



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

NAMPA FISHERIES RESEARCH

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To: LSRCP Boise Office

From: Larry Barrett, Jon Hansen, Paul Kline, Brian Leth

Subject: 2007 LSRCP Quarterly Narrative (July-September)

Hatchery Evaluation Studies (HES – Kline, Harrington, Leth) –

Reports

- The Combined 92-99 Chinook report has been printed and is available for distribution (Harrington/Leth).
- The 2002 Chinook annual report is being printed (Leth)
- The 2003 Chinook report is completed and in the review process (Leth)
- The 2004 Chinook report is in progress (Leth).
- The 2002, 2003, and 2004 steelhead annual reports have been reviewed and are in the printing process (Harrington).

Meetings and Coordination

On July 27th, Brian, Chris Harrington and John Haines met to discuss the development of database tables and data entry applications for the adult trapping/disposition database. While the trapping application has been developed, an additional application is needed to handle the various dispositions of all trapped fish that are initially ponded. Dispositions include (but not limited to): spawning, prespawn mortalities, out-plants, transfers to other facilities, donations to food banks etc. At the meeting, John, Chris and Brian discussed possible ways to organize the entry applications using a method that was suggested by Chris that includes a graphic interface utilizing an intuitive drag-and-drop concept. As a starting point, they came up with a few scenarios that they will present to the full technical committee in October to make sure the application will meet everybody's needs.

At the end of July, Brian attended a Columbia River harvest workshop in Portland. The workshop was put on by members of US v Oregon Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and was intended to provide an overview of how the harvest and stock composition of Columbia River salmon and steelhead are estimated.

In August and again in September, Paul and Brian attended two meetings in Boise with members of USFWS Hatchery Review Team (HRT) to discuss the hatchery review process and populate the AHA model with inputs for all of the Clearwater Chinook salmon and steelhead populations.

CWT Lab Activities

As expected, Chris Sullivan picked up right where Chris Larsen left off and the lab is back to normal operations. Chris spent time getting familiar with lab protocols for CWT extraction and data entry. He spent considerable time this quarter extracting and verifying CWT's collected at IDFG trap facilities and during creel surveys. He also promptly responded to several requests to provide additional snout bags from

the trapping facilities and field crews. All of the steelhead snouts for 2007 have been received by the lab, however not all snouts have been processed.

In this quarter, 1120 CWTs from steelhead were extracted and verified and entered into the database. Of these processed snouts, 560 were collected at the Pahsimeroi trap, 468 at the Sawtooth trap, 19 at the East Fork Salmon river trap, and 73 were collected during creel surveys and at check stations on the Salmon river. Additional steelhead snouts from Oxbow hatchery and the Clearwater River drainage are in frozen storage at the lab and are waiting processing. A summary of all 2007 steelhead CWT recovery data will be included in the next quarterly narrative.

General

In July, Chris Harrington accepted a new job with the IDFG Natural Resources Policy Bureau as a database programmer. We will miss Chris' efforts but know he will do well in his new position. Chris' steelhead research biologist position remained vacant through the July-September period.

In July, the FY2008 budget and statement of work was completed and submitted to the Lower Snake office.

During this quarter, significant progress was made towards getting the historic Chinook trapping data organized and uploaded to the new hatchery database. The past 13 years worth of trapping data has been uploaded for three of the IDFG hatchery facilities and significant progress was made on two others. It is expected that the majority of the historic Chinook salmon trapping data for all facilities will be uploaded by the end of 2007.

In August, HES staff corrected all PIT tags that were detected as orphans in 2007. Of the 173,528 Chinook salmon and steelhead PIT by IDFG in 2007, 211 orphans were detected at the Lower Snake and Columbia River detection facilities. HES staff was able to determine which release groups all of the orphaned tags came from. Corrections were made to the tag files and they were re-uploaded to the PTAGIS database.

The last quarter included the bulk of the Chinook run to Idaho rivers and hatchery racks. On several occasions Brian and Chris, and David Lindley assisted with spawning and trapping operations, primarily at the S. Fk. Salmon River trap operated by McCall Fish Hatchery.

Brian, and Chris Sullivan attended the IDFG redd count training on August 14-16.

