



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

### MEMORANDUM

September 10, 2012

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

FROM: Bob Turik, Acting Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: August, 2012 Activity Report

### PRODUCTION

#### Steelhead Brood Year 2012

| Lot Number | Stock              | Number    | Total Fish Weight | Size (#/lb.) | Length (inches) |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 137        | Sawtooth           | 1,250,035 | 13,517            | 74           | 3.31            |
| 138        | East Fork Hatchery | 168,690   | 2,263             | 92           | 3.08            |

The first round of marking for BY2012 steelhead started on August 16<sup>th</sup> and finished on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The marking went much smoother this year with both trailers marking and utilizing double shifts. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) addressed issues brought up by several hatcheries last year concerning unmanned trailers sitting idle on stations. By incorporating California operators, PSMFC successfully operated two trailers at Hagerman with 4 crews and completed marking on schedule.

#### Rainbow Trout

| Lot Number | Stock   | Number | Total Fish Weight | Size (#/lb.) | Length (inches) |
|------------|---------|--------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 136        | Hayspur | 42,621 | 15,193            | 2.8          | 9.12            |

The rainbow trout continue to do well with overall survival at 94%. Corie Samson, Idaho Fish Health Center, did the fall pre-release health inspection on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The rainbow trout are scheduled to be released into Lake Walcott in early October.

## OPERATIONS

**Aluminum dam boards** were received and installed in early August. The boards were received just a couple of days prior to watering up the steelhead raceways. The upper deck boards were the only boards installed for this year in order to test our installation methods. Barring any unforeseen issues, next brood year will see complete use of aluminum boards and the elimination of wooden boards. Every year it would take the crew several weeks to purchase, cut, and install 1,386 separate wood boards for one deck or a total of 4,158 boards for the entire facility (one deck was replaced each year). We now have 2,170 aluminum boards for the entire hatchery that will last us for several years saving many man hours of preparation and will be much better for disease prevention than wood.



The Hatchery worked on **oxygen injection lines** for the soon to be installed oxygen injection system. These injection lines needed to be installed prior to watering up the steelhead raceways to be available for hookup to the newly installed system. This installation took place on Saturday prior to water-up and will enable the system to be utilized this February thru distribution when it is most needed. The Hatchery has recorded dissolved oxygen levels below 5 ppm in the lower decks and this system design will keep us above 6.3 ppm at discharge.

**15 Stainless Steel degassing columns** were received from a vendor in Alabama. After several missed deadlines and discussions with the Contracting Officer (CO), all towers were eventually received. The first shipment of 7 towers had questionable welds and one seam was welded so poorly that it completely failed during shipment. After discussion with the CO, the vendor was contacted concerning the poor quality control and instructed that the remaining towers would need to be inspected prior to shipment. The remaining towers were shipped with better welds; however, the flanges attached on two of the towers were practically non-serviceable. These towers were taken to a local vendor for modification and the vendor will be charged for the costs of our corrective actions. Our Maintenance Mechanic, Steve Money, will also repair some of the welds in-house at the vendor's expense.

Construction for the valve installation in preparation for the degassing project and the oxygen injection lines will begin mid-September.

## PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Interviews were conducted by the Regional Office to fill the Hatchery's Project Leader position. We are anxiously awaiting the decision as are the applicants.

## COORDINATION

Steve Money relocated 3 Mass Automated Trailer Systems to assist the Niagara Springs Fish Hatchery (Niagara) in their marking season. This was complicated by the fact that the Niagara

(owned and financed by Idaho Power Company and operated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game) is currently under major reconstruction and therefore has an obstructed entry for the large marking trailers. Once on the facility, Steve discovered the wiring for the marking trailers was not compatible with Niagara's wiring and spent time rewiring the plugs and receptacles. This saved a lot of time and expense for everyone in that the marking crew was not sitting idle waiting for an electrician to complete the project. Additionally, we moved one trailer from Magic Valley Hatchery to Niagara Springs Hatchery and two from the Hagerman NFH.

Our College of Southern Idaho student intern, Damian Hainer, returned to school for the fall semester. However, he will continue to work weekends and one Friday per month in continuation of our cooperative agreement.

Matt Powell, University of Idaho / Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, and his crew (who represented 4 countries including graduate students from Taiwan, Chile, Greece, and a post



doctorate from India) sampled more fish during our marking operations. This sampling was done in addition to the earlier sampling during BY 2011 distribution to evaluate effects of different stressors on fish by using gene expression. In the future, we hope to compare a group of fish reared in the highly nitrogen saturated water compared to degassed water to see if we can determine what effects the nitrogen has at those levels.

Bob Turik, Steve Money, and Brian Clifford met with Frank Edelman (Idaho Department of Fish and Game) who manages the Hagerman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to discuss water management options. Frank is looking to update an outdated non-efficient irrigation system on the WMA with a more modern system. This would increase water conservation and at the same time save on manpower. The main goal is to provide wildlife habitat and rehabilitate some of the grounds that have been reduced to weeds.

## **OUTREACH**

Our volunteer hosts, Terry and Alice Esslinger, logged a total of 283 hours for outreach and hatchery assistance. Additionally, Amy Turik volunteered 3 hours in the office and Jennifer Hamilton put in 25 hours updating our outreach environmental education totes.

We provided one guided school tour and logged 354 visitors and 12 guests for a total of 366 contacts.

The National Park Service / Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument represented the Hatchery by sharing their booth at the Twin Falls County Fair. The Hatchery supplied brochures and some promotional items for our CPWN program(s). Total booth contacts for the fair week were 3,803.

## **FACEBOOK - VISIT AND “LIKE” US AT:**

<HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/HAGERMAN-NATIONAL-FISH-HATCHERY/403395333013900>

The Hatchery started a Facebook page in May of this year and it has been a fun but slow learning process as we learn all the ins-and-outs. We are up to 55 page “Likes” with 13,345 “Friends of Fans”. In August we made 9 posts resulting in 814 hits.

## **MAINTENANCE**

- Installed piping in top deck tail race and middle deck tail race channels for side stream oxygen injection system
- Moved fish marking trailers to Magic Valley hatcheries for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Mounted panels for new marking trailer electrical system
- Plugged floor drain in Mixing Chamber
- Installed new blades on Grasshopper mower, cleaned and greased spindles and leveled deck
- Repaired sprinklers
- Installed new starter on Gator
- Increased water to Wildlife Management Area