

Lyons Ferry Botulism Overview

- Early July 2023, BY 2022 Touchet spring Chinook in Lake #2 experienced abnormally high mortality, while the other two lakes did not.
- Fish Health staff looked at numerous fish and took numerous samples but all came back negative. The lake experienced a couple of algae blooms but all water samples came back negative for toxins.
- After a month we decided to move the remainder of fish back to raceways. After enumerating the fish, we had lost 57% of the population.
- After 2 weeks time, mortality had dropped to single digits.
- In early November of 2024 Lake #2 experienced similar mortality as the previous year. Staff also noticed elevated mortality in the other 2 lakes (fall Chinook in Lake #1 and Wallowa steelhead in Lake #3)
- Again fish health looked at fish in Lake #2 a couple of times and all samples came back negative, except the botulism test, which takes a couple of months for results (~ the end of February)

Lyons Ferry Botulism cont.

- The decision was made to move fish back into raceways from Lake #2. Mortality subsided after a weeks time.
- Around December 25th, 2024 the mortality in Lakes #1 and #3 increased substantially.
- A call was scheduled with Co-Managers on January 2nd to discuss release options and it was agreed upon to release February 10th.
- On January 4th we received a Fish Health recommendation to release the fall Chinook from Lake #1 and move the Wallowa steelhead into raceways.
- On January 8th another call with Co-Managers was held. It was agreed to release the fall Chinook. That afternoon the release started and was completed on 10th. The estimated loss was around 5,000.
- The Touchet spring Chinook, previously in Lake #2 were transferred to the Dayton Acclimation Pond the following week, 3-4 weeks early. Those raceways were pressure washed and disinfected and the next week the Wallowa steelhead were moved to raceways. Within 2 weeks, the loss was in the single digits. Total loss was 10,374 for the Wallowa SH.