

Warm Springs Fish Health Center

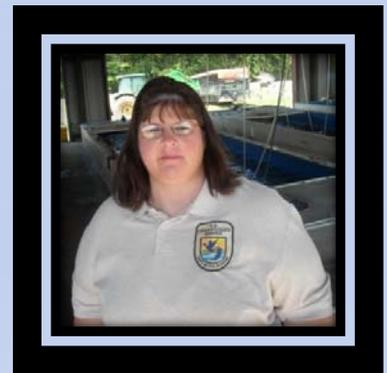
October to December 2012 Activity Report



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.



Images are all courtesy of the US Fish and Wildlife Service unless noted otherwise.

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.



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

Fish Health Diagnostics



Norm and Devin went to Norfolk NFH in Arkansas for their annual inspection. Nikki met them there to assist. Allison worked up samples upon arrival in the laboratory.



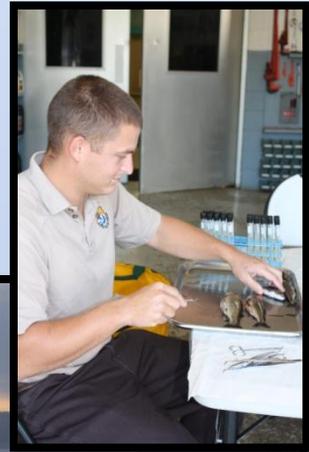
Fish Health Diagnostics



Devin travelled to Tennessee to assist with sturgeon sampling in the Tennessee River. Fish are caught on trot lines then weighed, measured and pit tagged for release.



Fish Health Diagnostics



Brian and Devin conducted the annual fish health inspection at Wolf Creek NFH (above) in Kentucky in October. Thanks to new Wolf Creek staff member, Mark Heath, for assisting with the necropsies (image top far right- Credit: Kristi Pupak, USFWS). The above left image is the visitor's center entrance and in the middle is Lake Cumberland, which is the supply for Wolf Creek. Brian and Devin also went to Buffalo Springs state trout hatchery (below) in Tennessee for an inspection.



