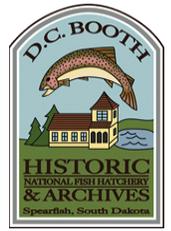


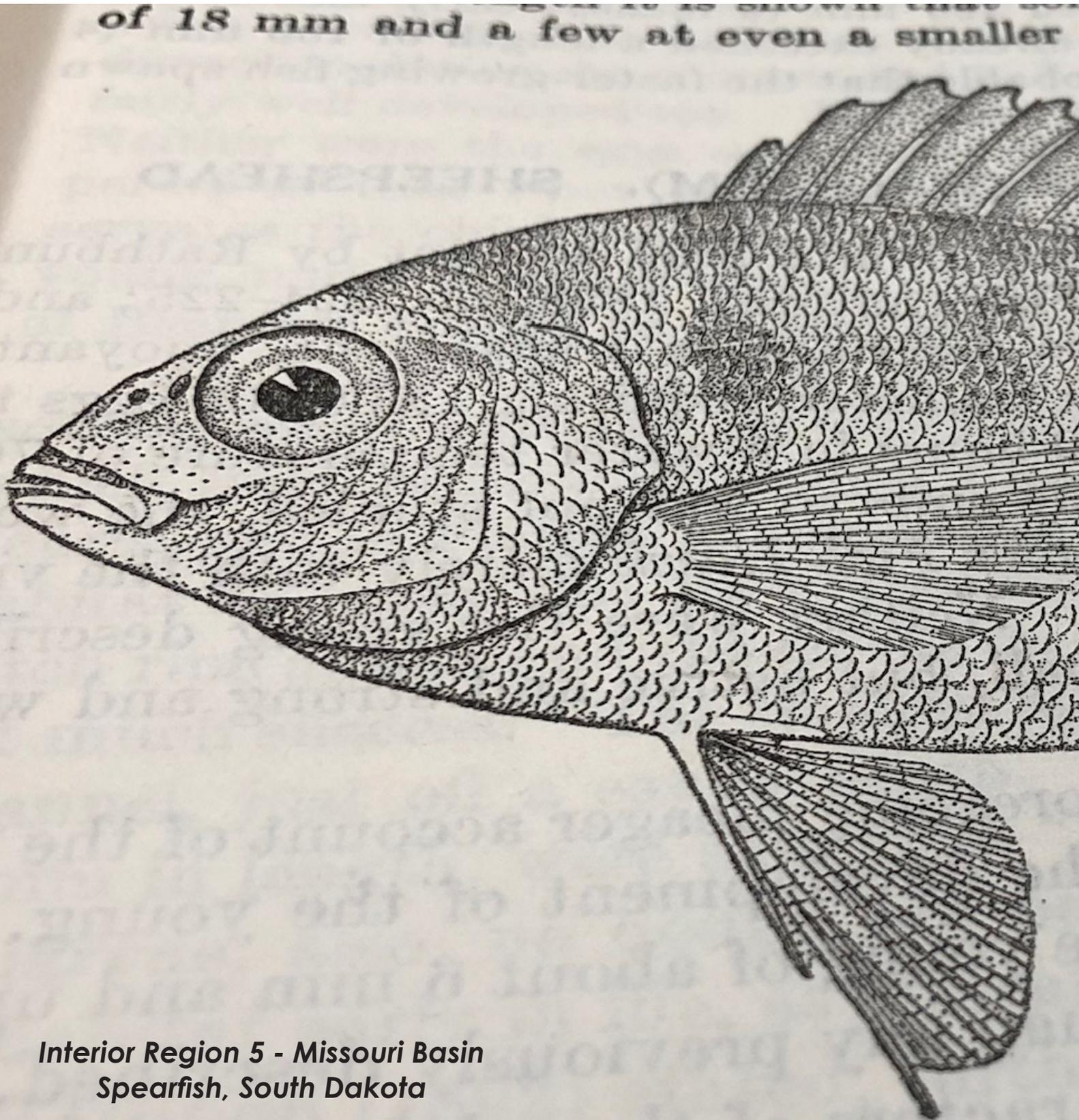


# MONTHLY REPORT

## December 2020/January 2021



D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery  
and National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives



**Interior Region 5 - Missouri Basin**  
**Spearfish, South Dakota**

# Fish Culture - Tribal Trust

Despite the COVID pandemic and resulting stringent restrictions to access tribal lands, D.C. Booth staff was able to communicate and collaborate with tribal leaders in order to improvise and successfully provide 8 different reservations in SD and MT with their annual allocated trout stockings in a safe and attentive manner. Tribal nations are especially vulnerable to COVID-19s health risks and the effects of the current recession.

