



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 10, 2009

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

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: November Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2009

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
128	Sawtooth	1,360,736	63,826	21	5.02
129	East Fork	125,903	5,296	24	4.84

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) crew PIT tagged 28,982 steelhead November 17-19th. During this year's PIT process the Hatchery Evaluation team conducted a study to compare PIT tagging methods (preloaded needles vs. hand loaded needles). Biomark® tagged approximately 6542 of the total group concurrently with the PSMFC crew on November 18th using their pre-loaded needle. The Hatchery quarantined 150 fish from each tagging method (300 total) in Hatchery 2 to examine wound healing and tag retention. The Hatchery will return the quarantined fish to their respective raceways in mid-December. Overall, PIT tagging went smoothly and fish health remains good in PIT tagged raceways.



Biomark Pre-Loaded Needle



PSMFC Standard PIT Needle

Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center, completed monthly fish health checks on November 17, 2009. Raceways 57 and 58 (not PIT tagged, 1st use water) were diagnosed with a return epizootic of Frunculosis. These raceways will be treated with Romet® medicated feed in early December.

The Hatchery observed soreback in raceways 37-39, 49-50, and 52-53. The soreback did not result in significant mortality and was apparent in 1-2% of the population in these raceways.

OPERATIONS

Bryan Kenworthy, Project Leader, and Nathan Wiese, Assistant Project Leader, traveled to Richland, WA to attend the annual Hatchery Management Workshop.

Bryan Kenworthy, Nathan Wiese, and Mark Drobish, Dworshak National Fish Hatchery, visited Dick Rogers and John Lovrack, Lyons Ferry Fish Hatchery, for an overview of their pond vacuum system. The Hatchery plans to examine the feasibility of using a vacuum system for cleaning to reduce water consumption during cleaning operations and address Hatchery Review Team recommendations.



Tour of Lyons Ferry Fish Hatchery

Bryan Kenworthy attended several conference call meetings with the Hatchery Review Team.

The Hatchery diverted 14 cfs of water to the Len Lewis Intake from the Brailsford Ditch on November 2nd. The water diversion back to the Hatchery is part of the annual agreement with the Brailsford Ditch Association. Water available to the steelhead raceways averaged 63.7 cfs in November which is slightly higher (0.9 cfs) than the water available in November 2008.

Dan Mcfadden, Lower Snake River Aquifer Recharge District, met with Bryan Kenworthy to discuss the district's aquifer recharge program and to solicit support for the Idaho Department of Water Resources proposal to use Fluorescein dye to trace groundwater movement upstream of the Thousand Springs. The District is proposing the use of the Sandy Ponds as a potential recharge site. The ponds are just upstream (< ½ mile) on the aquifer above the Hatchery and are used during the irrigation season by the North Side Canal Company to contain irrigation system tail water from spilling back into the Snake River. Water held in the ponds percolates into the aquifer at this point. The tracer dye study would identify a number of hydrologic and flow regime parameters proximate to the Thousand Springs.

COORDINATION

Kyle Hansen, Abernathy Fish Technology Center, travelled to the Hatchery to test the effectiveness of a salt bath recovery on steelhead smolts. His experiment used a standard stressor of 120 seconds of air exposure followed by a salt recovery bath for 10 minutes and a control of no salt recovery. Kyle then took cortisol levels of the smolts at various intervals up to

24 hours post air exposure. His results will verify if a short duration salt bath is beneficial to recovery after a stress event.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, traveled to Finley National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon to complete “Train the Trainer” certification for Heavy Equipment Safety Training.

OUTREACH

The Hatchery conducted three tours to school groups for 108 guests. The Hatchery also led a hands-on fish dissection for the Filer 5th grade class in conjunction with the National Park Service, Hagerman Fossil Beds and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Jeremy Trimpey, Fish Biologist, took Sammy-the-Salmon (Adam Leija, Fish Culturist) to the Buhl Public Library Reading Program. The Hatchery had 45 registered visitors and 3 guests for a total of 300 outreach contacts in November.

Carla Kane, College of Southern Idaho Biology student, volunteered 12 hours. Bryce Lindley volunteered 4 hours.



Buhl Library Program



Filer Fish Dissection

MAINTENANCE

- Winterized all 71 water systems.
- Shut down variable frequency drive pump for winter to conserve energy.
- Hooked up 480v to 240v transformer for Bio-Mark fish tagging trailer.
- Installed battery in 199 fish transport curbside generator compartment.
- Continued to retrofit Fish Transport #199: Removed unnecessary wiring from generator compartments; wired in a second 240 volt generator on the curbside; Fabricated exhaust system for curbside generator.