Fish Health Diagnostics

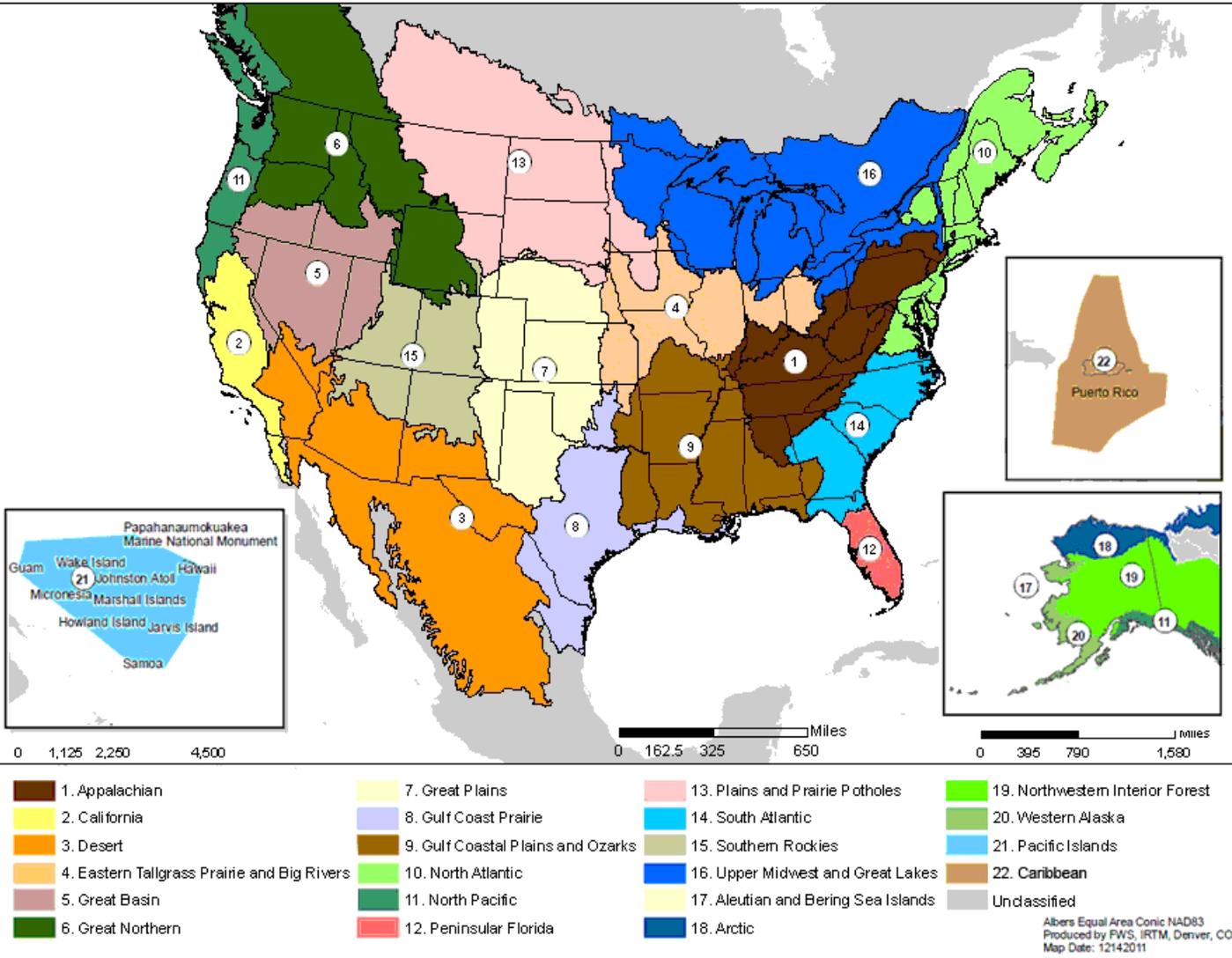


Devin travelled to Tennessee to conduct annual inspections at Flintville and Tellico state trout hatcheries. Above: fish on tray ready for necropsy at Flintville SFH. Below: intake structure at Tellico SFH.



Other FHC Activities

In October, Norm attended a LCC/SHC workshop in Tennessee that focused on the future approach for selecting surrogate species for conservation.



Credit: DOI LCC website: <http://www.doi.gov/lcc/index.cfm>



Triploid Grass Carp Program

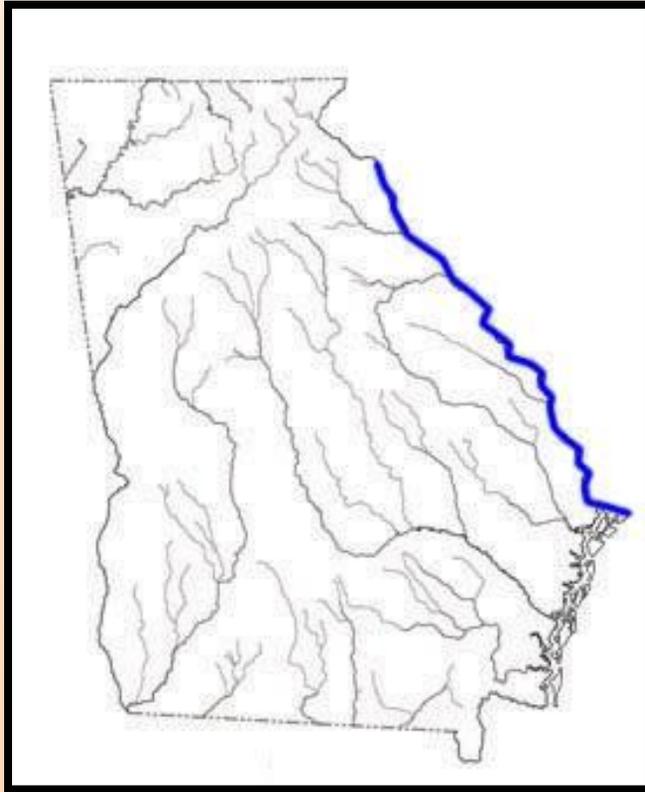


Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center hosts annual inspectors' meeting

Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center hosted an inspector meeting in Warm Springs for the Triploid Grass Carp Program on December 5th and 6th. Discussions included but were not limited to different methodologies for testing ploidy by determining nuclear/cell size, updates of potential official policy-making in national office, and changes for overall improvement of the Triploid Grass Carp Program. Attendees included Region 3 and Region 4 inspectors, Joel Bader from National Office, Scott Stuewe from HDR Engineering and guest speakers: Dr. Jill Jenkins, USGS; Dr. Bonnie Brown, Virginia University; and Carl Burger, formerly of USFWS, now with Smith-Root.



Wild Fish Health Survey



In October, Devin sampled the Savannah River using gill nets with Savannah NWR staff to look at population indexes. Devin used fish from the survey for a wild fish health survey inspection. Images this page credit: <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/>