Stocking tribal lands not only provides recreational fishing opportunities, but also food and a boost in economically depressed areas while fulfilling tribal obligations on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Fish Culture - Miscellaneous

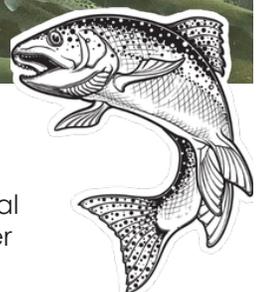
D.C. Booth is partnering with Idaho Fish and Game and the McNenny State Fish Hatchery (SD) on an experimental YY Brown trout broodstock project. 1,000 4" YY Brown trout were transferred to D.C. Booth in July 2020 and will remain on site for 2-3 years while efficacy studies are conducted.

As auxiliary duties, Carlos serves as the National Broodstock Coordinator and also represents Legacy Region 6 on the Hatchery Operations Work Group (HOWG).

SPECIES	LOT	PURPOSE	#	FPP	WEIGHT	LENGTH
McConaughy	RBT-MCD-19-ENN	Tribal Trust	5,200	3.7	3,468	10"
Fish Lake	RBT-FLC-20-SAR	Tribal Trust	29,992	9.9	749	7"
McConaughy	RBT-MCD-20-ENN	Tribal Trust	31,574	42.57	742	5"
Plymouth Rock	BNT-PRD-20-SAR(McNenny)	YY Broodstock - AIS	900	7.75	116	7"
Mixed	Display	Educational Outreach	8,200	Mixed		14-24"



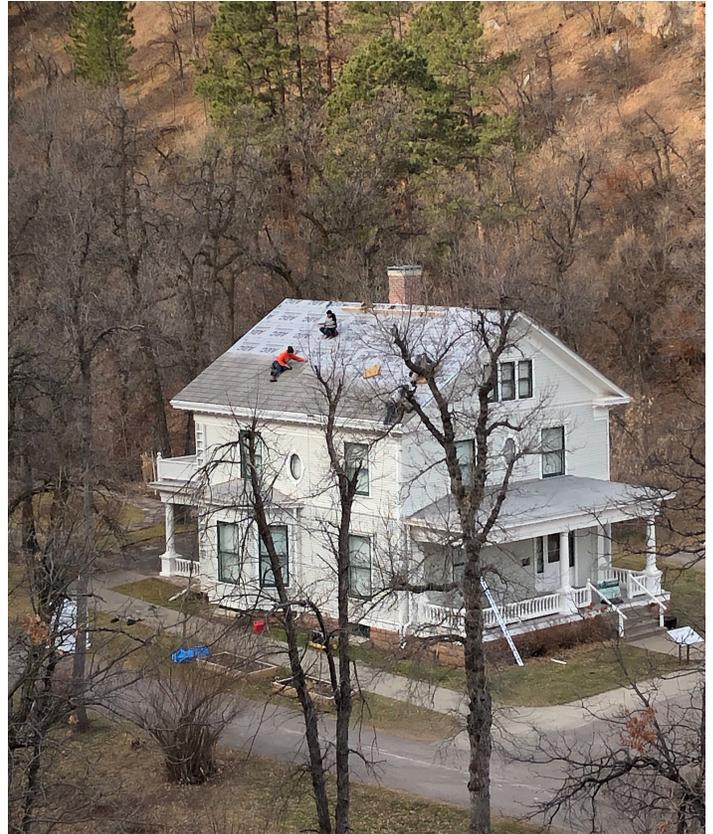
Removal of dead leaves from ponds and raceways is a routine duty, even into the winter months (left). Alternative water supplies are being researched for potential replacements to the current surface water source.



# Facility Operations

## December

- New roofs were installed on the historic hatchery building, Booth House, WPA and replica ice house as well as the gift shop, boat display cover and 4-stall garage. All were damaged in the June 2020 hail storm. Project required a lot of coordination with RO engineering, contractor, and sub-contractor.
- Performed brush and vegetative debris clean up and removal around site for fire prevention purposes.
- Assisted with Regional Wage Grade position interviews.
- Glass contractor replaced panes in Booth House, 4-stall, and museum. All were damaged in the June 2020 hail storm.
- Repaired gutter on museum and the gazebo entry sign.
- Fire extinguisher inspection.
- Repaired snow broom.



