



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

January 10, 2006

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

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: December 2005, Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2005

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
112	Sawtooth	978,417	78,911	12.4	6.02
111	Pahsimeroi	208,443	23,212	9.0	6.70
110	Clearwater B	200,778	16,219	12.4	6.02

Fish health appears to remain good in all stocks, with total mortalities of 0.078 percent; this is less than 50 percent of last month's mortalities.

Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center, conducted fish health samples on 60 fish during her monthly inspection. Fish were tested for virus, bacteria and parasites; results pending at this time. All 60 fish sampled were also checked for New Zealand Mud Snails. No snails were found in these fish, or any other fish sampled for Brood Year 2005.

The Hatchery continued the annual fish rearing environment monitoring protocol as part of its Standard Operating Procedure. Samples include: Dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and ammonia. Additional sampling is being conducted as part of the Clearwater B-run steelhead rearing study. The ammonia samples are sent to the Rangen's Inc., Research Laboratory in Hagerman for analysis; results are pending.

Rainbow Trout (Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation)

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
113	Hayspur T-9 Rainbows	107,345	27	4000	0.85
114	Hayspur T-9 Rainbows	To be received on January 17th			

The Hatchery received Triploid Rainbow trout eggs from Hayspur State Fish Hatchery, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), on December 20th. The eggs were placed in 6 incubators in Hatchery 2 and hatched on December 24th. Lot 113 is earmarked for the spring release of 90,000 five-inch fingerlings. The Hatchery will receive an additional 50,000 Triploid Rainbow eggs (Lot 114) in January for the fall release of 40,000 nine-inch catchable trout.

Rainbow trout will be fed Dry Starter diets #0, #1, and #2 before switching to the extruded pellets. Depending on the performance of the Rainbow trout on “Dry” starter diets, the Hatchery will consider switching steelhead production to the dry formulation rather than the Soft Moist formulation than has been used in the past. The feed manufacturers are recommending the dry diets because of the success other steelhead operations in the Hagerman Valley are having with this type of feed. Mark Olson, Assistant Project Leader, confirmed this success in discussions with various staff at those hatcheries.

OPERATIONS

The Hatchery staff spent time during December reviewing and commenting on design specifications and drawings for the Off-line Settling Pond Dewatering system and the Main Spring to Bickel Ditch Pipeline replacement project.

COORDINATION

The Hatchery continued coordination with staff at the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Office and the Snake River Basin Ecological Services Office to complete the Intra-Agency Section 7 Consultation for protection of the Bliss Rapids Snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*). A number of measures identified to protect the snail and its habitat have been incorporated in the pipeline contract.

Nathan Wiese reviewed the new web-based “beta” version of Fisheries Information System and sent comments to Leslie Hartsell, National Fish Passage Coordinator. Besides some connectivity issues, the new web-based version appears to be a good step from the old File Maker Pro system.

Louise Bruce, SCEP Biologist, was here for the continuation of her New Zealand Mud Snail Studies on rainbow trout at the University of Idaho Fish Culture Experiment Station.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY



← The Hagerman Hatchery Crew
December, 2005

The Hatchery installed the DOI LEARN system on each employee's computer work station. This system will enable supervisors and employees to manage and record training requests and accomplishments more effectively.

Undertaken as an interagency/cross program training opportunity, Eric Willet, Motor Vehicle Operator; James Brandon, Animal Caretaker; Brian Clifford, Motor Vehicle Operator; and Nathan Wiese, Fishery Biologist assisted the shorthanded crew at the IDFG, Hayspur State Fish Hatchery to spawn rainbow trout. The Hatchery crew used the air-spawning method to spawn the females and a pressure shock technique on the newly spawned eggs to produce triploid progeny. The crew also helped spawn brood stock replacement fish and took ovarian fluid samples for Doug Burton, Fish Health Specialist, IDFG.

During December, Hatchery staff were able to take advantage of the National Park Service, Hagerman Fossil Beds Monument's (NPS) newly installed Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL), satellite television site. Bryan Kenworthy, Project Leader; Mark Olson, Assistant Project Leader; and Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, attended an TEL event entitled "Congratulations, You're the Collateral Duty Safety Officer". Eric Willet, Steve Money, James Brandon, Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, and Nathan Wiese attended a TEL event entitled "Retirement Planning for New Employees". Since the TEL productions originate at the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) National Conservation Training Center, coordination is underway to have FWS, TEL events also offered at the NPS site in Hagerman.

Nathan Wiese presented a report on the Intermittent Feeding Study from BY96-99 at the Northwest Fish Culture Conference (NWFCC) in Boise. Eric Willet, Steve Money, James Brandon and Brian Clifford attended the Wednesday sessions at the NWFCC.

Western Fire Equipment, Inc. performed the annual inspection of the Hatchery's fire extinguishers.

The Hatchery had the annual Holiday Wild Game Feed at the Peking Chinese Restaurant in Twin Falls on Saturday, December 17. The Hatchery crew "legally harvested" wild chukars, ducks, geese, and pheasants this fall for the event.

OUTREACH

In response to a request from Amy Gaskill, Outreach Specialist, Region 1 Fisheries, for story ideas for the Outdoor Channel, Nathan Wiese has begun coordination with Julie Miesner, Sawtooth Fish Guides, and Brent Snider, Manager, Sawtooth Fish Hatchery in Stanley, Idaho. The Hatchery has proposed its April steelhead distribution activities as a story idea. Story segments will include hatchery rearing, fish hauling, travel with the fish to their release point at Sawtooth Fish Hatchery on the Salmon River, Sawtooth Fish Hatchery spawning operations and steelhead fishing on the Salmon River. The basic concept of the story is to follow the hatchery steelhead lifecycle. Amy will coordinate with the Outdoor Channel Network to finalize details for this event.

The Hatchery provided a tour for 7 Wyoming Game and Fish employees returning home from the Northwest Fish Culture Conference; 32 visitors signed the guest registry.

MAINTENANCE



Snow Removal on December 1st



A White December!

Vehicles and Equipment

- Feed delivery tubes for automated feed delivery system were installed.
- The leaky valve on the truck fill tower located next to the maintenance office was rebuilt.

Buildings and Grounds

- Annual domestic water system tests were completed in all four residences and Administration building.
- Annual analysis of the fish production water was completed.