



# 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, 2011**

### **Fish Management Culture**

#### ***Dworshak***

#### **SPRING CHINOOK SALMON (SCS)**

##### ***Brood Year 2009 (BY09)***

Brood Year 2009 SCS were released the evenings of March 23-24, 2011. There were a total of 1,078,250 BY09 SCS released into the North Fork of the Clearwater River from Dworshak raceways (RW's). These fish weighed 51,032 lbs and averaged 21.1 fish per pound (fpp) and 137 mm (5.4 inches) total length. Water temperature averaged 39.9°F degrees and growth was 6 mm for the month. Mortality for the month averaged 0.22 percent. All of the Chinook were released slightly earlier than usual due to upcoming maintenance and repair to a valve requiring shut down of all river water. Also, the release timing corresponded with flow increases in the Clearwater River resulting from recent rains.

##### ***Brood Year 2010***

On March 28 and 30 there were 814,503 BY10 SCS moved from the incubation room to the nursery. This was necessary due to the chiller failure in January as these SCS would normally be ponded directly to the RWs in April. At the end of the month there were 297,942 sac-fry from Dworshak stock incubating on chilled water in the incubation room and 808,038 starting on feed in the nursery. Water temperature in the incubation stacks A-B averaged 37.5°F during the month. Water temperature in the nursery for the week of March 28 averaged 47.5°F.

#### **COHO SALMON (COS)**

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

On March 30, 2011 there were 20,054 BY09 COS transferred to Clear Creek from Dworshak NFH. Personnel from the Nez Perce Tribe and USFWS loaded and

transported the fish. These fish averaged 15.0 fpp and 146 mm (5.8 inches) total length at release. Mortality was 1.9 percent and temperature averaged 39.8°F for the month.

### SUMMER STEELHEAD (SST)

#### *Brood Year 2010*

Release of BY10 SST was done March 21-31 with the exception of two ponds of unmarked fish (58,536 SST) destined for Lolo Creek for the Nez Perce Tribe. Table 1 depicts the March release numbers of BY10 SST by each rearing System.

Table 1. BY2010 SST Release from Dworshak NFH, March 21-31, 2011. (Not Final Release as 58,000 SST still on station in System 1).

<b>System</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Weight (lbs)</b>	<b>fpp</b>	<b>Lgth (mm)</b>
Syst I Outplant	296,393	34,413	8.6	176
Syst I Direct Rel	417,610	55,767	7.5	184
Syst II Outplant	343,671	47,955	7.2	187
Syst II Direct Rel	430,407	62,420	6.9	189
Syst III Outplant	302,597	49,504	6.1	197
Syst III Direct Rel	416,492	66,436	6.3	195
Tot Outplanted March	942,661	131,872	7.1	187
Tot Direct Rel March	1,264,509	184,623	6.8	190
<b>Total/ Ave</b>	<b>2,207,170</b>	<b>316,495</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>189</b>

#### *Brood Year 2011*

At the end of the month there were 1.3 million BY11 SST in the nursery (Takes 1-4) in various stages of development. No SST were on feed at the end of the month. Spawning continued with Takes 3-7 during the month. The temperature in the nursery was lowered this year due to SCS being placed into the nursery because of a chiller malfunction. This will also slow down development of the earlier SST egg Takes. Eggs from Takes 5-7 were in trays in the incubation room at that end of the month. Temperature in the incubation room averaged 53.9°F and the nursery averaged 43.6°F for the month.

### RAINBOW TROUT (RBT)

#### *Brood Year 2010*

On March 17 there were a total of 4,413 RBT outplanted by Idaho Fish and Game. There were 1,500 RBT which went to the Snake River Levee Pond and 2,913 to Mann's Lake. On March 30 Dworshak staff transferred 4,278 RBT to the Nez Perce Tunnel Pond for kids fishing day. Total RBT outplanted were 8,609 fish at 2.28 fpp and 262 mm (10.3 inches) total length. Mortality for the month was 0.24 percent and temperature averaged 39.8°F. All RBT were off station by the end of the month.

## SUMMARY

Table 1. Total Production—Fish on Station (03/31/10).

<b>SP</b>	<b>BY</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Wt (lbs)</b>	<b>FPP</b>	<b>L in</b>	<b>L mm</b>
SCS	10	Incubation Trays	297,942	135	2,200	1.1	29
SCS	10	Nursery	808,038	404	2,000	1.2	30
SST	10	System I	58,352	6,505	9	6.8	173
SST	11	Incubation Trays	446,246	223	2,000	1.1	29
SST	11	Nursery	1,357,886	761	1,784	1.2	30
SST	11	SST Syst Tot/Ave	1,804,132	984	1,833	1.2	29
<b>Total Fish/Eggs on Station EOM</b>			<b>2,968,464</b>	<b>8,029</b>			

### *Kooskia*

This activity report is implemented by the Tribal manager, Kent Hills. All information in this report was collected and or performed by the hatchery staff during the preceding month.

