

State of Idaho
Department of Fish and Game
Sawtooth Fish Hatchery
Stanley, Idaho

Date: April 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Rogers
FROM: Sawtooth Hatchery
SUBJECT: Monthly Narrative March 2010

CC: Tom Frew, LSRCP, Doug Munson, Tom Curet, Paul Kline, Brian Leth, Carl Stiefel, John Cassinelli, Mike Peterson, Sam Sharr, Eagle FH, Pahsimeroi FH, Jeff Heindel, Bob Esselman

Fish reared in March on station are as follows:

BY08 Sawtooth spring chinook N= 1,860,103 presmolts at 22 fpp and 135mm

BY08 Sockeye N= 99,596 presmolts at 40 fpp and 114mm

BY09 Sawtooth spring chinook Inside 664,472 fry at 213 fpp and 64mm
Outside 1,088,177 fry at 252 fpp and 60mm
Total Inventory N= 1,752,649 fry

BY09 Sockeye N= 98,666 swim up fry ponded
N=115,593 alevins in incubation

BY08 Sawtooth Spring Chinook presmolts are outside in ten large raceways covered by ice in the mornings. Outside feeding has increased with warmer water temperatures this month. On March 17 and 18, 21,400 chinook were PIT tagged. Forrest Bohlen and Shane Knipper performed CWT retention checks on Sawtooth BY 08 chinook. Doug Munson performed prerelease assessments on BY 08 Sawtooth Chinook.

BY08 Sockeye Salmon presmolts are being reared outside in four small raceways covered by ice in the mornings with feeding during the afternoon. On March 22 and 23, 53,000 fish were PIT tagged.

BY09 Sockeye Salmon ponding should be completed in April. Ponding will include green troughs and blue tanks to compare fish growth in different rearing containers.

BY09 Sawtooth Spring Chinook fry are ponded in 14 inside vats and being feed by auto feeders. Shane Knipper and Forrest Bohlen helped move BY08 chinook to outside raceway 1 from vats 1 through 8 moving 15,000 from each vat. Vats 9 through 14 were moved the next day moving 15,000 from each vat to outside raceways 4 and 2.

BY10 Sawtooth, East Fork and Squaw Creek steelhead operation began in March. The first row of weir panels was installed March 18 for steelhead trapping. The main hatchery adult ponds and trap were set up for steelhead trapping March 23. Twelve steelhead were spawned March 29 for the first spawn date. The East Fork trap was set up March 25. Hatchery personnel helped setup the Squaw Creek trap on March 29. On March 29 the Eastern Idaho Food Bank in Idaho Falls was given 204 steelhead and the Shoshone Bannock Tribe picked up 200 steelhead March 30. As of March 31 the total number of steelhead trapped at Sawtooth trap is 750.

Staff activities for March included daily staff meetings discussing sockeye rearing test, steelhead PIT tags, BY 09 chinook moves, and hiring for spring positions. Phil Stone has been having weekly conference calls regarding the crowder electrical upgrade for the adult ponds and tailrace grating installation project. Danielle Dorsch attended an American Fisheries Society meeting in Pocatello. Returning Bio-Aide Peter Starr started work March 8. Fish Technician Jocelyn Hatch returned to work March 16. March 22 was the first day of work for Bio-Aides Laura Rose, Kevin Miller, Celina Moreno, David Richardson, and Mark Martin. Fish Technicians Julie Markham, Shawna Johansen and Chris Klingler also started March 22. Research Data Technician Meghan Murphy started March 29. Kurtis Plaster and Brian Aston helped Bio-Mark insert 53,000 PIT into BY08 Sockeye. Brent traveled to Twin Falls for a chinook smolt release coordination meeting March 24. Chris Jeskze helped setup Squaw Pond for excess adult steelhead.

Other Activities

The visitor center lighting installation by Challenger Co. was completed. Ian Hoag with Yerba-Buena Construction did field check measurements for the holding ponds tailrace project. There was increased fish feeding this month as water temperatures slowly rose. The visitor parking lots, roadways and walkways were cleared of snow. Hatchery visitors are rerouted to parking areas and sign covers were removed. The screen was placed at the out flow to prevent fish from entering the sediment pond. The angler contribution box at Squaw Creek was installed March 26. The East Fork trap propane tank was changed out due to a leak. The PIT array in the fish ladder was set up and ready. An internet connection to dorm for uploading of PIT array recordings to PITAGIS was established.

There were 36 guests that signed the guest register in March. There were no observations of NZMS. The hatchery snow depth gauge measures 1.7 ft. of snow.