

Monthly Activity Narrative

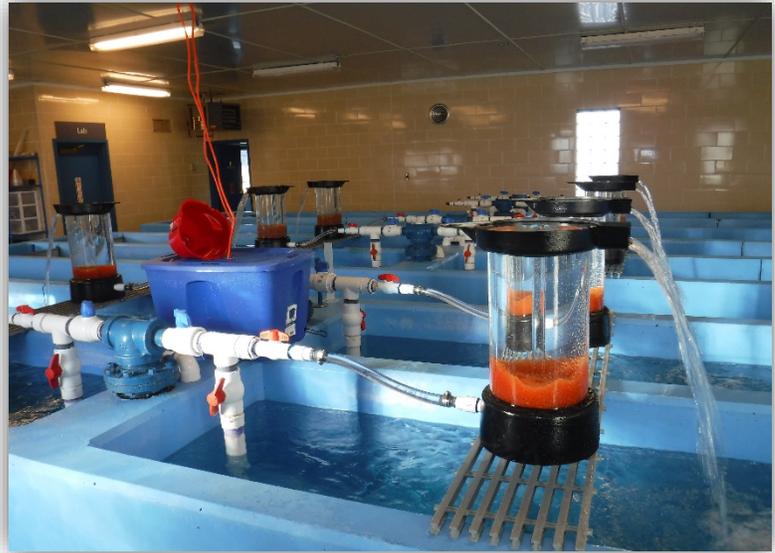
Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery (HNFH)

December/January 20/21

Mitigation/Recreational Fish Production:

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- Hotchkiss NFH received a total of 475,619 ARD strain rainbow trout eggs on 12/1 and 12/8, from Ennis NFH. Eggs were placed in egg jars where water was turned up to gently roll the eggs. Eggs hatched two weeks after they were received.



In December, crew moving outside raceway fish to their final rearing destination in C, D, and E banks where they will thrive until this April when fish spring stocking begins.

Below table shows fish currently on station at the end of January.

Species	Strain	Number	Weight	Fish/lb.	Size/in
RBT	SSD-WSS-20	217,464	44,562	4.88	8.00
RBT	ARD-ENN-20	455,355	749	607.83	1.60
BNT	PRD-BNT-20	29,350	44	670.33	1.55
	TOTAL Fish	702,169	45,355		

RBT= Rainbow Trout: FLD= Fish Lake Domestic, SSD= Shasta Domestic, ARD=Arlee Domestic, HxH= Hofer x Harrison (Colorado Strain), BNT= Brown Trout: PRD=Plymouth Rock Domestic. ENN- Ennis NFH, and WSS= White Sulphur Springs NFH.

Fish Health:

- Fish have been doing well Dec/Jan. Nothing worth reporting

Outreach

The hatchery was approached by Trent Hannafious (On the right) Vice President of the Montrose Trout Unlimited, to partner with the Hotchkiss High School for a Trout in the Classroom project. Trout Unlimited supplied the aquarium and chiller, Hotchkiss NFH would supply the fish (~50 eggs). In October, Project Leader Eaton helped Trent and the Science Teacher, Michael Munoz (on the left), set up the aquarium and chiller. Hotchkiss NFH received trout eggs from Ennis NFH in December 8 and placed 100-ARD strain rainbow trout in a net pen that was floated in the aquarium. The eggs hatched two weeks after placing them in the net (Dec. 22). Fry are now on feed and starting to put a little size on them. The biology class will track trout development and water chemistry.



Hatchery Maintenance

- New rear tires on the hatchery distribution truck. The original tires that came with the 2018 Mack distribution truck wore to a point that before this year's spring distribution they would need replacing.

- Quarters #3 –Repaired pellet stove by clearing the auger jam and replacing the snap disc that shuts off the stove if it gets too hot. Stove is working fine now and warming up the quarter's now.



Crew member James Needham power washing the sand from the head box of A-bank. Preparing the raceways for fish in the nursery to be moved out next month.

Crew member Dominic Giordullo power washing under the roadway to clear sand from head box





We were lucky enough in December to pick up a backhoe from Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, in Fritch, TX. There is a National Parks Equipment Mechanic that used to work here at Hotchkiss NFH a while ago that visited us last summer and we mentioned that having a backhoe would be nice. He remembered that when the Park Service he works at put a backhoe up for surplus. Dominic was

notified and did some inquiring. We actually got the backhoe *Transfer of Property* to Hotchkiss NFH. Then, Texas Park Service personnel were picking up some other equipment in Gunnison, Co, so they brought up the backhoe and delivered it to us for nothing. The backhoe works perfect.

Hatchery Crew Personnel:

Current employees at Hotchkiss NFH are as follows:

Craig Eaton – Project Leader
Dominic Giordullo – Bio Science Tech
Katelynn Russell- Bio Science Tech
James Needham- Bio Science Tech