



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Hagerman National Fish Hatchery
3059D National Fish Hatchery Road
Hagerman, ID 83332



MEMORANDUM

March 18, 2004

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

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: February Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2003

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
100	Clearwater B	209,396	37,508	5.64	7.95
101	Pahsimeroi	211,013	39,368	5.44	7.96
102	Sawtooth	917,197	145,849	6.30	7.55

Fish size and length in all stocks are on track for proper size at release criteria. A necropsy was performed on the Clearwater stock during the month due to elevated mortality (0.08% to 0.20% per day). Necropsy results indicated an *Aeromonas hydrophila* infection, and a five day Romet medicated feed treatment was prescribed. The treatment is scheduled for March 1 – 5, 2004.

Rainbow Trout (Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation)

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
103	Hayspur Triploid Rainbows	118,930	595	200	2.32
104	Hayspur Triploid Rainbows	68,935	72	957	1.37

Both rainbow trout lots (triploid) are performing well and mortalities are low. Lot 103 was moved outside to four trout raceways on February 27. The inventory number on lot 103 increased after conducting a weight inventory as they were moved outside.

Lot 104 started on feed this month and has grown according to projection. Triploid rainbow trout produced from Hayspur Hatchery Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) have an average survival from eyed egg to fingerling of 65 percent, with the majority of the loss at swim up or beginning feed stages (IDFG personal communication). The typical elevated loss of these fish could be attributed to the triploid process of heat shocking the eggs, but is still unknown. To date HNFH has had a 94.9 percent survival with lot 104 and a 97.4 percent survival with lot 103. The increased survival rate in both lots has resulted in a surplus of fish for both the spring fingerling release (Lot103) and the fall catchable release (Lot104). IDFG has agreed to utilize the entire surplus of both lots for the spring release. They will use the surplus to increase trout numbers in reservoirs recovering from low water.

OPERATIONS

Bryan Kenworthy attended the Water District 36A Advisory Board (Board) meeting in Hagerman on February 2. Mr. Lynn Tominaga, Executive Director of the Idaho Ground Water Users Association, met with the Board to seek support from the Board's spring water users for the Mitigation Plan (Plan) his group is proposing; or, at least enter into negotiations with them to improve it rather than place a call on water and enter into litigation. The Board made no decision regarding his proposal. Board members believe the Plan is deficient in meeting the needs of all the spring users and agreed that the issue is too contentious nor that they had any authority to take action on the part of individual spring users.

On February 3 Bryan Kenworthy traveled to the LSRCP Office in Boise to brief Rich Johnson, Fisheries Field Supervisor, LSRCP, and Boise Ecological Services (ES) staff on issues related to the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESRPA) and how they relate to the Hatchery's diminished water supply. Also present were Bureau of Reclamation staff providing information and pertinent ESRPA data they have compiled. A number of items were identified that will require close coordination among Service personnel to ensure solutions to the issue mesh with Service goals and mission.

Bryan Kenworthy and Kurt Schilling met with Joe Krakker, LSRCP, and Dave Hopper, Ecological Services, Boise, on February 6 to continue developing the Section 7 Biological Opinion to address the presence of the Bliss Rapids snail on the Hatchery. This snail is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. A complete survey of all the Hatchery's springs is scheduled for April to determine the extent of the snail's presence in the Hatchery's spring complex. A management plan will then be developed to address spring flow diversions as they relate to Hatchery operations. The survey and management plan will also include those springs on Service property diverted for use at the University of Idaho, Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station.

Darrin Taggart, IT support, ES, has made several visits during the month in an effort to correct problems with the computer used by Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant. This desktop is the mainstay for the hatchery's interaction with the Department of Interior's E-commerce, budget tracking, payroll, etc. It soon became apparent that this GSA vendor's warranty did not measure up to advertised claims.

Mid-morning February 25, hatchery staff discovered a break in the buried portion of the 14-inch pipeline, which diverts water from Spring 17 to the trout raceways. Maintenance repaired the break and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) was notified. IDEQ came on site to inspect and classified it as a non-point spill. It was determined that the discharge had minimal impact upon Riley Creek. Bryan Kenworthy submitted a letter to DEQ, at their request, documenting their inspection and the extent of the incident.

Mark Olson traveled to Atlanta, GA to attend the latest rainbow trout efficiency measure meeting February 25-26. Mark participated in this meeting to represent the Hatchery and obtain information to move forward with the development of an efficiency measure for the Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation Program. A summary and notes of the meeting will be conveyed to Region 1 Fisheries.

COORDINATION

The Hatchery hosted the annual coordination meeting on February 4. Minutes of the meeting have been sent to the participants.

Bryan Kenworthy and Kurt Schilling attended the LSRCP Cooperators meeting held in Boise, February 25-26. Kurt presented to the group a talk describing the Hatchery's recently installed automatic feed delivery system.

Kurt Schilling, Anna Ray, and Bryan Kenworthy attended a brown bag lunch with National Park Service staff at the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Visitors Center on February 19. Discussions included topics common to Department of Interior field offices such as addressing internet connectivity issues, problems using the Department of Interior's procurement software, community outreach, position classification, etc.

PERSONNEL/ TRAINING/ SAFETY

On February 18, members of the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center staff came to the Hatchery to conduct the annual hearing and respirator fit testing.

Chuck Larson's last day at Hatchery was February 7; Chuck transferred to Region 6 Jones Hole NFH.

The Hatchery staff began completion of the Safety Self Audit process.

Mark Olson traveled to the National Conservation and Training Center to participate in the Employees Foundations course.

OUTREACH

Forty six visitors registered in the guest book.

Bryan Kenworthy has initiated contact with Hagerman IDEA, Inc. This is a 501-3c non-profit entity dedicated to the Hagerman community's Improvement Development Education and Appreciation. A recent focus of the group has been to assist the Idaho Department of Parks develop plans for the newly established Billingsly State Park just north of the city of Hagerman. One concept being considered is an inter-agency shared visitor center. Bryan has provided the group with information regarding agreements for operation of the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, located on the Service's National Elk Refuge.

OSTER LAKE FIRE - BURNED AREA EMERGENCY REHABILITATION PLAN

Bryan Kenworthy and Anna Ray are in the process of reviewing the final report for the plan.

MAINTENANCE

Vehicles and Equipment

- Replaced fuel, oil and air filters on all fish transport generators.
- A boot/ wader dryer was built for the crew.
- New fasteners were installed on the fish transfer tank.
- A new brake slack adjuster was installed on fish transport trailer 319.
- Replaced battery cables and inspected breaks on all the fish transports.
- Electric contractor installed a lock out/tag out mechanism on the automatic feed system.
- An aluminum screen intake mechanism was fabricated for the new 4-inch fish pump.
- Sanstrom Scale Co. repaired software problems with the fish digitizer.

Buildings and Grounds

- Walker Water Systems conducted routine testing of domestic water system.
- Installed TV antenna on quarters #4.
- Installed UV light for Hatchery #1 egg isolation/lab room to aid in disinfection; this included installation of a timer and tinted windows to curtail UV exposure to the employees.
- Overhead door repaired shop door.
- Quigley Heating repaired oil heater in shop.
- New ornamental fish family name signs were made for the residences.

cc: LSRCP - Boise
Idaho FRO
Hagerman NFH Staff
Dworshak NFH
Idaho FHC
Chris Harrington- IDFG Nampa
Tom Rogers - IDFG
IDFG Hatcheries-Magic Valley, Niagara Springs

