



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

### MEMORANDUM

December 23, 2008

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

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: November Activity Report

### PRODUCTION

#### Steelhead Brood Year 2008

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
124	Sawtooth	1,070,375	57,906	18.5	5.27
125	Pahsimeroi	201,868	15,006	13.5	5.86
126	Clearwater B	203,253	14,271	13.8	5.81

Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center, completed monthly fish health exams on November 25th. Kathy's PCR work from October indicated the presence of *Nucleospora salmonis* (NS) ranging from in 0 to 60% of the sample pools inspected. The NS was not present in the upper deck of raceways and was more prevalent in the bottom deck and in the Clearwater B stock.

The Hatchery observed an increased incidence of soreback condition in the fish during November. The soreback was most prevalent in the bottom deck and Clearwater B stock, but also had a limited, scattered distribution through the upper two decks. The November 2008 Clearwater B soreback mortality (0.22% mortality) was significantly lower than November 2007 (0.97% mortality). The November 2008 Sawtooth mortality was unchanged from 2007 (0.08% vs 0.06% mortality). The Hatchery is attributing the reduced soreback mortality to maintaining a higher HC feeding rate (7.5) through November.

#### Rainbow Trout

Hayspur Fish Hatchery will provide BY09 Rainbow Trout the week of January 5<sup>th</sup>.

## OPERATIONS

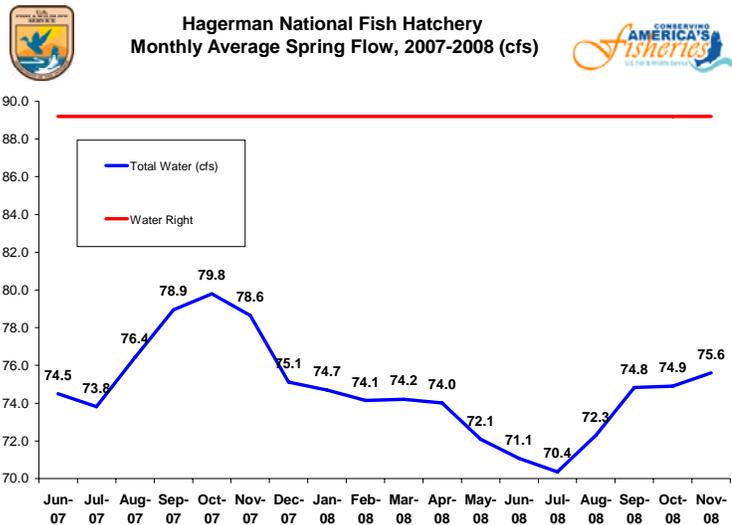
The Hatchery began implementation of a traffic plan whereby vehicular traffic would be excluded from passing through the Hatchery's administrative site. The Hatchery is taking this action to ensure safety for its employees, resident families, visitors, and to assist the University with control of its traffic. The University signed an MOU with the Service in 1999 agreeing to cease using the Hatchery's main entrance and use the deeded right of way provided by the Service. In preparation for this action, the Hatchery sent letters to the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, University of Idaho, the Post Master, Hagerman Post Office, and has notified the local offices of the United Parcel Service and FedEx. Additionally, the Hatchery has installed temporary signs on site, stating implementation would be in effect on January 1, 2009.



The Hatchery's total water supply increased slightly in November to 75.6 cfs, but remained below November 2007 level of 78.6 cfs.

The Hatchery also performed routine annual composite spring water samples in November. Nitrate levels were 1.4 mg/L for Nitrate as N. This is a significant increase from previous data that had remained relatively stable at 0.7-0.9 mg/l. The 1.4 mg/l is still well below the Maximum

Contaminant Level Goal set by EPA (10 mg/l nitrate -N) for ground water.



### Nitrate Sampling at Hagerman National Fish Hatchery (Mixing Chamber)

Sample Year	Nitrate as N (mg/l)
2008	1.4
2007	0.9
2004	0.7
1994	0.8

## COORDINATION

The Hatchery hosted a Hatchery Evaluation Team (HET) meeting. Attendees included: the Hatchery crew; Steve Yundt and Chris Starr, Lower Snake River Compensation Plan office; Carl Steifl, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Nampa Fisheries Research; Rick Lowell and Tom Tighe, Magic Valley Fish Hatchery (Magic Valley); Ray Jones, Idaho Fisheries Resource Office; and Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center. The HET discussed the pros and cons of swapping the Hatchery's Clearwater B program with Magic Valley's East Fork Naturals (EFN) and Upper Salmon B's (USB) programs. During the past two brood years, Magic Valley had good survival rearing the Clearwater B's compared to the Hatchery's experience with this stock. At the same time, Magic Valley has experienced lower survival with the EFN's and USB's which they attribute to their hatchery rearing space (20 tanks) not being conducive to starting the small egg lots associated with these two programs. The Hatchery's smaller tanks would easily accommodate the smaller groups of eggs. The HET sent a proposal regarding the production swap recommendation to IDFG policy makers for review. It is anticipated that further review and discussion will occur at the 2009 Annual Operating Plan Meeting.