Past Activity Reports have only included Spring Chinook Salmon (SCS) because they are the required mitigation species for which KNFH was constructed. Under SRBA and the Clearwater Annual Operating Plan, the Tribe, Service and Idaho Fish & Game have agreed to implement other fish production actions related to KNFH mitigation. Future reports will include additional information about other species reared, processed and released in relation to KNFH operations; e.g., Coho, Steelhead, and other spring Chinook stocks.

### *Kooskia Adult Trap Operations Brood Year 2011*

On March 16, the trap was opened to collect adult steelhead returns for the 2010-2011 rack. Carrie Bretz and a team from DNFH research department came to evaluate the adults in the trap on March 24. We had a total of 117 adults, 37 were males and 80 females. The age breakdown is four age1, 3 males and 1 female, and 113 age 2, 34 males and 79 females. There were no age 3 fish. Adult hatchery fish released in the Southfork at Stites Mile Marker 19 included 73 females and 32 males for a total of 105 fish. Five wild fish were returned to Clear Creek, four females and one male. Six adults were killed for CWT recovery. The trap is still in operation until at least the end of the month.

### *Kooskia Brood Year 2010*

BY10 Kooskia SCS stock number 711,024 fry with average size of 263.3 fpp at 2.33 inches (59 mm) length as of March 31. Total feed consumed for the month 1,012 lbs. Mortalities for the month totaled 3,894. Fry are in the outside nursery tanks. Detail information can be seen in the attached Monthly Inventory Summary.

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

BY09 Kooskia SCS stock number 657,267 smolts at an average size of 21 fpp and length of 5.41 inches (~138 mm). Smolts had significant growth in March, approximately ½ inch. All Kooskia stock SCS smolt were reared in the outside Burrows Ponds on creek water during the winter months. Clear Creek water temperature averaged 39.2°F during March. No formalin treatments were administered. Kent Hills and Gerry Fogleman picked up the juvenile fish pump and hose from DNFH. All smolts were pumped into Clear Creek instead of being channeled through the pipe and gate valves to the Creek. This process went very well. There was a low mortality while pumping the raceways and we did not expose the lower portions of the raceways to returning adult steelhead migrating into the hatchery affluent system. We hope to continue this practice to see if it helps increase downstream survival. Details are available on the attached Monthly Inventory Summary.

### ***Coho Brood Year 2010***

Project leader Mike Bisbee, Jr. reported on March 10, 2011, 585,177 fry were transferred from the Heath Trays to the inside nursery vats. There were 4,096 mortalities for the month leaving a total of 581,081 at the end of the month. Fry average 660.32 fpp and average length of 1.63 inches (41mm). Fry are doing well and growing rapidly. Incubation water temperature averages 53°F. Coho fry will be returned to DNFH in early April.

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

Beginning of March we had 301,377 smolts on station. On March 9, 2011, Guppy from DNFH Pathology came and evaluated the health of the smolts in the raceways. On March 15, 2011, a total of 4,987 Coho were pit tagged from raceway #2. Tagging was completed by the Nez Perce Tagging Crew. On March 15, approximately 96,787 smolts from raceways 3 and 6 were released into Clear Creek. On March 22, 2011 the remaining raceways were released into Clear Creek after 29 days of acclimation.

## **Maintenance**

### ***Dworshak***

- Pump steelhead for distribution upstream in the South Fork Clearwater River.
- Virtually all of the vehicles were inspected and received basic servicing during the month.
- Electric carts were maintained and on the shelf inventories were improved for cost-effective and efficient repairs.
- The hatchery was dewatered on March 31<sup>st</sup> after the smolt releases were completed to inspect and adjust a leaky valve that has not been seen in 25 years. The leak is approximately 80% reduced from what it was.
- Spring landscaping projects including cleanup and replacement of woodchips in beds were completed during the month.
- Boiler controls in Mechanical II building were relocated and stairwells to enable staff to gain access to work areas were installed to ensure safe access and keep staff out of arc flash blast areas.
- Ecoblocks at the Clear Creek intake were repositioned for the Kooskia Hatchery.

