

Monthly Activity Narrative

Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery

August 2019

Meetings/Training/Events:

- Project Leader Eaton presented Dominic Giordullo and James Needham with STAR awards for improvements to the hatchery that made Hotchkiss NFH run more efficient.



Dominic helped with implementing a new strategy of rearing fish that was different than what Hotchkiss NFH has been doing over the last 15 years. James was instrumental in converting our fish record keeping from tracking hand written data on paper to utilizing spreadsheets and Access program.

Mitigation/Recreational Fish Production:

- Last month (Aug) Hotchkiss NFH completed delivery of the spring stocking. This spring fish stocking totaled 107,568 brown trout weighing 2,797 pounds, and 500,483 rainbow trout weighing 191,103 pounds. This month the crew was busy cleaning and disinfecting the raceways and nursery tanks. This was done prior to moving fish to their final rearing densities for fall stocking.

Below chart shows fish currently on station at the end of August.

Species	Strain	Number	Weight	Fish/lb.	Size/in
RBT	FLD-19	138,880	2,427	57.22	3.52
RBT	HxH-18	65,471	12,598	5.19	7.84
RBT	HxH-18-VAC	38,960	6,676	5.8	7.55
RBT	SSD-19 ENN	120,295	12,836	9.37	6.44
RBT	SSD-19 WSS	138,402	2,735	50.60	3.67
	Total	502,008	37,272		

RBT= Rainbow, FLD= Fish Lake Domestic, SSD= Shasta Domestic, HxH= Hofer x Harrison (Colorado Strain), and VAC= Vaccinated. ENN-Ennis NFH, WSS= White Sulphur Springs NFH.

Fish Health:

- Fish health is very good. With the help of the crew, mainly Bio Tech Giordullo, we are operating the fish production differently staying within the carrying capacity of the rearing vessels the fish occupy. In the past some rearing vessels were overcrowded causing undue stress on the fish. We are having low mortalities compared to previous years during the same time frame. Hopefully it will continue throughout the remaining fiscal year.

Hatchery Maintenance

- Hotchkiss NFH crew help with pouring concrete patio's for all government quarters. Ed Hunter an experienced concrete contractor will be helping with the concrete patios on the other two quarters and possibly a driveway next month.
- We are going through the hatchery Maintenance Shop cleaning up things we need to get rid of. We are revamping and repainting the bays to be able to store aquaculture equipment while still being able to park vehicles in them.



- YCC employees have been kept busy doing aquaculture duties (feeding, cleaning, moving fish, and loading fish), helping with concrete framing, cleaning out shop bays, and painting shop bays. Their last day on station was Aug. 16. The crew held a luncheon with grilled hamburgers and hotdogs.

- Regional IT surveyed some of the slower internet connections in the Region and Hotchkiss was on the list. We were informed by IT that it would be in our best interest to upgrade our internet service and we were able to switch from having only 5 Mbs to 15 Mbs in our area through TDS. TDS had a crew here to bore a line from the pole connection underground to the building on the north side. Next month after the connection is switched we should see improved speed so we can take training without all the buffering.



- The hatchery purchased new air conditioning units for all hatchery government furnished quarters. We then had our local contractor Great Western Plumbing and Heating install the units. The old swamp coolers were not cooling down the quarters and mainly putting humidity into the houses. Once installed the occupants could tell the difference right away and liked the conditioning units.