Bryan Kenworthy, Project Leader, attended a Hatchery Review Team meeting in Boise.

Bryan Kenworthy and Nathan Wiese, Assistant Project Leader, traveled to Boise to meet Robyn Thorson, the new Director for Region 1. Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, attended the meeting via conference call.

Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, traveled to Portland, OR to attend a Hatchery Workforce Planning Team (HWPT) committee meeting.

Bryan Kenworthy and Nathan Wiese attended a meeting in Hagerman hosted by the Thousand Springs Water Users Association to discuss the Draft Comprehensive Aquaculture Management Plan (CAMP). The meeting featured presentations by Dave Tuthill, Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources, and Randy MacMillan, Vice President, Clear Springs Foods and a member of the CAMP committee representing the Spring Users. Although Director Tuthill's presentation was marked with hope and success for the future of water management on the eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, the spring users who participated in the CAMP development did not share his optimism. They feel that many of the elements in the CAMP are not clearly defined, unproven, and that it is an "experiment" at best. The issue of most concern for all in attendance was the lack of specifics on how the CAMP will be funded. The Idaho Water Resources Board is accepting comments on the Draft CAMP.

Bryan Kenworthy and Nathan Wiese attended a coordination meeting in Boise, ID hosted by the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office and the Idaho Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The meeting focused on coordinating conservation challenges and opportunities among the various government agencies and non-government organizations in southern Idaho. The meeting was an excellent venue for forming new partnerships and opportunities.

Nathan Wiese and Jeremy Trimpey, Fish Biologist, attended a hydrogeologic field trip of the Hagerman Valley led by Neil Farmer, Idaho Department of Water Resources. The field trip was an informative tour of how the geology of the region influences spring discharges.

## **PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY**

The staff completed biannual CPR and First Aid Training and received training on Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use. The Hatchery purchased an AED for resuscitating heart failure victims.

Nathan Wiese attended “Introduction to Management” at the National Conservation Training Center. This completes his second 40 hours of required supervisory training.

Bryan Kenworthy, Anna Ray, and Jeremy Trimpey attended SAMMS training via teleconference with Paul Hayduk.

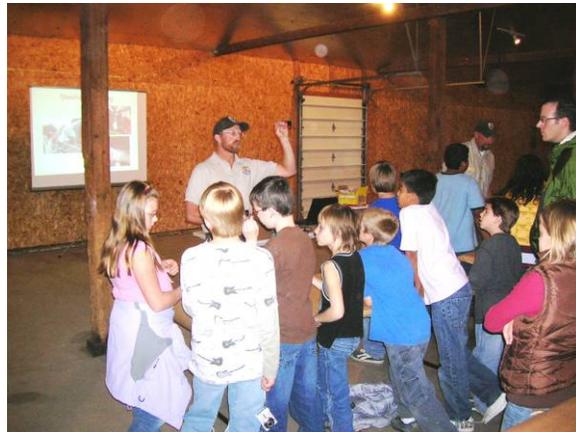
## **OUTREACH**

In cooperation with the Hagerman Fossil beds National Monument, National Park Service and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the Hatchery led a hands-on Fish Anatomy and Dissection demonstration for the Filer 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Billingsly Creek State Park. The event hosted 105 students.

The Hatchery also had 111 registered visitors and 7 guests for a total of 118 visitors during November.



Jeremy Trimpey setting-up trout dissection



Eric Willet explains the Hatchery program

## **MAINTENANCE**

- Performed routine maintenance on the Mobark, Beaver® brush chipper.
- Vendor installed new tires and shocks on Maintenance Truck.
- Wired in new energy efficient thermostat to Visitor Center restrooms.
- Replaced bulbs and ballast in high pressure sodium security lighting at bottom deck raceways.
- Replaced bulbs in Hatch 1 security lighting.
- Replaced idler pulley on Grasshopper® mower.

- Reset Entry Gate timer and removed tumbleweeds.
- Replaced Convault fuel tank sight gauges.
- Conducted quarterly Bacteria and annual Copper, Lead, Nitrate and Nitrite testing of domestic water system.
- Vendor installed new tires on the three Fish Transports.
- Winterized all irrigation water systems.
- A commercial vendor performed repairs to visitor bathroom and bunkhouse heat pump.
- Transferred F150 Pickup to LSRCP in exchange for 2004 Dodge Ram Pickup.