



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

April 3, 2014

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

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: MARCH 2014 Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2013

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
140	Sawtooth	1,271,172*	264,915	4.8	8.26
141	East Fork Hatchery	59519	11,358	5.24	8.02

*111,284 fish released early at Sawtooth Weir

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. Until this inspection, there were no signs of flashing, jumping or elevated mortality in the lower deck fish. The following days saw an increase of flashing but still no jumping or elevated mortality. Doug Munson, Idaho Fish and Game Anadromous Fish Pathologist, stopped in as a courtesy to provide input. At this point, extreme flashing was occurring but no jumping or mortality. After 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. The five raceways will hopefully provide some lacking return data concerning early release fish in the Salmon River. On March 6th and 7th, 5 Raceways (111,284 fish @ 5.2 fpp) were released at the Sawtooth Weir. The remaining 17 raceways consisted of 3 McNabb Point release, 12 Sawtooth Weir release and 2 raceways of East Fork release fish. All 17 were treated with an initial 1 hour/ 167 ppm drip treatment. This initial treatment, obviously culling out most of the weaker infected fish, resulted in a loss of approximately 16K fish. Following treatments were 6 hour/ 50 ppm drip treatments. For the month of March and into April, the HNFH crew did a great job performing 24 daily treatments using 93 barrels of formalin. Treatments ended on March 31st for all but the 2 East Fork raceways which will continue until the final treatment on April 23rd. They are due to be hauled

out on April 29th. The McNabb point fish are to be hauled out on April 3rd and 4th. The Sawtooth Weir release fish will be hauled from April 7th –April 28th. Other than treatment mortality, no elevated mortality has been seen due to Ich.

Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2013 Fall Release Numbers

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
142	Hayspur	119051	1524	78.1	3.01

The Rainbow trout are doing well and are scheduled to be moved to the outside raceways in the 1st week of April.

OPERATIONS

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

-Ground breaking began on the Reuse Aquaculture System (RAS) project with the excavation of the old concrete flooring of the raceways that were once in the same location. The underground piping will be placed first then as different pieces of equipment arrive (i.e. tanks, sump, drum filter) they will be placed according to the plan.

-Charles Grant from Regional Engineering arrived March 4th to perform our Environmental Compliance Audit. Steve Money (Maintenance Mechanic) and Charles toured the hatchery and found one minor problem that was corrected on the spot.

-Water Master, Frank Erwin, visited the hatchery to see if we understood the water call that Rangen currently has for curtailing groundwater rights permitted after Oct. 6, 1962. We talked to Frank about our Degas system and the newly installed flow meter that was recording what seemed to be correct at the time. Apparently some debris got caught up in the meter displaying erroneous readings. Without removing the meter from the pipeline we are skeptical about the current readings being displayed. We are hesitant to take the meter out until fish are off station which will be in May. However, if the current reading is correct our spring flows may be diminishing further and that is what Frank needs to know.

-Staff renewed their SmartCard Identification cards in Burley.

-Steve Yundt, Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Manager, was here to look at the progress on the reuse aquaculture system and concern for our Ich problem in the lower bank of raceways.

-The new bunkhouse arrived and is being placed on its foundation. It is a very small housing unit but is an improvement from the conditions previously available at the Hatchery. The unit has two bedrooms and shared living area and bath along with a laundry room which can be

utilized by tenants as well as volunteers. The final punchlist will be addressed in April.



PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

- Project Leader Eaton attended the NCTC “Archery as an Outdoor Tool” course. This training allows Eaton to provide training to kids in archery and be able to train leaders as archery instructors. This is an effort aimed at the Service’s getting “Kids Back to Nature” and President Obama’s “America’s Great Outdoors Initiative”. Eaton is the current 4-H archery instructor for Gooding County. We are in the process of scheduling archery shoots at the hatchery and possibly at Hagerman School.

-The search for a Temporary Animal Caretaker continues. The job announcement closed at the end of February with hopes of the position being filled in March to assure adequate staff when distribution begins next month. Unfortunately, many delays have been experienced including the selected individual no longer being available. Therefore we have returned to the list of applicants and will need to locate volunteer assistance from the local area to assist with loading trucks.

COORDINATION

-The severe drought in California is causing drastic measures to protect the ocean fishery. In March, this brought the Coleman National Fish Hatchery in Anderson, CA to a sudden need to release millions of fall Chinook salmon. A request for help was answered by the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery by sending one of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan fish distribution trailers to California with one of our contracted trucks and drivers. The coordinated efforts made national news and can be viewed on our Facebook page or by going to <http://www.nbcnews.com/video/nightly-news/54777879/#54777879> .

-Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, met with National Parks Service and Idaho State Parks and Recreation representatives for the quarterly meeting of the “*Connecting Students to Hagerman Resources*” program. All three agencies are seeing a decline in requests for school tours which is suspected is due to the new Idaho Core Standards and testing requirements. It was decided that a letter would be sent out to schools whom we have seen in the past but have not yet contacted us to remind them of the funding for busing reimbursement available and to assure that any changes in school district staff are aware of the program’s existence.

-Assistant Project Leader Turik and Biologist Trimpey attended a Pre-Marking meeting to discuss scheduling for the marking trailers. Niagara Springs Hatchery, Magic Valley Hatchery and Hagerman NFH all mark during the end of July to September. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) is actually bringing a fourth marking trailer on line this fall and will utilize it for the first time. Currently there is not enough staff from PSMFC to run four trailers simultaneously however a fourth trailer will reduce the amount of shuffling for the other three trailers among the hatcheries, which is done by our Maintenance Mechanic. PSMFC is anticipating hiring additional staff to allow for operating the four trailers at one time.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS

- Assistant Project Leader Turik hosted a tour for members from U.S. Senator Risch's office,

-Assistant Project Leader Turik provided a tour for a group from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Doug Munson, IDFG Anadromous Fish Pathologist, brought a fish health group from IDFG to show them what Ich looked like. They did not find any to look at. Which is good for us.

-Spring is in the air and so begins our season for educational outdoor tours and family outings! March was off to a good start with small tours for: Miss Sue's Pre-K, Wendell Cub Scout Pack #175, Glenns Ferry Cub Scout Pack #24, and Twin Falls Cub Scouts along with some Homeschoolers from the Twin Falls area.

-The Hatchery is pleased to introduce our first volunteers of the year, the Theurer family! They came to us during Spring Break with a great positive attitude and a need for community service to fulfill requirements for Cub Scouts and 4-H. The trio raked winter and storm debris from our tour paths around Main Spring and picnic areas as well as cleaned up the front parking lot.



Volunteer Hours: 12

Hatchery Contacts/Visitors: < **16yrs** = 148 >**16yrs** = 218

MAINTENANCE

- Replaced some of the grating at Trout Raceways
- Replaced sump pump at Q-5
- Inspect Bunkhouse installation
- Inspect Aquaculture pilot system construction
- Flushed out irrigation systems and charged
- Cleaned up tree branches and mowed lawns
- Installed larger rear axle bolts on Grasshopper mower
- Flushed and tested Water Chiller system

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