



FISH PATHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Kelly Winningham Fisheries Pathologist E-mail: kwinningham@agfc.state.ar.us
Hot Springs Regional Office 350 Fish Hatchery Road
Hot Springs, AR 71913 Tel: (877) 525-8606

The Fish Pathologist Program was established to work with the public and various agencies to oversee the health of fish and aquatic organisms in the state of Arkansas.

January, February, and March 2009 Newsletter

Fish Health—Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has collected and submitted approximately 2,640 fish samples from 27 watersheds and 5 state-owned fish culture facilities for analysis for the USDA/ Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service VHS surveillance survey. Samples consisted of 70 fish from each of the 27 watersheds and 150 fish from each state-owned fish hatchery. Tissue samples consisting of heart, spleen, kidney, and brain tissues were collected from each fish (Figures 1-6). Tissue samples were submitted to the Fish Health Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff for analysis. Sample collection began in November 2008 and concluded in March 2009. All samples to date have tested negative for the VHS virus.



Figure 1. Largemouth bass being dissected for USDA/APHIS VHS surveillance.



Figure 2. Fish dissection for VHS surveillance project.



Figure 3. Fish dissection for VHS surveillance project.



Figure 6. Collecting brain tissue for VHS project.



Figure 4. Dissection of fish for VHS surveillance project.



Figure 5. Collecting tissue samples consisting of kidney, spleen, and heart for VHS surveillance project.

Richloam Fish Hatchery, Webster, FL

In February 2009, four Arkansas Game and Fish Commission employees toured the Florida Bass Conservation Center and Richloam Fish Hatchery in Florida. Richloam Hatchery is a modernized state-of-the-art Florida bass culture facility that has 90% water reuse capabilities (Figures 7-13). The personnel at Richloam Hatchery are involved in many of the same aquaculture drug approval trials as personnel from the AGFC fish culture section. Richloam personnel are also working with University of Florida personnel on a new largemouth bass feed that will enable growers to maintain largemouth bass on a commercially prepared diet. AGFC personnel, as well as personnel from Texas Parks and Wildlife, observed the feed training process Florida utilizes to convert young Florida bass to an experimental commercial diet. Additionally, AGFC personnel are implementing some trial mat-spawning techniques used by Richloam personnel this spring at AGFC hatcheries.



Figure 8. View from visitor center into Richloom Hatchery fish production room.



Figure 11. 80 ft. raceways used for holding and spawning Florida largemouth bass.



Figure 9. Tanks utilized for feed training Florida largemouth bass fingerlings.



Figure 12. Hand feeding live Koi to Florida largemouth bass brood fish.



Figure 10. Automated feeders utilized in feed training fish.



Figure 13. Florida Largemouth bass brood fish in raceway.

Contact Information

In case of disease problems, fish kills, or
disease questions please contact:

Kelly Winningham
Fish Pathologist
Andrew H. Hulsey Hatchery
350 Fish Hatchery Road
Hot Springs, AR 71913
Ph (877) 525-8606
Fax (501) 525-2265
kwinningham@agfc.state.ar.us