## January

- Replaced well motor on raceways. There was not enough water to maintain the pump pressure which caused the motor spline to strip out. One raceway was entirely on well water and the well went out in the middle of the night resulting in a scary morning discovery that that raceway only had a few inches of water. Luckily, all fish were ok and we got back-up water to them quickly.
- A high wind event broke off the top of a large spruce tree and it narrowly missed our recently installed well headbox (below).
- Built fish distribution discharge pipe.
- Repaired raceway netting anchors.
- Began safety program updates in preparation for the 2021 season.
- Conducted annual generator service.
- Repaired snow broom again. This equipment will need to be replaced in a year or two.

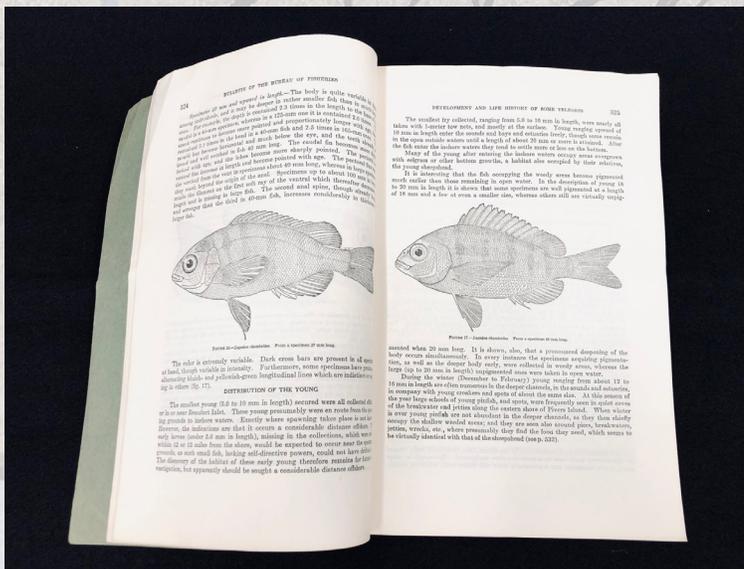


# National Fish & Aquatic Conservation Archives

- April and Carlos reviewed the last draft of the manuscript for *America's Bountiful Waters*, the FAC 150th Anniversary Book. They submitted corrections and edits for the publisher. April worked with Craig Springer and Tait Ronningen on final changes to the station map that will be highlighted in the book.
- April probed the collection for drawings by Louella Cable, the first female scientist hired by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, the predecessor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in 1927. One of her illustrations is on the cover of this report.
- Continued collaboration with NCTC for 2021 150th Fisheries film.
- Ongoing importation of archival data into the ICMS database.
- Received and processed several new donations into the collection.
- Mitch and April set up the storage racks in the archives that were excess from Rocky Mountain Arsenal. The objects being put on the shelves are no longer sitting directly on the floor and the shelves have opened up some space. Two more levels of the shelving will have additional objects put on them in the next few weeks.
- Routine environmental monitoring and pest control of collection storage and exhibit areas. Routine cleaning of the archives, museum and other exhibits.
- Responded to numerous individual and agency research requests. Research requests included information on fisheries facilities in Idaho and Iowa, and several historical information requests from the WO FAC Outreach office as they prep for celebrating the



FAC 150th, among others.



- Continued working with the Booth Society on historic hatchery information, photos for use in 2021 during the hatchery's 125th anniversary.
- Heritage Committee calls & duties include but are not limited to: Artifacts Subcommittee, 150th Subcommittee, 150th Design team, and FWS curators call.
- As the friends group liaison, participated on calls and discussions regarding the OIG Friends Group Audit

# USFWS Program Partnerships

## USFWS Wing Bee Different this Year

A wingbee starts with a selection of hunters that send in a duck wing or goose tail from each bird they harvest throughout the hunting season. Biologists and volunteers then review each wing or tail to determine the species, sex, and age, which provides an estimate of overall harvest as well as the relative harvest of males, females, juveniles and adults. Ultimately, the wingbee data is fed into population models and helps biologists evaluate and set waterfowl hunting seasons.

