



ANDREW HULSEY HATCHERY NEWSLETTER

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During this quarter hatchery activities were focused on spawning-building maintenance, smallmouth bass brood stock harvest and pairing, Florida largemouth bass brood stock harvest and pairing, the walleye spawning project, the northern snakehead eradication project, hatchery maintenance and repair issues, and an array of various other duties.



During this quarter, members of the Hulsey Hatchery staff attended various meetings. Don and Jason attended the Mid-continent Fish Culture workshop in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Jake, Kyle, Leonard, Kelly, and Dennis attended the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Arkansas Chapter meeting in Bentonville, Arkansas. Don, Jason, and Steve attended the fisheries production staff meeting in Benton, Arkansas. Don and Steve also attended a Fisheries Division staff meeting in Benton, Arkansas. Jake gave a tour to an ichthyology class from the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. Steve also processed bills, drafted the report for the annual bird depredation permit, conducted routine correspondence, and completed various memos.

Maintenance efforts consisted of the fabrication and repair of vat cover screens, drain screens, smallmouth bass spawning boxes, dip nets, and fish building vat fish crowders. Hatchery personnel conducted routine servicing of 2-ton fish transport trucks, 1-ton fish transport truck, hatchery pickup trucks, and various hatchery equipment. The hatcheries Kawasaki Mule received a new (used) engine courtesy of the Spring River Hatchery and Leonard Dean. Crew members helped repair several hydraulic lines and cylinders on the backhoe. The hatcheries sixteen foot trailer received two new axles, leaf springs, and hangers. Several hatchery crew members helped to repair the hatcheries city water leak, which happened to occur in the middle of the parking lot. Several crew members helped to disinfect, clean, and ready the spawning building for spawning season. Lights and ballasts were replaced in several buildings around the hatchery. Leonard and Jake also repaired a broken water valve in one of the hatchery ponds.



New (Used) Mule Engine



City Water Leak In the Middle of the Parking Lot

Fingerling grass carp ponds were harvested this quarter and distributed to various hatchery production ponds as needed. Brood stock white and black crappie were harvested and stocked into the Lake Greeson Nursery Pond and the Lake Chicot Nursery Pond. Yearling size Florida largemouth bass were also harvested this quarter and stocked into Lake Greenlee. Many adult redear were harvested and supplied to the Joe Hogan and Donham hatcheries for spawning purposes. The last blue catfish yearling pond was also harvested and distributed to various public water bodies in south Arkansas.



Setting out Smallmouth Bass Spawning Boxes

In January, smallmouth spawning boxes were placed in ponds and filled with creek gravel to provide spawning habitat for brood stock smallmouth bass. Brood reservoir strain smallmouth bass harvest and pairing began the first part of March. This strain of smallmouth bass will be used to fill the fingerling production request for Lake Ouachita. There are 4 ponds (totaling 8.9 acres of water) being utilized on the hatchery this year for the reservoir strain smallmouth bass spawning project. Also,

biologists from district 7 and 8 are in the process of collecting several brood stock smallmouth bass from the southwest Arkansas region for the Little Missouri River fingerling production and stocking. One pond, totaling 1.2 acres, will be utilized for production this year.



Pairing of Brood Stock Smallmouth Bass

Collection for the 2009 south Arkansas walleye spawning project began March 16th and ended on March 21st. Brood fish were collected from Lake Hamilton and Lake Catherine by electrofishing and returned to their respective waters after being spawned. Females brought to the hatchery for spawning purposes were “stripped” of their eggs. By a similar process, sperm was obtained from male walleye and mixed together manually to assist in fertilization. These eggs were then placed in McDonald jars where they were incubated in 58° F water for 7 to 10 days before hatching into fry. Approximately 31 females were spawned successfully resulting in 2.6 million eggs. All eggs were treated with an iodophor solution to reduce the transmission of viral and bacterial pathogens associated with the egg, coelomic fluid, or milt. Of these eggs, 1.6 million fry hatched successfully (62% survival). After hatching, the fry were held for 4 days in round tanks until their yolk sacs had absorbed and their mouthparts had become developed. At this time, 700,000 fry were stocked into 2 rearing ponds, totaling 4.4 acres, at the Andrew H. Hulsey hatchery. The remaining 900,000 fry were stocked into the Lake Ouachita nursery pond. Unlike past years, the Hulsey crew had problems procuring eligible females for spawning. However, after six nights of

electrofishing, the Hulsey crew's perseverance paid off and needed egg numbers were met.



Assisted Spawning Walleye

Florida largemouth bass brood harvest and pairing began March 23rd and ended April 3rd. Due to high demand for fingerling production, sixteen ponds (totaling 33.8 acres of water) are being utilized this year for Florida largemouth bass spawning.



4yrOld Adult Florida Largemouth Bass



Incubating Walleye Eggs

Preparation for the striped bass/hybrid striped bass spawning project also began this quarter. Due to high, inaccessible water, crew members were forced to collect white bass males from the Little Mazarn Creek on Lake Hamilton instead of the upper Ouachita River above Lake Ouachita. Although the setting was different, the results were still the same. The Hulsey crew collected 82 white bass males for the upcoming spawning project. The white bass males will be used to produce hybrid striped bass.



White Bass Male

northern snakeheads in the Little Piney Creek drainage system (49,000 acres).



Northern Snakeheads

After all the wait and anticipation, the northern snakehead eradication project (Operation “Delta Mongoose”) finally took place this quarter. Don, Leonard, Dennis, and Jake all participated in the project which took place in Brinkley, Arkansas. The project lasted eight long days and was a physical, and mental, challenge for all who participated. In the end, four thousand acres of water was treated with rotenone to eradicate all



Northern Snakehead Eradication Base Camp

Spring is off to a good start at the Hulsey Hatchery and we are looking forward to a good fish production season.

Special Announcements

Jason Mitchell’s daughter, Carly, celebrated her 4th birthday on March 17.

**Andrew Hulsey State Fish Hatchery
Daily Stocking Data**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LAKE/SITE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
1/13/2009	LAKE GREESON	PIKE	BL.CAT.	YRLG	6760
1/29/2009	LAKE GREENLEE	MONROE	FL.BASS	YRLG	1215
2/12/2009	LAKE GREENLEE	MONROE	FL.BASS	SUBADULT	865
2/19/2009	LAKE GREESON N.P.	PIKE	BL.CRAPPIE	BROOD	170
2/24/2009	CHICOT N.P.	CHICOT	BL.CRAPPIE	BROOD	47
2/24/2009	CHICOT N.P.	CHICOT	WH.CRAPPIE	BROOD	57
3/12/2009	JOE HOGAN HATCHERY	LONOKE	REDEAR	BROOD	495
3/29/2009	LAKE OUACHITA N.P.	MONTGOMERY	WALLEYE	FRY	900,000
3/31/2009	ANDREW HULSEY HATCHERY	GARLAND	WALLEYE	FRY	275,000
4/1/2009	ANDREW HULSEY HATCHERY	GARLAND	WALLEYE	FRY	325,000
4/2/2009	ANDREW HULSEY HATCHERY	GARLAND	WALLEYE	FRY	100,000
4/2/2009	DONHAM HATCHERY	CLAY	REDEAR	BROOD	335