



## **Fish & Aquatic Conservation**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Activity Report – FY 2018**

#### **October - December 2017**

### **Lower Mississippi River FWCO**

### **Aquatic Species**

At Risk Species Recovery: Efforts continue to be made for Yazoo Darter, a species endemic to the Yocona and Little Tallahatchie River drainages in North Mississippi. Several partners participated in Yazoo Darter sampling on Mill Creek, Moore Creek and Dickey/ Smith Creek in the Yocona River drainage in December.



Yazoo Darter Sampling



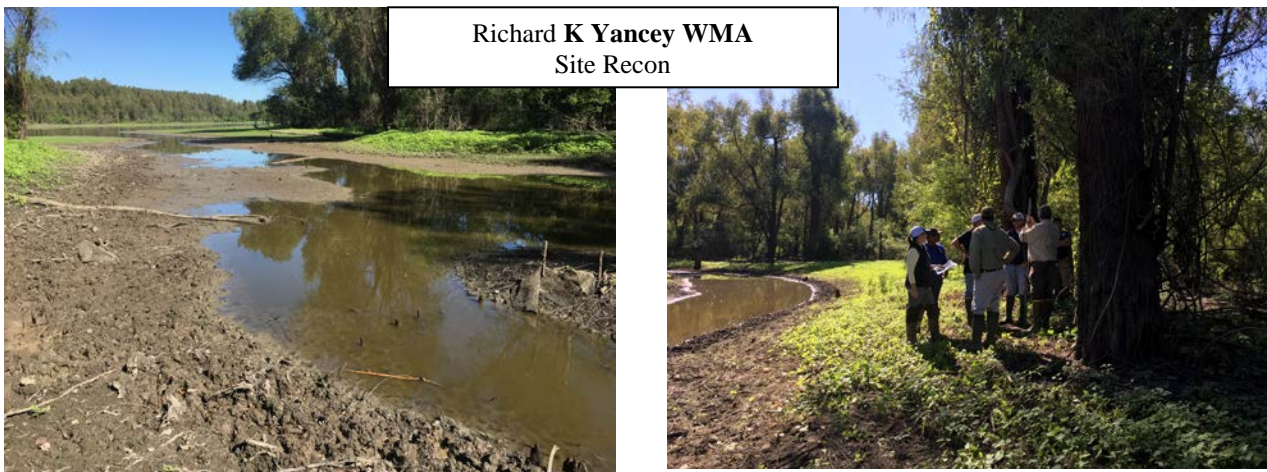
Yazoo Darter in Hand

Native Species Restoration: Continued to play a role with SARP in implementing Phase II of the Southeast Region Aquatic Organism Barrier Inventory dataset project. Phase II consists of several steps to identify high priority fish passage projects in the USFWS Region 4. Participated in calls to discuss progress and needs for the project.

### **Aquatic Habitats**

Lower Mississippi River habitat restoration of secondary channels continues. Three additional projects (Island 64 Dikes, Cat Island/ Seyppel Dikes, and Coffee Point Dikes) were completed this quarter. USACE ERDC's Coastal Hydraulics Laboratory (CHL) is using the Remote Camera Acquisition Systems at Coffee Point Dikes to acquire data every four hours. This has been instrumental in collecting pre and post notch construction photos. Coffee Point is the first LMR restoration project in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, who is contributing private dollars to these efforts. Meeting was held at Richard K Yancey Wildlife Management Area in Monterey, Louisiana to discuss Blackhawk Scar Lakes

Restoration project. Partners met for site reconnaissance and to discuss ways to provide fish passage restoration and enhanced boating access to flood plain water bodies on Yancey WMA.



## **Aquatic Invasive Species**

Meetings and calls continue to be held to coordinate on Ohio River Basin/Tennessee River Asian Carp projects. Participated in Ohio River Asian Carp meeting held in Louisville, KY in October. Also participated in Kentucky Dam Sound Deterrent Site Visit and meeting in December. Participated in a conference call with Asian Carp Processors, FIn Gourmet Foods, LLC and Go Wild Foods, to discuss ways to collaborate with the LMRCC state agencies.



Group Tour of New Lock Chamber at Kentucky Dam

## **Recreational Fishing and Public Use**

Nothing to report.

## **Educate and Engage Public & Partners**

Arranged briefings with LMR state agencies (in LA, TN, and KY) to provide updates on the ecosystem restoration projects of the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee and its partners and to discuss other Lower Mississippi River efforts. Additional briefings will be held in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Participated in Fall GIS Committee Meeting at the Regional Office. Continued to participate in national Diversity Change Agent (DCA) calls which highlight ways we can emphasize the importance of diversity and inclusion internally and with partners. Developed content for November's installment of Today's Dish on Diversity to send to FWS Region 4 Family.



## **Maintenance and Operations**

Nothing to report.