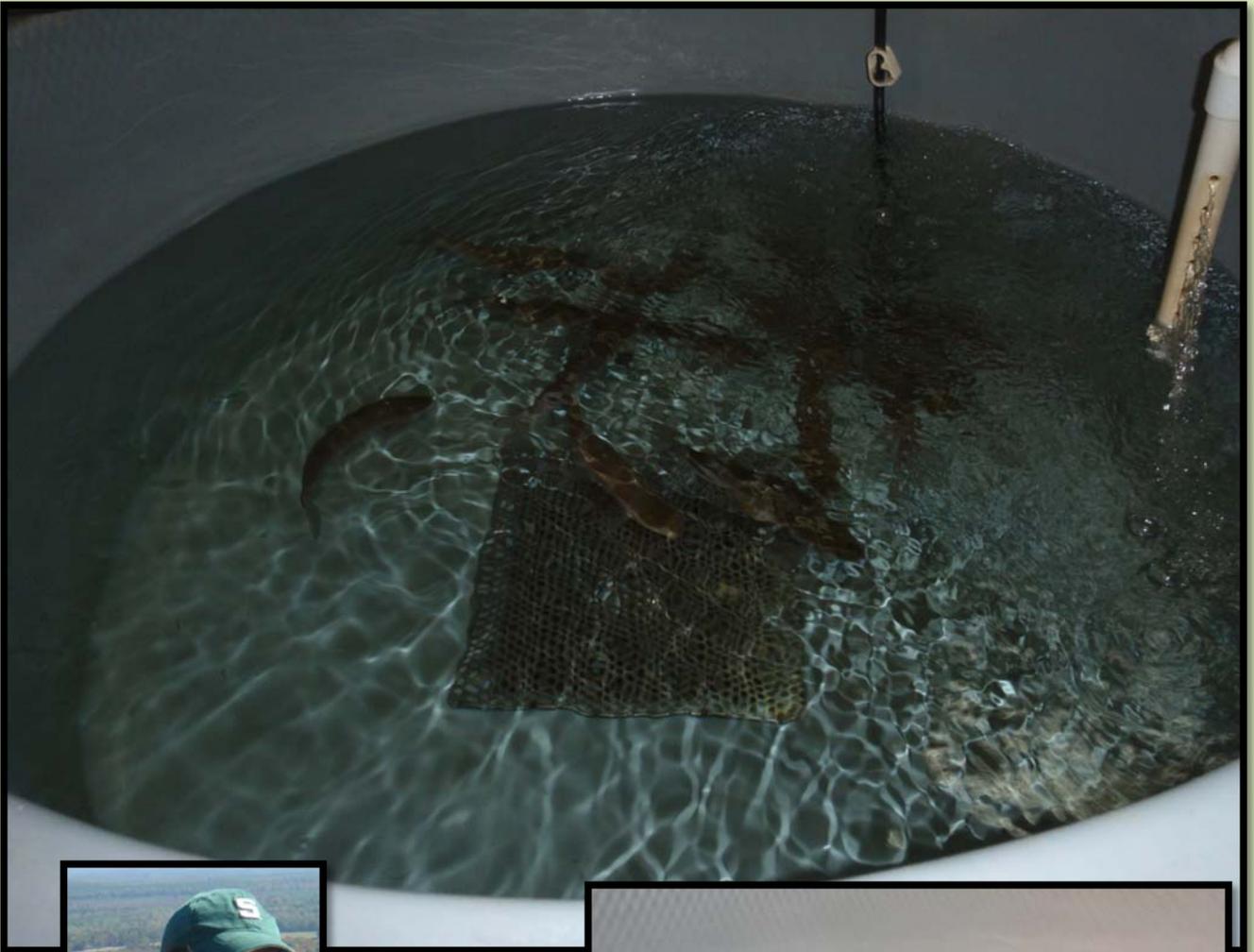
In January, several improvements were made in the Fish Health laboratory. Above, Devin and Brian hanging new cabinets. Below, Allison stored the large interpretive posters by hanging them on Health Center walls for damage prevention and began general organization in the storage building and around the lab.