- Mechanical II lighting was replaced.
- A new sump pump was installed in Mechanical I.
- The rotation in the 480 volt receptacles in the nursery was reversed to be compatible with the Heathro Fish Pump and all other receptacles on site.
- Repairs were made to the channel crowders.
- Lifting “ears” were fabricated to the experimental vacuum degasser in the nursery.
- Completion of the 20 aluminum pond crowders for the burrows ponds to eliminate the use of the wooden crowders and reduce the potential for disease transmission.
- Installed two solid safety rails for the grate cleanout grate for the traveling screen discharge.
- Cut and fabricate aluminum plates for the construction of a Praffle. What the hell is a Praffle. It is a moving baffle for a raceway that was invented by Chuck Pratt!
- Fabricated a stand to support a chemical storage cabinet in the maintenance building.
- Initiated fabrication to mount the Vaki Micro Fish Counter on a trailer with discharge hoses.

### *Kooskia*

- The lift truck steering box was received and installed the first part of the month.
- Contacted plumbing contractors to start obtaining bids for the UV System installations for the houses and break room.
- All fire extinguishers were collected and serviced by Advanced Fire Protection Company from Lewiston.
- Gerry repaired fence at front of property.
- Inside vats were watered up.
- Gerry picked up and installed new Cushman batteries.
- Carrie performed CWT evaluations on BY09 SCS smolts.
- Telephone Pole was installed and phone line ran for the Managers House.
- The final walk through inspection of the lighting project was done. Boller Electric fixed everything on the inspection list. The ballasts that contained PCBs were picked up by a hazardous waste shipping company.
- Replacement Generator construction was started. Marv Henry from the Regional Office appropriated funds to Brockway Engineering to perform water quality testing on the domestic water system. Repaired float switches for the secondary pump that lifts water from the incubation room back to the Biofilter.
- The ProAqua juvenile fish pump and hose was picked up at DNFH and transported to KNFH. The pump was used to move the spring Chinook from the hatchery burrow ponds and raceways to Clear Creek.

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

#### *Dworshak*

3/2

Larry Peltz, Complex Manager, Mark Drobish, Hatchery Manager

- and Adam Izbicki, Fisheries Biologist - SRBA coordination meeting in Kooskia.
- 3/7 Larry Peltz and other staff attended the Spring Chinook Salmon Program Review Meeting at Hatchery.
- 3/7-11 Rick King, Maintenance attended the Maintenance Professionals Workshop at NCTC.
- 3/16-17 Larry Peltz and Jack Christiansen attended the Lower Snake River Complex Plan (LSRCP) hatchery Review Meeting in Boise.
- 3/16 Kelly Stockton, University of Idaho Master's student along with a Risk Assessment Panel toured the hatchery to apply their evaluation plan to Dworshak. The team has developed the risk assessment plan and focused on invasive species, disease and parasite access points for the Dworshak Hatchery. They will provide us with a report which will tie in with Bio-security and overall protection of the hatchery relative to disease and parasites.
- 3/21 Jason Achziger, fishery biologist with the Walla Walla District, spent the week of March 21<sup>st</sup> with the crew here to better understand hatchery operations. Jason is one of several members on the Corps' Rehabilitation Team that are developing plans to upgrade the facility.
- 3/23 Adam Izbicki attended a Corps of Engineers training session at the Walla Walla District office on FEMS (Facility Equipment Maintenance System) which is a preventative maintenance program.
- 3/24 Larry Peltz, Mark Drobish, Jill Olson, and Nate Wiese, Assistant Hatchery Manager shared a conference FFCA conference call with COE and EPA.
- 3/29-31 Joan George, Admin Officer, Penny Hasenoehrl, Budget Tech & Steve Bradbury, Fisheries Biologist, attended an FBMS implementation conference in Portland, OR.
- 3/30 Larry and Jack - Met with BPA and COE staff to discuss future improvements for Dworshak Hatchery.  
Eric Willet, Hagerman NFH spent a week working with the crew as part of his Individual Development Plan. Eric participated in steelhead spawning, various fish culture activities and a little after hours social where he explained "Zactly Disease".

### ***Kooskia***

- 3/2 SRBA meeting at KNFH.
- 3/7 Spring Chinook AOP meeting at DNFH.
- 3/8 Domestic water meeting with Brockway Engineering from Twin Falls to evaluate the domestic water quality problem at KNFH.
- 3/22-24 Net DMR training
- 3/30 Spring Chinook Coordination meeting at the IDFG Office in Lewiston.

### **Miscellaneous**

## Personnel Actions –

- 3/3 Nate Wiese, officially started as the Assistant Hatchery Manager and he and his wife Amber and their daughter Harley made the move from Hagerman to Dworshak the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>. Welcome aboard Nate, Amber and Harley!
- 3/13 Rick King, promoted to WG8.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Larry Peltz", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a light yellow highlight behind it.

Larry Peltz  
Complex Manager

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