

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

Date: April 10, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Rogers
FROM: Sawtooth Hatchery
SUBJECT: Monthly Narrative February-March 2009

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:

BY 07 Sockeye	N= 99,329 at 37 fpp and 118 mm
BY07 Sawtooth spring chinook	N= 274,305 fry at 18 fpp and 146 mm
BY08 Sawtooth spring chinook	N= 1,918,693 fry at 581 fpp and 46mm
BY08 Sockeye	N= 190,907 fry at 3,072 fpp and 29mm
BY09 Steelhead eggs	N = 0 (SFH), 0 (EFK), 0 (SQP)

BY 07 Sockeye pre-smolts were fed small amounts in March due to low river water temperatures. Any mortalities are being sent to Eagle Fish Health Lab checking for surveillance of BKD and IHNV. Doug Munson did pre-liberation fish health assessments. About 50,000 sockeye received PIT with Kurtis Plaster and Mike Peterson assisting BioMark, Inc.

BY07 Sawtooth Spring Chinook parr are performing well. The fish have attained release goal size. Maintenance feeding occurs as weather permits. Fish in large raceway two are being fed a Bio-Oregon transfer diet as part of a feed study. Fish in raceway one and three are control groups. Doug Munson performed pre-liberation fish health assessments this month. About 19,000 spring Chinook salmon were inserted with PIT by IDFG mark crew.

BY08 Sawtooth Spring Chinook are ponded. Due to limited well water, transfer of these fry to outside rearing on river water will continue as vat room

indices dictate. Approximately 575,000 parr will remain inside until reaching 7 cm length.

BY08 Sockeye Salmon are all ponded into four fiber glass troughs and starting to feed well.

BY09 Steelhead: The Sawtooth weir and trap were set up March 18-19. The first steelhead was trapped March 19. The East Fork trap was set up March 20. Carl Stiefel and crew helped set up the Squaw Creek trap and weir March 24. As of March 30, 191 steelhead had been trapped at the Sawtooth trap, none at East Fork trap and none at Squaw Creek trap. One angled steelhead had been contributed from Squaw Creek Angler contribution program.

Staff activities for February included thinning of BY08 Spring Chinook from inside vats to outside raceways on river water. Weekly staff meetings occurred discussing EPA regulations, the upcoming steelhead spawning season and hiring of temporaries. Danielle Dorsch and Chris Jeszke traveled to Salmon, ID for their physical examinations to participate in the physical fitness program. Phil Stone made a new and improved grate to prevent predators from entering the vat room. Phil Stone helped the screen crew in Salmon fabricate fish screens. Phil built a fabrication table for the hatchery shop. Brent Snider submitted the temporary employee justification spread sheet. Mel Hughes attended the annual resident fish management meeting at the Magic Valley Regional Office. Mel traveled to Rapid River FH to pick up a Pesculator for use in moving fry into trucks or to other raceways. Temporaries Liz Crawford and Tommy Baker Quigley returned to hatchery work. The annual Squaw Pond Management meeting was held at the hatchery and attended by hatchery staff, Rick Lowell, Tom Curet, Carl Stiefel, Bob Esselman, Lars Alsager, Brian Leth and Jeff Lutch. Megan Murphy collected historic Chinook spawning data for Nampa Research.

Staff activities for March included thinning of BY08 Spring Chinook from inside vats to outside raceways on river water, setting up outside raceways, setting up traps, preparing spawning shed and snow and ice removal. Weekly staff meetings occurred discussing temporary employee hiring and steelhead trap setup and new employee orientation. Danielle Dorsch attended an AFS workshop and attended the Fish Culture meetings in Jerome with Chris Jeszke. Fishery Technicians Julie Markham and Shawna Johansen resumed their duties at the Squaw Creek and East Fork Traps along with newly hired Biological-Aide Laura Rose, who started March 23. Jocelyn Hatch and Chris Klingler returned as Fishery Technicians. Biological-Aides Rebecca Millard, Telly Evans, Heather Holloway, and George Smith started work in March. An all staff orientation meeting was held March 25.

Other Activities

February: Region 7 group management meeting was held at the hatchery dorm. Attendees included Tom Curet, Erick Liesinger and others. Steve

Bailey was here trouble shooting DSL problems. Area big game helicopter surveys concluded the first week of February. The Big Game crew used the hatchery as base of operations. Rays Heating and Plumbing from Salmon, ID replaced the dorm showers. Mel Hughes redefined chemical usage during spawning and hatchery disinfection of fish rearing equipment.

March: Phil Stone adjusted the clutch on the snow blower and reprogrammed the controller. The vat room incubation trough was cleaned of sand and sediment from well water. Mel Hughes was on leave February 27 through March 25.

There were 23 guests that signed the guest register in February or March. There were no observations of NZMS. Snow depth measured 27 inches at end of March.