In September, Brian, Chris, and Dave Lindley traveled to the Powell satellite facility and PIT tagged 1000 Chinook presmolts. These fish were tagged in an effort to estimate survival to Lower Granite Dam in the spring of 2008.

Chris, David and Brian attended the IDFG Salmon and Steelhead Days festivities where they taught fifth graders from around the Treasure Valley about the ecology and life history of salmon and steelhead through an interactive "Salmon Maze" activity.

Harvest Monitoring Program (HMP Salmon Office – Hansen)

The following is a brief report of activities that occurred within the Harvest Management Program during the months of July, August, and September, 2007. We worked at check stations for 4 days during the South Fork of the Salmon River Chinook salmon fishery. We met with IDFG steelhead creel people in Lewiston to review methods for meeting creel sampling goals. We traveled to Portland to attend an anadromous fish harvest workshop. We responded to data requests for information pertaining to harvest allocation between IDFG Regions. We attended redd count training in Stanley. We assisted various Regional projects with redd counts and electro-shocking. We assembled information for an internal IDFG meeting regarding LSRCP data needs. We worked with a statistician to develop 90% confidence limits for our coded-wire tag harvest estimates. We developed methods for tracking seasonal creel progress in terms of meeting our 20% sample rate goals in each river section. By doing so, we hope to distribute our effort to check fish for marks more evenly to avoid over sampling or under sampling river sections.

The IDFG state wide steelhead harvest estimates became available to us in August, so we were able to calculate our sample rates from spring. Overall, our sample rate from the spring season was 16.8%. Sample rates improved significantly in Clearwater Region fisheries. Our pay-per-snout program (not available on cable yet) in the Clearwater Region brought in 451 snouts. Of the 451 snouts, 371 were from Idaho anglers and 65 of the snouts tested positive for CWT. This fall we are offering more money per snout to fishermen so we expect an increase in the number of snouts we collect for our program. So far this fall, we have checked several times more fish compared to Fall 2006.

We completed a number of tables and appendices for our multi-year annual report. The completion of the report we are currently working on (2004 – 2007) will bring us up to date on reports.

We checked 283 steelhead on the Snake River and Clearwater River during the months of August and September (Table 1). Creel personnel checked 1,282 anglers who fish a total of 5,144 hours. Hours per fish kept ranged from 10 to 19 hours, with the exception of 57 hours on the Salmon River, where water conditions were poor because of fire runoff.

Table 1. IDFG unexpanded steelhead creel, summarized by river section, August through September 2007.

SECTION	ANGLERS	HOURS	KEPT	HATCHERY RELEASED	WILD ^a RELEASED	TOTAL	VOLUNTEER SNOOTS	HOURS/ CAUGHT	HOURS/ KEPT
01	446	2,226	136	8	37	181	0	12	16
03	805	2,834	147	68	83	298	0	10	19
11	20	57	0	0	1	1	0	57	--
12	11	27	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
TOTAL	1,282	5,144	283	76	121	480	0	11	18

^a Includes wild, naturally produced, and hatchery fish without an adipose fin clip.

Harvest Monitoring Program (HMP Clearwater Office – Barrett) –

Our steelhead monitoring activities in July, August and early September centered mainly on the early steelhead harvest fishery in the Clearwater River downstream of the Memorial Bridge at Lewiston. This fishery is primarily influenced by summer water releases from Dworshak Reservoir, which can make the Clearwater River up to 12 degrees Centigrade cooler than the Snake River. Overall, both the fish and the anglers failed to show in large numbers early on. By July 1, less than 600 steelhead had crossed Lower Granite Dam, and by August 1 the count was still less than 1900 fish. Angler counts in the harvest area in August averaged less than 10 anglers per day and catch rates averaged 21 hours/fish. By mid-September, as steelhead counts at Lower Granite approached 1000 fish/day, angler counts had risen to 30-40 anglers per day but catch rates stayed around 15-30 hours/fish.

Following last year's successful start to our outfitter and guide snout recovery program, we are attempting to expand our sample this year by increasing the reward amount paid to outfitters. About a dozen additional businesses fishing the Snake, lower Salmon, and Clearwater rivers have signed up for the fall 2007 season.