



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Dworshak Fisheries Complex

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Fisheries Supervisor, Columbia Basin Ecoregion  
Region 1, Portland, OR

From: Complex Manager  
Dworshak Fisheries Complex

Subject: **Monthly Activity Report –March, 2009**

### Fish Management Culture

#### *Dworshak*

#### SPRING CHINOOK SALMON (SCS)

##### *Brood Year 2007 (BY07)*

Brood Year 2007 SCS were released during the afternoons of March 25 and 26. There were a total of 1,014,748 BY07 SCS released into the North Fork of the Clearwater River from Dworshak raceways (RW's). These fish weighed 47,941 lbs and averaged 21.1 fish per pound (fpp) and 137 mm (5.4 inches) total length. Water temperature averaged 40.5°F degrees and growth was 5 mm for the month. Mortality for the month averaged 0.47 percent.



##### *Brood Year 2008*

At the end of the month there were approximately 368,450 eyed eggs of Dworshak stock incubating at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery (DNFH). Chilled incubation water temperature for the month averaged 36.6°F and the SCS are currently targeted to go on feed in April, 2009. There were also 820,000 eyed eggs of Dworshak stock transferred to Kooskia National Fish Hatchery (KNFH) in October, 2008 for incubation over the winter. These fish are being reared at KNFH through March, but will be transferred back to DNFH in early April for rearing at DNFH until release in 2010.

## COHO SALMON (COS)

### ***Brood Year 2007***

On March 3-4, there were 281,927 BY07 COS transferred from Dworshak to Kooskia NFH for final acclimation before release. These fish averaged 24 fpp and 125mm (4.9 inches) total length at the start of the month.

### ***Brood Year 2008***

From March 19-24, there were 900,260 BY08 COS moved from the nursery to Burrows Ponds (BPs) 67-69-71 and 73. The new Heathro Fish Pump was used to move these fish directly from the nursery tanks into the BPs. The pump has become the crew's new favorite piece of equipment on station as it eliminates the physical handling (i.e. netting) of the fish and reduces the physical demands on the staff. At the end of the month there were 899,123 COS averaging 136 fpp and 70 mm (2.8 inches) total length. Mortality for the month was 0.6 percent. Water temperature averaged 54.2°F in the nursery and 40.5°F in the BPs.

## SUMMER STEELHEAD (SST)

### ***Brood Year 2008***

Mortality for March remained low during the month. On March 16, the boilers were turned off in System I and the reuse was turned off March 19. System 1 SST will remain on single pass river water until released in April. Water temperature for the month averaged 44.7°F. Systems II and III were run on single pass river water (avg. temperature 40.5°F) as fish growth has been slightly higher than projected during the Fall and no reuse or heated water were needed for these fish to reach target size at release. Due to the high mortality throughout the summer and fall as a result of *Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus* (IHNV) and Cold Water Disease, the 2.1 million target release number for SST will not be met in the spring of 2009.

On March 4, 11, and 18, formalin treatments were given to all SST in System I to control *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* (ICH).

### ***Brood Year 2009***

Steelhead spawning continued every Tuesday during March. By the end of the month approximately 700,000 BY09 SST were on feed in the nursery along with another 850,000 eyed eggs in hatching jars. Spawning will continue into April with the final SST spawn planned for April 24. The ladder will be opened intermittently throughout the remainder of the season for collection of the spring-return SST.

## RAINBOW TROUT (RBT)

### ***Brood Year 2008***

By the end of the month there were 11,729 BY08 RBT in three BPs in System III averaging 2.1 fpp and 268 mm (10.5 inches) total length. Mortality for the month was 5.9 percent. The fish remained on single pass river water (avg. 40.5°F).

These RBT will be for the "Kids Fishing Derby" in conjunction with National Fishing Week on June 12, 2009.

**Brood Year 2009**

On March 12, these fry were moved from incubator trays into four circular tanks in the incubation room and started on feed March 16. At the end of the month there were 13,993 BY09 RBT in the tanks averaging 1,068 fpp and 34 mm (1.3 inches) total length. Mortality for the month was 4.5 percent. Water temperature in the incubation trays and circular tanks averaged 50.0°F during the month.

These fish will be utilized for the “Kids Fishing Derby in 2010.

**SUMMARY**

Table 1. Total Production—Fish on Station (03/31/09).

