



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

### MEMORANDUM

November 3, 2014

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

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 2014 Activity Report

### PRODUCTION

#### Steelhead Brood Year 2014

Lot Number	Stock	Number Fry	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
143	Sawtooth	1,480,953	44,932	32.96	4.36
144	East Fork Hatchery	61,725	1,639	37.66	4.16

Formalin treatments will continue through the first week of December. Mortality due to *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* (Ich) has remained extremely low. There are a few additional mortalities in the zero to single digit range following treatment days. The Idaho Fish Health Center continues to conduct monthly fish health inspections and has found only one or two Ich during their inspections. We are hoping that we will be able to discontinue the formalin treatments at the beginning of December when this order of formalin is finished.

Pit Tagging of the steelhead will take place in November. We will start with the recirculating system (RAS) to avoid Ich contamination through the marking trailer.

#### Recirculating system (RAS) 2014

The crew is continuing to learn the RAS system and fine tune flows. The fish in the tanks appear to be very healthy with minimal mortality. Swimming velocities have been adjusted to about 1 body length per second at this stage. The CO<sub>2</sub> stripper/LHO tower continues to be the main issue that needs to be addressed with overflow from the LHO portion making the floor wet with splashing. We also discovered an occasional vortex forming in the LHO depending on the depth of the water. The manufacturer of the tower fabricated a "vortex disruptor" that was installed by the contractor. It consists of a plate with 5 blades that protrude into the LHO and disrupted the formation of the vortex. The vortex is also eliminated when the LHO runs fuller. The splashing from the trays was addressed by the addition of fabricated "shields" that were attached to the top

of the trays. We also continue to deal with some debris that is being blown into our Spring 17 collection box and ends up plugging some of the holes in the LHO. This also contributes to some of the overflow issues but staff cleans this perforated plate twice daily. Adjustment of the “burp tube” also greatly affects the depth of the LHO. The burp tube basically allows air to escape from the LHO. Oxygen enters the 8 chambered LHO box and transfers across the chambers through one hole in each partition. The last chamber contains the burp tube which is the effluent air which contains some nitrogen that has been driven off by the oxygen. The level of the burp tube underwater raises or lowers the depth of the water in the LHO by creating back pressure on water flowing through the perforated plate. The additional modifications will hopefully address the splashing and create a safer work environment during cold weather operations as we anticipate an ice slick as temperatures drop.



### **Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2015**

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has requested that we increase our target size of fall catchables to 12-inch fish or 1.4 fpp. The Hatchery will still raise the same pounds of fall catchables, just fewer numbers of fish. The change in fall stocking will go from 40,000 nine-inch fish to 24,000 twelve-inch fish. There will be no change in spring stocking, which consists of 90,000 five-inch fish.

In order to accommodate this request, the Hatchery will receive two lots of Hayspur strain triploid rainbow trout eggs this brood year. The Hatchery has requested 30,000 triploid eggs from Hayspur State Fish Hatchery for the first week of November. These eggs will be for the fall release. The Hatchery will request eggs for the spring release to be delivered the first week of January.

### **PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY**

-Project Leader Eaton attended the Regional Fishery monthly conference call. Topics discussed were: 1) Introduction of Roy Elicker the new Fisheries ARD; 2) FIS distribution reporting due, target setting, FY15 Visitor Services Plan, and; 3) Think of issues that are news worthy for Amanda Fortin to post on USFWS Facebook.

-Project Leader Eaton and Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, met with the Hagerman Highway District to make arrangements to replace the public access road signs for the Hatchery.

### **COORDINATION**

-Jeremy Trimpey, Hatchery Biologist, and Assistant Hatchery Manager Turik, attended the fish marking coordination meeting in Nampa, ID. We have coordinated with IDFG and PSMFC to delay marking of BY 2015 fish until late August to allow more time for fish to reach adequate

size and to allow for marking of all fish in one event. This is also beneficial to PSMFC staff in simplifying the scheduling of operators and crews.

- Tours for our new RAS building continue including visits from Jay Marcotte and Gerald McClintock from Bonneville Power Administration with representatives from Goodfellow Brothers Contracting including Ron Jordan, Mike McFarland, and Joe Miller. Brian Zimmerman and Jon Lovrak from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian (CTUIR) wanted a first-hand look at how a RAS system operates.

-Assistant Manager Turik coordinated with Bob Belville, Idaho Fish and Game Department, to assist with the hauling of empty Formalin barrels to a disposal site that will reuse the barrels. Due to the nature of Formalin, these barrels have limited use when empty. IDFG has established a reuse program for their hatcheries with a vendor that requires minimum shipments of 300 barrels. Hagerman NFH had about 100 empty barrels that allowed IDFG to supplement one of their shipments and assisted HNFH remove their barrels at the same time. Bob drove to the hatchery and to pick up the barrels for us which we greatly appreciated.

-Chuck Warren, IDFG Steelhead biologist, performed Coded Wire Tag retention checks for the hatchery.

## **OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS**

- The Hatchery hosted a couple of exciting outreach activities in October including a tour by Assistant Manager Turik for Glanbia for representatives from Ireland. This group was organized through our relationship with the South Central Idaho Tourism and Recreation Association.

-Assistant Manager Turik attended the Idaho Aquaculture Association meeting for October at the University of Idaho. One of the main topics was a request for a grant from IAA by a woman from California whose grandparents were one of the founders of the aquaculture industry in the Hagerman Valley. She is planning to visit several of the locals in the valley who have a history in the field. Her plan is to make a DVD and a possible book on the subject.

-A second activity included our annual fish dissection with over 100 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Filer, Idaho in cooperation with our “*Connecting Students to Hagerman Resources*” coordinators. Jeremy Trimpey, Biologist, and Adam Leija, Animal Caretaker, conducted the full day of dissection classes.



Volunteer Hours: 0  
Hatchery Contacts/Visitors:  
< 16yrs = 140 >16yrs = 106

## **MAINTENANCE**

- Winterized all irrigation systems
- Winterize buildings not being utilized
- Winterized all fish production water sources not being utilized
- Winterized VFD pump and micro filter
- Opened gravity flow to all water-to-air heat pumps

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