



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 3, 2014

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

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: AUGUST 2014 Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2014

Lot Number	Stock	Number Fry	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
143	Sawtooth	1,521,399	15920	95.57	3.05
144	East Fork Hatchery	63,849	603	105.89	2.94

Steelhead marking - Marking started in early August with a second round scheduled for around August 23rd. After successfully marking several of our first lots in Hatch 1 marking shut down. The second event started on time and within a couple of days, our fish size was small enough to cause many fish to bypass the machines, these fish are the late shipments, including East Fork fish, which usually are behind on size. It was decided to cease marking for about a week and get just a little more size on the fish. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) crew returned and marking was successful.

The marking issues during this brood year are nothing new as far as trying to match fish size to marking schedule. It has been decided for BY 15 that our marking will be delayed until around August 25th, we will slow down the initial lots and have time to bring our late fish up to size without rushing them to the point that we see fish health and water quality issues. This has been discussed with PSMFC and we will try to schedule 3 trailers for one event next August or September.

The Reuse system fish and control fish had to be marked and returned to Hatch 1 for continued rearing until final issues are addressed in the Reuse system. Fish should be ponded in the circular tanks in September.

Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2014

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
142	Hayspur	39,543	10,466	3.8	8.26

The Rainbow trout continue to do well. The RBT are scheduled for release in Walcott Reservoir around mid-September. Anticipated size at release is 9 inches. The release will take place over 4 days with one truck per day hauling. We will be coordinating with Idaho Fish and Game Department who wants to do a simultaneous release of about 400 floy tagged RBT from Hagerman State Hatchery.

OPERATIONS

-The Reuse Aquaculture System (RAS) continues to progress well. The startup of the system was conducted the week of August 4th. Stephen Piggot, PR Aqua (the company that designed the system), arrived to start up the system and annotate corrections. Discrepancies were observed and written into a punch-list. The contractor will be working to correct the discrepancies as soon as possible. It is our hope the system will be running by the middle of September. We will run the system, void of fish, for two weeks to see if any discrepancies appear. For the interim, tagged steelhead designated for this production system will be held in Hatch 1.



- Shortly after marking steelhead and moving them from the nursery to the outside raceways we noticed fish flashing on the bottom of the raceways. We examined a random sample from one of the raceways and found what looked suspiciously familiar. We sent fish samples to Idaho Fish Health Center (IFHS) and they confirmed it was Ich (*Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*). This is the first time we have seen Ich in our upper bank of raceways. Not only was it in our upper bank but it was in all banks of raceways after marking. There were no signs of Ich in the nursery before they were marked so we ruled out Ich coming from Main Spring and Spring 13. We planted minnow traps in both Bickle and Riley Lakes to determine if we had fish in these water sources. Shortly after when the traps were checked, we found we had captured several Shoshone sculpin. We did skin scrapes and found sculpin in Riley Lake positive for Ich. The sculpin in Bickle Lake did not have Ich at this time. Nursery fish were planted in the outflow of both lakes using minnow traps to determine if only Riley Lake was the culprit. The fish in Riley Lake tested positive and Bickle Lake was Ich free.



It was decided that when treating with formalin we should administer a treatment in the upper bank of raceways that could flow through the other two banks effectively. Maintenance Mechanic Steve Money developed a reservoir system using a low psi pump, hose, and spray nozzles that delivers the calculated amount of formalin into each raceway all at the same time. We will do a six hour treatment at 50 ppm every other day for two weeks after which we will do weekly treatments of 50 ppm. Sometime in late October or

early November, we will do a reevaluation to see if we could curtail treatments (ongoing observation and sampling would continue).

-A six foot tall biosecurity fence was erected around the front access to Bickle and Riley Lakes by Federal Supply Services LLC out of Moscow, ID. We are hoping this will keep unwanted dogs and other animals from going into our fish production water sources. This project was planned well before Riley Lake was found positive for Ich but further justifies the reason we had it constructed.



-The volunteer pads received an upgrade to the sewer system. Doug Weaver completed the project through Hayes Construction. The Septic System drain field included 140 linear feet and a 3-foot wide infiltrator chamber system. The old system could not keep up with one, let alone two RV's, but it will now!

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

-Fish Biologist Trimpey attended NCTC to attend ES Recovery Training.

-Project Leader Eaton attended the Regional Fishery Resources Project Leader meeting held in Vancouver, WA. Some topics discussed were social media outreach, Native American Policy update and documenting Tribal consultations, Surrogate Species implementation, Columbia River Basin issues, Budget outlook, Human Resources hiring policies and processes, Conference attendance policy, Facilities, infrastructure and Realty, and a BMP for marking and tagging.

COORDINATION

-Project Leader Eaton attended the Idaho Aquaculture Association board meeting. The main focus of the Board was discussions concerning the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer depletion and the current Rangen call on water.

-Project Leader Eaton visited the Aqua Life facility. A portion of this facility's water right is being proposed for the call on water by Rangen, Inc. Idaho Ground Water Association (IGWA) lawyers were on hand to demonstrate to a crowd of about 30 people how this mitigation proposal could satisfy the Rangen call for water of 9 cfs.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS

-Mike Mathews (state director for Senator Risch) and D.C. staffer Jason Davidson visited the hatchery and University of Idaho Aquaculture Research Lab next door. Mr. Mathews indicated he would be in the area and wanted to show a D.C. staffer what a good conservation hatchery looks like.

- The Hatchery was host to a small back-to-school tour for the Boise Montessori 4th graders.

Volunteer Hours: 4 (D.Eaton, A.Turik)

Hatchery Contacts/Visitors: < **16yrs** = 139 >**yrs** = 275

MAINTENANCE

- Langdons fabricated stainless steel dam boards for upper deck STT raceway head box.
- Moved tagging trailers for PSMFC
- Installed barrier curtains on RAS building North wall
- Gietzen electric installed transformer and 240 volt mechanical interlock outlet in RAS building for marking trailers.
- Bob VanBuskirk conducted routine safety evaluation.
- Medved and Scott Kaster here to plan traveling screen for Brailsford Intake.
- Norco installed mega cell oxygen cylinder for Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS)
- Stephen Piggot (PR Aqua) here to run RAS for initial startup.
- Mark Wharry here for final inspection of RAS project.
- Started water to STT raceways
- Turned on Oster Lake/WMA pumps
- Redirected all gravity feed water to STT raceways

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

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/HAGERMAN-NATIONAL-FISH-HATCHERY/403395333013900](https://www.facebook.com/pages/HAGERMAN-NATIONAL-FISH-HATCHERY/403395333013900)