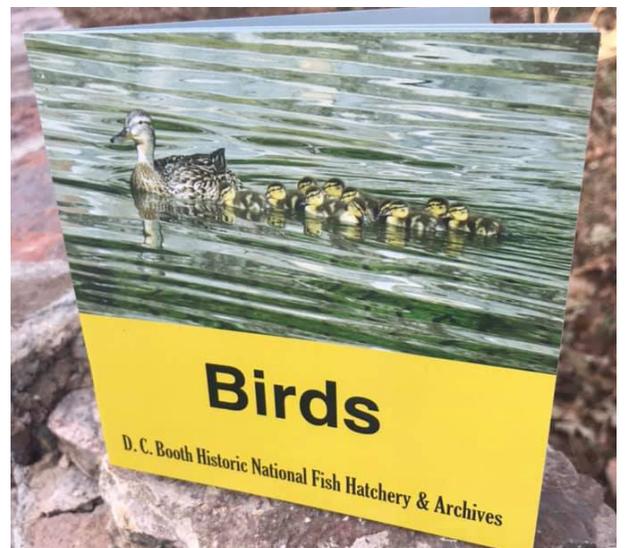
Terry Liddick is a Wildlife Biologist and Pilot with the Division of Migratory Bird Management and is based out of D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery. Normally he would travel to the Central Flyway Wingbee event held at Flint Hills NWR to help process about 20,000 wings with other biologists and a large crew of volunteers. Due to the pandemic, the event could not be held and Terry had over 6,000 wings to process. Fortunately D.C. Booth personnel were willing and able to assist. The crew of 3 to 4 employees spent four days in January identifying wings.



## Community Outreach



**Above:** The Holidazzle Parade adjusted to COVID by doing a cruise through parade in City Campground. The Booth Society board members put this float together for the hatchery entry.



**Above:** Karen Holzer, executive director of the Booth Society, worked with a local photographer to put this book together about birds found at D.C. Booth. All photos were taken on the hatchery grounds.

**The Booth Society gave a copy of the book to every kindergarten and pre-K student in Spearfish!**

# Friends Group - Booth Society, Inc.

The Booth Society has been busy with their 2021 membership drive. In celebration of D.C. Booth's 125th Anniversary, they are working towards their goal of 125 new members. All 2021 members receive a 2021 calendar which highlights historical photos of the D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery (right).

With Hatchery Holidays canceled because of the pandemic, the Booth Society did not decorate the grounds to the extent of years past. This year their efforts focused on the hatchery entrance and gift shop (below).

The gift shop was open for holiday shopping and brought in \$4,872 in sales. A local brass band played holiday tunes outside the gift store, the melodies could be heard throughout the hatchery grounds.

Karen and Nancy, Booth Society staff, have attended virtual trainings from Public Lands Alliance (PLA), and friends trainings through NCTC. Karen continues to assist with the Wild West Webinar series that benefits FWS friends groups.

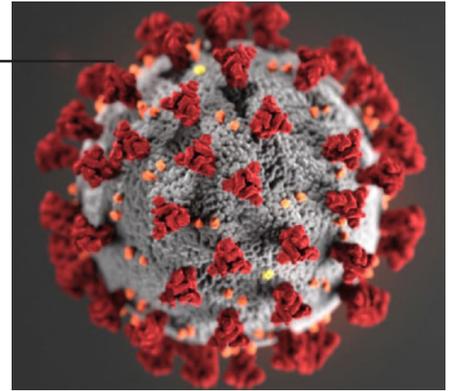


125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
CELEBRATION

LEARN MORE



# COVID-19



Case numbers have steadily dropped since our last report in early December. Hatchery personnel continue to take the pandemic serious and continue to take safety precautions.

As of February 5, there were 2,430 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in South Dakota - in November there were 15,575. There are 34 active cases in Lawrence County, compared with 389 active cases at the end of November.

Numerous events, meetings, and trainings have been canceled or postponed in 2020. FWS staff continue to perform mission critical duties at D.C. Booth while being cognizant of social distancing and isolation protocols.

D.C. Booth's museum, venues, and public restrooms are currently closed for the winter. Hatchery grounds are open from dawn to dusk daily.



## CALENDAR

### Events

~~Hatchery Holidays Open House - canceled~~

December week 3-5 - Winter Wonderland Drive-thru Christmas Light Display

Dec 3-10 Christmas Shopping at Gift Store

### Monthly Committee and Workgroup Calls

Hatchery Operations Work Group (HOWG) Call

Mountain-Prairie NFH Project Leaders Call

Monthly SD Game Fish and Parks Partnerships Meeting

YY Brown Trout Broodstock Update Meeting

FWS Curators Call

Heritage Committee Call

Artifacts Subcommittee Call (Heritage Committee)

FWS 150th Subcommittee Call (Heritage Committee)

Monthly Booth Society, Inc. Meeting

## Hatchery Staff

Carlos Martinez, **Project Leader**  
April Gregory, **Curator of Collections & Exhibitions**  
Mitch Adams, **Facility Operations Specialist**

Vacant, **Fishery Biologist**  
Vacant, **Archivist**  
Mike Stracco, **Bio. Science Tech** (part-time)