SP	BY	Location	Number	Wt (lbs)	FPP	L in	L mm
SCS	08	Incubators	368,450	132	2800	1.1	27
COS	08	Burrows Ponds	899,123	6,614	135.9	2.8	70
SST	09	Nursery	1,547,646	1,580	979.5	1.4	36
SST	08	System I	702,770	115,366	6.1	7.8	197
SST	08	System II	626,299	102,649	6.1	7.8	197
SST	08	System III	470,443	101,685	4.6	8.5	216
RBT	09	Incub. Circ Tanks	13,993	13	1068.0	1.3	34
RBT	08	BPs 60, 62 & MCU	11,729	5,490	2.1	10.5	268
<b>Total</b>			<b>4,640,453</b>	<b>333,529</b>			

MCU = Mixed cell unit which were Burrows ponds 64 and 66 before renovation.

**Kooskia**

**Kooskia Trap Operations BY09**

The trap was opened March 16 for BY09 Adult SST collection. The adults were collected and the results are seen below.

Date	Out-planted			Killed CWT			Natural passed upstream			Trap Morts			Daily Total
	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J	
3/31/2009	42	87	4				1	3	1				138
													0
													0
													0
													0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>138</b>

### ***Kooskia Brood Year 2008***

Kooskia Stock BY08 SCS number 698,897 averaging 877 fpp at 1.61 inches long. Growth for the month was .19 inches. Kooskia stock SCS are currently being reared in the outside nursery tanks on reuse with well water makeup. The reuse water temperature averaged 50.2°F during March. Mortalities were slightly elevated at the beginning of the month due to moving out stress and the removal of deformed fry.

### ***Dworshak Brood Year 2008***

Dworshak Stock BY 2008 SCS number 802,613 averaging 760.1 fpp at 1.64 inches long. Growth for the month was .24 inches. Dworshak stock SCS are currently being reared in the inside nursery tanks on reuse with well water makeup. The reuse water temperature averaged 50.2F during March. Mortalities were slightly elevated at the beginning of the month due to moving out stress and the removal of deformed fry. These fish will be transferred back to Dworshak early next month.

### ***Kooskia Brood Year 2007***

All Kooskia BY07 SCS were direct released into Clear Creek March 23, 2009 at 6pm. Release Total was 442,030 fish at 27.6 fpp and 125mm in length. Growth for the month was .13 inches. Sample counts were taken prior to release to determine actual fish size.

### ***Dworshak Brood Year 2007***

All Dworshak BY07 SCS were direct released into Clear Creek March 23, 2009 at 6 pm. Release Total was 161,649 fish at 23.0 fpp and 133mm in length. Growth for the month was .27 inches. Sample counts were taken prior to release to determine actual fish size.

Creek water temperature averaged 33.8°F during March. A final 60 fish pre-release Idaho Fish Health Center (IFHC) exam was conducted March 12<sup>th</sup> to clear the fish for release. No formalin treatments were administered this month. Low growth was due to cold temperatures and a few days of pond icing.

### ***Nez Perce Tribe Coho***

On March 4-5 the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT)Coho were delivered to KNFH for acclimation. The Coho were placed in raceways 1-6. 5000 Coho were PIT tagged March 23 - 24. The Coho were direct released into Clear Creek March 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

## **Maintenance**

### ***Dworshak***

- Fabrication projects: L-shaped brace for new generator wire track in Main Pump House ; screen divider for the mix cell pond; fabricated cover for a hole cut in System I salt tank grating
- Electrical: Removed multi vapor light fixtures from the IFHC roof; wired in new generator in Main Pump House; worked with COE engineers on Mech II boilers; troubleshoot and repaired heaters for formalin storage; repaired and reinstalled HPS fixtures on IFHC roof.
- Pumped Coho into NPT trucks from Holding Pond (HP) RW's.

- Repair Projects: FRO screw trap; stand pipe for the RBT tank drains in Incubator room; repaired water leak beside fuel tank and replaced water hydrant on same water line and repaired broken sprinkler faucet and broken “T” in valve pit in housing.
- Changed oil in portable welders and serviced air compressors.
- Worked on System I Reuse Digesters.
- Loaded and outplanted Steelhead adults each spawning day.
- Hauled steelhead from KNFH to South Fork above Stites.
- Removed concrete for new drains in mix cell pond.
- Cleaned out bone yard with forklift.
- Started all scraper and conveyors in System II & III reuse filter beds.
- On a daily basis ran traveling water screens, cleaned trash rake, checked main pumps daily, kept hatchery grounds free of debris, trimmed shrubs, mowed, raked and cleaned all hatchery buildings.

### ***Kooskia***

- Installed new dam boards in trap.
- Filed with the State for septic system site evaluation.
- Fire extinguisher annual service performed.
- Replaced Cushman cart tires.

