



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Hagerman National Fish Hatchery
3059 D National Fish Hatchery Road
Hagerman, Idaho 83332

MEMORANDUM

March 3, 2014

TO: ARD-Fisheries
Attn: Rich Johnson, Field Supervisor

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 2014 Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2013

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
140	Sawtooth	1,400,230	226,716	6.18	7.59
141	East Fork Hatchery	61,745	8415	7.34	7.17

During February the steelhead were diagnosed with Coldwater Disease. Several raceways were randomly infected across the entire middle deck. The decision was to treat the entire middle deck with a 10 day Aquaflor treatment. Soon after signs started appearing on the top deck and it was decided to initiate a similar treatment on those fish. Mortalities remained extremely low throughout both treatments. The bottom deck never showed any indication of coldwater disease.

The oxygen supplementation system has been is functioning nicely. We have kept outgoing dissolved oxygen levels above 7ppm the entire month, with only temporary dips to a low of 6.8 at early morning or during cleaning. We currently have incoming D.O. levels in the headboxes at or slightly above saturation .

On February 27th, Corie Samson, Fish Pathologist from the Idaho Fish Health Center, was on station conducting our steelhead prerelease examination. During the inspection, Corie diagnosed the lower deck of steelhead with *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* (*Ich*), an aggressive protozoan that can cause extreme mortality among fish. Initially the hatchery discussed our options, one being early release of the entire bottom deck and the other was to treat with formalin. Our first choice, considering the fish were to be released in 4-5 weeks, was to release the entire bottom deck. This would benefit the hatchery and fish in two ways, first it would allow those fish in the infected raceways to enter a "clean" environment with less exposure to ich and second it would lessen the risk for the remaining two decks of non-infected fish. After further discussions with our Regional Fisheries Office, Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, fish health pathologists

from USFWS and IDFG and Idaho Fish and Game Department, it was decided to do a partial release of 5 raceways and treat the remaining fish.

Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2014

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
142	Hayspur	119,986	419	286.4	1.95

The rainbow trout are doing well. It was decided to place the RBT into Hatch 1 this year as last year, the degas system on Sp. 13 froze during extremely cold weather. It is also beneficial in that the oxygen supplementation system for the steelhead raceways uses Sp. 13 (Hatch 2) water which would limit flows to the RBT somewhat.

OPERATIONS

-Project Leader Eaton attended the monthly Project Leader conference call. Topics discussed included: 1) HR contacts/Budget contacts; 2) Update from Fisheries ARD meeting in NM; 3) Fisheries Program Project Leaders Meeting; 4) Budget; 5) Fisheries Highlights Report.

-The Contractor for the reuse project mobilized on February 24th. A pre-construction meeting was held on February 27th.

-Following the pre-construction meeting for the reuse system, GHD proceeded with an on-site meeting to discuss the Riley Creek Bridge replacement project.

-Roy Skendzel from the Irrigon National Fish Hatchery was here during the week of February 18th to install the first stage of the alarm and monitoring systems throughout the hatchery.

-The Contractor for the Administration Building roof completed repairs from the September rain storm event.

-Contract award was made to replace the 30+ year old heat pumps in the Administration Building.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

- Jeremy Trimpey, Fish Biologist, traveled to Idaho Falls to attend the Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society annual meeting. He also provided a presentation during the workshop entitled “*New Technology Improving Water Quality at Hagerman National Fish Hatchery*” which outlined the recently constructed Degas System and the Pressurized Oxygen Tower.

- Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, traveled to NCTC to attend the annual Uniform Committee meeting as the Region 1 Coordinator.

- Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, traveled to the Boise Lower Snake River Compensation Plan office to assist with interviews for the position vacated by Tammy Froscher in FY2013.

-Project Leader Eaton and Adam Leija, Animal Caretaker, traveled to Wenatchee, WA to attend the Reuse Aquaculture System (RAS) training.

-The temporary Animal Caretaker position was closed on February 27th. It is our hope to have a short turn around for interviews and selection in order to secure this position in March.

-Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, attended two Webinar series trainings for PD Express and JAX, the new hiring systems for the USFWS.

COORDINATION

February 4: Craig Eaton, Bob Turik, and Jeremy Trimpey traveled to the Boise Idaho Department of Fish and Game office to attend the Annual Operating Plan meeting.

Feb.1-28: Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, provided administrative support for the LSRCF office by securing a contract for the Magic Valley Steelhead Fish Hatchery and the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery for the FY2014 fish hauling season.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS

- Project Leader Eaton attended and assisted with the 1st Annual Hagerman Bird Festival. The Hagerman National Fish Hatchery was present as representation for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as one of the many cooperative sponsors. Other sponsors included the Prairie Falcon Audubon Society, Idaho Power, National Parks Service, Idaho State Parks and Recreation, Idaho Game and Fish, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Magic Valley Fly Fishers, and Hagerman Valley Chamber of Commerce. The event was extremely successful and will be repeated every other year. A reported 164 attendees registered and 83 species of birds were identified over the 3-day event. There were 84 volunteers with 3,289 total hours contributed, of which Eaton had a total of 37 hours, for the year.

-Project Leader Eaton provided a tour to the College of Southern Idaho Biology 101 class. Over the years we have hosted students in this course work for both tours and hands-on experience to fulfill class requirements.

Volunteer Hours: 0

Hatchery Contacts/Visitors: < **16yrs** = 3 >**16yrs** = 22 Bird Festival = 164 adults

MAINTENANCE

- Serviced all 8 Fish Transport Generators
- Replaced faulty control panel on 910 Roadside generator
- Replaced 2 faulty aerator switches on 905 Fish Transport
- Quarterly Bac-t test for domestic water system

- Annual Copper, Lead, Nitrate and Nitrite water test
- Tested life support systems on the 4 Fish Transports
- Replaced 2 faulty flow meters on 998 Fish Transport

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