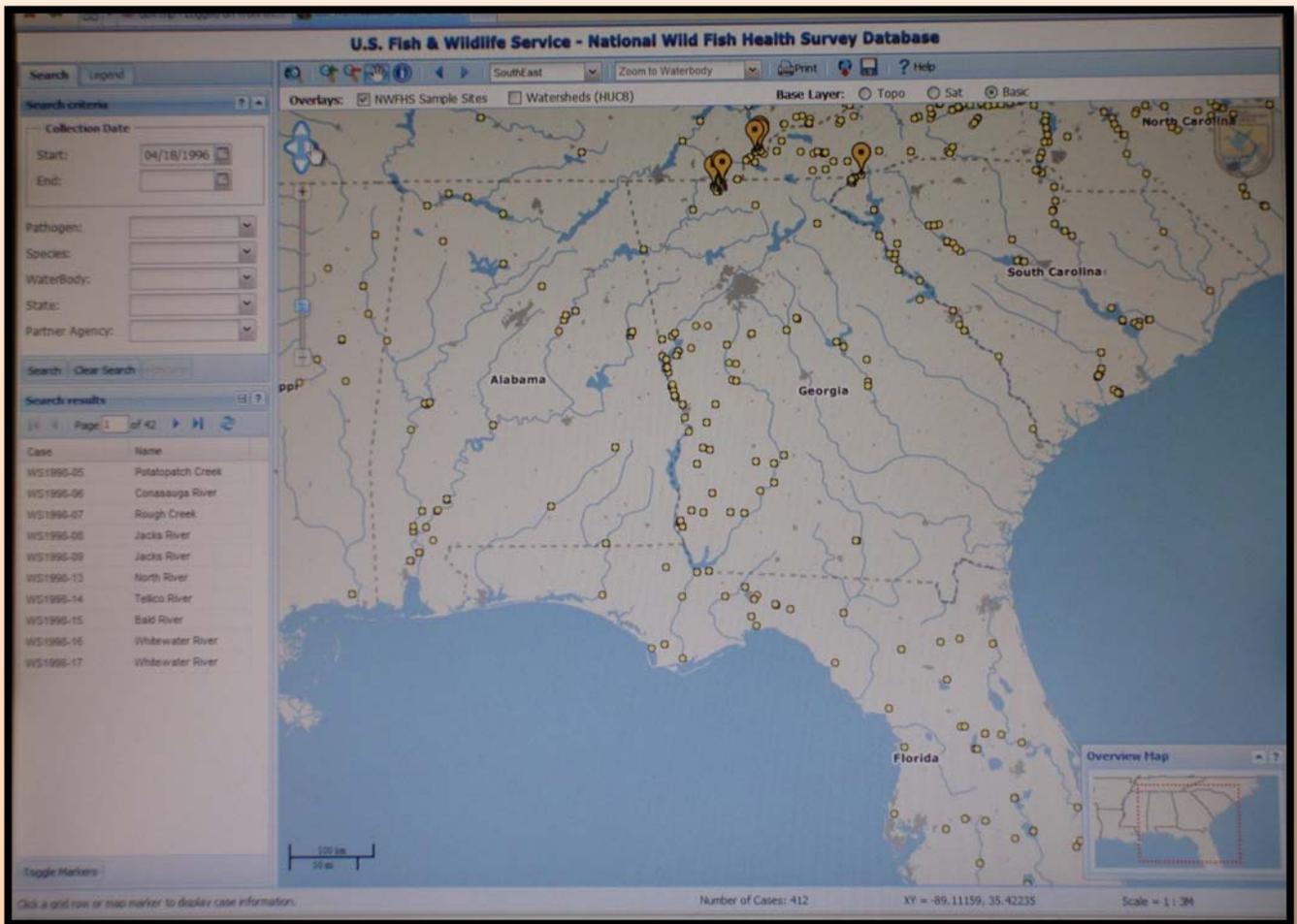


Triploid Grass Carp Program

In January, Allison and Mike Hassett, from the Fish Technology Center pictured bottom left, transported grass carp to the wet laboratory to conduct a future collaborative study between the Fish Health and Fish Tech Centers. The study will concentrate on the development of procedures for field collection, transport, and possible storage of blood samples from grass carp for ploidy determination.



Wild Fish Health Survey



Throughout this quarter, Devin entered data into and updated the Wild Fish Health Survey Database released June 2010. The database allows users to perform easy searches and display results in reports and interactive maps with user friendly controls.

For more information visit the site: <http://www.fws.gov/wildfishsurvey/database/>



Other Activities



Other Activities



Volunteer & Staff Appreciation

On January 25, in conjunction with a several day all-staff meeting, a dinner was held to recognize staff and volunteers for their accomplishments in 2010. Gary Eddy, SCA intern in 2009 and 2010 and pictured top right, was honored for his activities at the Fish Health Center (FHC). Several other volunteers that have helped at the FHC were also acknowledged: Mike Hassett, Kara Brown, Cody Meshes. Devin and Allison were recognized for their time spent on the Gulf Oil Spill.