### **Meetings/Training/Travel**

#### ***Dworshak***

- March 2-4 Larry Peltz, Complex Manager and Mark Drobish, Hatchery Manager attended the Lower Snake River Complex Plan meeting in Boise, ID.
- March 4-6 Larry Peltz; Howard Burge, FRO Project Leader; Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center (IFHC) Project Leader; Mark Drobish; Carrie Bretz, Ray Jones & Chris Peery, Biologists all attended the AFS meeting in Boise, ID.
- March 18 Tim Dykstra, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers visited the hatchery to discuss a variety of issues and to become more familiar with the facility and the issues relative to our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Notice of Violation.
- March 30 DNFH & KNFH’s Environmental Management Systems Team met to discuss opportunities to operate “Green”. The Team brainstormed a list of areas where the facility can make improvements and/or changes.

#### ***Kooskia***

- March 17: Adam Izbicki attended a meeting in Lapwai with the State and the NPT to discuss surplus BY 09 Salmon adult disposition.
- March 30: Adam Izbicki attended an Environmental Management Team meeting at Dworshak.

## **Miscellaneous**

3/26 March birthdays were celebrated in the Main Bldg. Conference Room.

## **Personnel Actions –**

- 3/17 Joan Sperber, Admin Officer, began telework at home Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- 3/9 I/E Manager Susan Sawyer accepted a new position with FWS as Visitor Services Manager at Stillwater NWR Complex in Fallon, NV. EOD will be early June.

## **Safety/Wellness –**

- 3/11 Oxarc here on site to give respirator fit test to the following employees: John Vargas, Wayne Hamilton, Rob Keller, Ben Wright, Mark Bright, Rick Allain, Thomas Trock, Krista Hostetler, Mike Bisbee; Art Broncheau, KNFH; Gia Growingthunder, Lou Ann Lasswell, Eric Kashkash, Kenny Simpson, Gerry Fogleman and Leland Mitchell, Sr., NPT employees.
- 3/18 Heidi Henson, North Central District Health Dpt. gave a presentation to the staff on, “*Seven Steps You Can Take to Prevent Cancer.*”
- 3/18 Pat Hickey, Region One on-site to provide Forklift training to the following employees: Mark Drobish, Tom Biladeau, Carrie Bretz, Frank Mullins; Art Broncheau from KNFH; Gia Growing Thunder, Eric Kashkash, Leland Mitchell, Steve Coomer, Gerry Fogleman, Kenny Simpson, NPT.
- 3/19 Penny Hasenoehrl, Purchasing Agent, facilitated a CPR/AED/First Aid/Bloodborne Pathogen class to the following employees: Ben Wright, Rick Allain, Rob Kellar. Katie Teeters from the University of Idaho also attended.

## **Information/Education (I/E)**

### ***Dworshak***

Tours – 19 school groups, for 417 people (lots of parent chaperones with each group!)  
Visitor Register - 141

Visitor Contacts – 460, mostly on spawning days

Volunteers – 20 Hours – 241

Website contacts – (data not available)

### **On-site:**

- Provided guided educational tours for schools and the general public, with the help of several volunteers.
- Several volunteers also assisted Production with steelhead spawning.

- Kamiah High School environmental biology students did an on-site job shadow during spawning; other lessons involved the Idaho Fish Health Center (IFHC), Water Quality monitoring, and question and answer session with Complex Manager Peltz.
- Began coordination of annual Earth Day event in Orofino city park; made school contacts, schedules and presenter/station assignments.
- Participated in various meetings: weekly Complex Supervisor mtg.; Friends of NW Hatcheries, Regional Connecting People with Nature (conf. call).

**Off-site:**

- Coordinated and staffed Idaho Sportsman's Show in Boise; 18,000+ attendance, with **1,700 booth contacts** at the People and Nature activities.
- Coordinated and staffed Bighorn Outdoor Adventure Show in Spokane, 30,000+ attendance, with **1,773 FWS booth contacts**.
- Delivered eyed steelhead eggs to 5 schools for the Hatchery in the Classroom (HIC) project; instructed on feeding/measuring/weighing fish. (**5 presentations to 113 students**).
- Participated in Troy High School steelhead fry release in Clearwater River; they had 94.2% survival eyed egg to button fry (**13 students**).

***Kooskia***

No visitors signed the guest book. No guided tours, but many visitors stopping to check the trap, see the big fish, and take a look around the hatchery grounds, when it wasn't snowed in or ponds frozen.

Website contacts: (data not available)

**Education and Outreach projects:**

- Delivered eyed eggs to Kamiah and Kooskia HIC project, gave overview talks to each group (2 classes, 44 students).
- Took new digital photos of hatchery and trail features for Complex brochure and web site updates.
- Planned for spring school activities on-site.
- Turned over planning of Kids' Fishing Day (Friday, June 5) to Adam Izbicki. Sawyer will work with local schools still in session to arrange field trips .



Larry Peltz

Complex Manager

cc: Kooskia NFH  
 Hagerman NFH  
 CFRU – Moscow  
 Dworshak Production (2)

LSRCP – Boise