



Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery Complex

Restoring America's Fisheries

"We work with our partners and engage the public, using a science-based approach, to conserve, restore and enhance fish and other aquatic resources for the continuing benefit of the American people."

March 2019

Fish Culture

Trout and salmon culture activities are keeping staff busy. Surplus rainbow trout eggs from White Sulphur Springs NFH were received to provide forage for our broodstock sturgeon, burbot and aquarium fish. The Bozeman FTC staff were on station providing our annual fish health assessment. Recommendations were made to provide a follow up treatment with hydrogen peroxide on our brown trout. The brown trout are rebounding from cold water disease and *Chilodonella*. Mortality is still occurring but at chronic low levels. Appreciate the efforts of the FHC crew in providing excellent service to the field.

Upcoming Activities

- Northern pike and walleye spawning in cooperation with the NDGF
- Stocking of catchable rainbow trout in urban fisheries across the state
- Stocking of rainbow and brown trout in the Lake Sakakawea tailwaters
- Development of SOP's for fish culture and maintenance activities
- Isolation building renovation at Valley City NFH
- Investigate water quality monitoring systems specifically to monitor dissolved gasses at Garrison Dam NFH in conjunction with recently installed vacuum degassing towers
- Potential flooding concerns in the Sheyenne River could impact the hatchery
- The siphon was lost due to low lake levels at Baldhill and hatchery staff will be working with the COE to restart water to fill ponds
- Pond preparation for stocking pike and walleye
- Window installation on the hatchery quarters at Valley City NFH

Partnerships

Upper Basin Pallid Workgroup Met to discuss the year's accomplishments and plan for the coming season. The Project Leader presented the efforts of the hatchery in meeting the goals for the larval drift study and results of a feed experiment. The NDGF Divisional meeting was canceled due to the corona virus. Lake sturgeon restoration efforts are on hold for the 2020 season as our egg source Sustainable Sturgeon, in Emo, Ontario could not come up with a solution to the movement of eggs across the Canadian boarder or through the states due to COVID-19. On a positive note, we were able to secure \$20K in funding through Fish Passage dollars to purchase PIT tags and look into the development of PIT tag arrays in the Sheyenne and Pembina Rivers to monitor the distribution of hatchery released sturgeon in the Red River tributaries following the removal or renovation of dams.

Employee Development

Staff spent time catching up on the flood of mandatory training that came out over the past month.

Public Use

The new aquarium is in place and plumbed in. The hatchery crew enclosed the space to provide for a more aesthetically pleasing and secure work area behind the aquarium. Rock work for the facade is nearly complete. We are anxious for the pandemic to subside and our new attraction be unveiled to the public. The crew did a fantastic job in getting the exhibit installed and ready to go while maintaining social distancing.



Visitor Center Aquarium

Maintenance



New VAF-1000 installed at Baldhill Dam NFH

Baldhill Culture Building - March was a busy month for staff as they plumbed in new filters in preparation for fish production. A new VAF-1000 filter was purchased for the Baldhill Culture Facility to upsize the filter that was previously in place. In response to the discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Ashtabula in 2019 water is now being filtered down to 25 micron whereas previously water was filtered at 50 micron. The previous filter ran a constant backflush cycle in order to keep up with water needs during lake sturgeon production. The larger filter increases water flow and filtering capabilities by approximately 50%, increasing efficiency and reliability.

Isolation Building - Rehabilitation of the musky building into an Isolation Facility is ongoing. The new VAF-1000 filtration system was installed and plumbed to rearing tanks. The building can currently be used as a flow through system now utilizing water filtered at 25 micron rather than using the holding house filter. The next step is to finish tying the systems together so it is capable of running as a recirculating or flow through system. All that remains is finishing the drain line to the drum filter that will be used during recirculation, plumbing water up to the head tank, and electrical run to booster pumps. Outside of plumbing the interior of the building is being painted and a new walk door is ready to be put in.



Filter installation in the Isolation Facility

Hatchery Production Summary (Intensive Culture)

Station:	Garrison Dam NFH	Period Covered:	October 1, 2019	February 28, 2020								
Species/Strain and Lot Number	<i>Fish on Hand the Last Day of the Period</i>					<i>To Date This Fiscal Year</i>						
						Weight	Feed Expended		Fish Shipped			Survival from 1 st
	Number	Weight	Length	D.I.	F.I.	Gain	Pounds	Cost	Number	Weight	Conversion	Inventory
RBT-SSD-19-ENN	56,186	28,234	11.28	0.42	1.11	14,622	19,630	\$11,974			1.34	99.7
RBT-SSD-20-ENN												
BNT-PRD-18-SAR	11,432	4,397	9.88	0.27	1.01	306	5,100	\$5,401			16.67	60.4
BNT-PRD-19-SAR	18,540	124	2.55	0.31	0.97	124	139	\$178			1.12	96.7
RBT-HCD-18-WY	14,357	7,004	11.15	0.34	1.22	3,047	5,050	\$3,052			1.66	91.9
FCS-LSW-19-FR	435,449	4,108	3.16	0.25	1.26	3,960	3157	\$4,553			0.80	99.1
Totals/Averages	535,966	43,867				22,059	33,076	\$25,160	0	0	1.50	

Hatchery Complex Personnel

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Functional Title</i>	<i>Grade</i>
<i>Robert Holm</i>	<i>Project Leader</i>	<i>GS-13</i>
<i>Jerry Tishmack</i>	<i>Fishery Biologist</i>	<i>GS-11</i>
<i>Sean Henderson</i>	<i>Fishery Biologist</i>	<i>GS-11</i>
<i>Shawn Cole</i>	<i>Fishery Biologist</i>	<i>GS-7</i>
<i>Toni Ganje</i>	<i>Administrative Support</i>	<i>GS-7</i>
<i>Ben Oldenburg</i>	<i>Fisheries Technician</i>	<i>NDGF</i>
<i>Aaron Von Eschen</i>	<i>Assistant Project Leader</i>	<i>GS-12</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Biological Technician</i>	<i>GS-5</i>
<i>Paul Drabus</i>	<i>Maintenance Worker</i>	<i>GS-7</i>

No personnel changes this month. Waiting to fill vacant biological technician positions at Valley City NFH and Garrison Dam NFH.