



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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TO: Friends of Gavins Point NFH
FROM: Acting Project Leader, Gavins Point NFH
SUBJECT: June 2010 Station Update

Production/Hatchery Operations

Fish currently on station:

Captive Pallid Sturgeon brood-stock	2,683 - including 12 different year-classes
2010 Year class Pallid Sturgeon – middle basin	2,900 - multiple families
2010 Year class Pallid Sturgeon – upper basin	10,000 - multiple families
2010 Year class Pallid Sturgeon – captive offspring	25,000 - multiple families
Rainbow trout	550 at 0.6 fish per lb – Age 3 derby fish
Rainbow trout	2300– at 3.9 fish per lb – Age 1 derby fish
Rainbow trout	7,400 – at 32 fish per lb Age 0 production fish
Largemouth	3 ponds -
Largemouth brood-stock	1 pond, 56 adults
Bluegill brood-stock	1 pond, 23 adults
Black Crappie Brood-stock	1 pond, 22 adults
Freshwater drum	2 ponds

Wow, what a month! The month of June was a busy one. We harvested 910,441 walleye for Lake Yankton, Belle Fourche and Shadehill Reservoir as well as tribal waters for Pine Ridge and Rosebud. We had an unbelievable yellow perch harvest of 880,000 fingerlings. We stocked more than 20 water bodies throughout South Dakota including, Pine Ridge, Lower Brule and Rosebud tribal waters.

We've been spawning our pallid sturgeon captive broodstock all month. We spawned 13 females and 25 males. This was spread out over a 3 week period and all 13 females spawned successfully.

We shipped out 27,000 pallid sturgeon eggs to Bozeman Fish Technology Center as well as over 14,000 pallid sturgeon fry to South Dakota State University for research projects.

Eight family lots of pallid sturgeon eggs were shipped from Miles City State Fish Hatchery and Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery throughout the month of June. We will raise these lots for stocking into the Missouri and Yellowstone River.

The middle basin pallid sturgeon are growing very well, fish are already up to 4 inches in length.

Two year classes of rainbow trout continue to be maintained to meet annual stocking requests.

The largemouth broodstock ponds were harvested and the fry were stocked into production ponds for additional growth. Fingerlings will be produced for the State of Nebraska.

Bluegill broodstock ponds were harvested and fry are currently being reared in one pond.

Personnel/Training/Safety

Diane Von Eschen spent a week in Denver for FBMS training.

Jordan Smith is a new volunteer at the hatchery. He is a sophomore at the University of South Dakota. He works as much as 5 days a week and has been extremely helpful.

Sophie is our new Hutton student; she is a senior at Yankton High School. This program is put on by the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and is set up as a mentor/mentee type program. Last winter Tom Kent applied Gavins Point NFH for this program. It was a very competitive process but the hatchery and Sophie were selected. She has a set amount of hours she needs to work, to gain experience in the fisheries program. The AFS also gives her a \$3,000 college scholarship for being in the program. It works out great for both parties.

Maintenance

Three new tanks were added to the Broodstock Building (30ft, 20ft and 12ft tank).

The new well work continued; the building is being constructed as well as the waterline being installed.

Two new doors have been put in the hatchery building, on the northwest and southwest corner of the building. The back door of the aquarium has been replaced along with the door on the filter room inside the aquarium. All three residences also received new front and back doors.

The contract has been awarded for the replacement of the broken kettles, ponds 16-26. Work should start in July.

Research

We had various research projects that we completed and/or started during the month of June. Results of these studies should be wrapped up sometime in late July/early August.

- Pallid sturgeon iridovirus vertical transition study. We are trying to find out if the Missouri River Iridovirus is vertically transmitted from adult to offspring.
- Total gas study, trying to identify reasons for early mortality in particular lots of pallid sturgeon.
- We did a pallid sturgeon formalin egg treatment study. Trying to find ways to wipe out fungus that kills eggs.
- We did a pallid sturgeon egg transportation study. Trying to determine when the optimal time to transport sturgeon eggs between facilities.
- We did a walleye pond production study. Comparing soybean meal to the standard alfalfa meal which we currently use to fertilize our ponds. We are looking to try and increase our percent return on the walleye harvest.
- We attempted to spawn blue suckers. We were successful with the males but unfortunately all of females were immature.

South Dakota State University came down and set up a bioenergetics study inside of our Endangered Species Building.

Outreach

Marv provided tours to various summer school groups throughout the month of June.

Summer volunteers operated the Aquarium Gift Shop during the month of June.

Friend's group meeting was held at the hatchery building on Saturday June 19.

A concrete pad was poured in front of the hatchery building for a new bench and kiosk display.

The first stages of the nature trail got started this month, linking the hatchery and aquarium together.

The hatchery participated in the cardboard boat races at Lake Yankton. The boat races were put on by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Yankton Press and Dakotan. The hatchery crew made a cardboard boat and designed it to look like a sturgeon. The hatchery also set up a booth with information linking kids to the outdoors and donated kid's fishing poles, coloring books and all types of hatchery information and brochures.

For those who couldn't attend the cardboard boat races, here are a couple of pictures of the "sturgeon boat." The boat did float surprisingly well but the head didn't stay up for very long.

