

Monthly Activity Narrative

Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery

May 2019

Meetings/Training/Events:

- May 13-24- Seasonal employee Katelynn Russell attended the *Cold Water Fish Culture* training in Albuquerque, NM. She learned about rearing fish from fertilizing broodstock to release of catchable size trout. How to keep records of spawning, egg lots, rearing fry, and fish transportation was of most importance to her.
-

Outreach/Visitors:

- May 6 & 13- A tour of the hatchery was performed by Asst. Manager Oviedo for Community Options, Inc. This organization provides and coordinate services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- May 20 & 23- Project Leader Eaton and Bio Tech Needham helped Colorado Parks and Wildlife with the spring fling at Sweitzer Lake Park in Delta, CO. Eaton helped with archery and Needham with the fishing event. There were 100 total kids from 4th Grade coming from Paonia and Hotchkiss schools in Colorado.



Safety

- Nothing to report.

Mitigation/Recreational Fish Production:

This past winter still has Colorado reservoirs covered in ice not allowing us to stock fish at the time we have in the past. Most everything has been pushed back a month. Trying to make room and stock fish when we can, will be a communication effort with us and CPW, NMFG, and Ute Indian Tribe this year just to keep fish alive.

Below chart shows fish delivered during the month of May.

Species	Strain	Number	Weight	Size/in	Water Body
RBT	FLD-18-1	13,037	2762	8.0	Lemon Reservoir, CO
RBT	ARD-18	103,256	4,169	5.0	Leadville NFH, CO
RBT	FLD-18-2	38,497	6987	8.0	Heron Reservoir, NM
	Total	154,790	13,918		

Fish Health:

- Last year Hotchkiss NFH tested positive for furunculosis (*Aeromonas salmonicida*, furunc). It even tested positive in the nursery where spring water comes into the hatchery first. This concerned us because if our source water was infected with furunc then we would need to change our operations. We collaborated with Bozeman Fish Health Center (BFHC) to determine where in the source water furunc could be positive. It was decided that sampling water at 10 sites, that represented the hatchery water supply, would be sufficient enough to determine where the furunc could be originating from. The method used by BFHC to determine the presence of furunc was polymerase chain reaction (PCR). First, before sampling water, fish in the nursery were moved to the outside raceways. The nursery tanks and pipelines were disinfected. Stricter biosecurity measures were established for nursery workers. As fish were stocked, raceway banks were emptied allowing us to disinfect the head boxes and raceways. We could only do banks A&B, because banks C-E still had fish that were treated for furunc and need to be stocked later in the spring. Samples were taken and the results indicated that the only water samples testing positive for furunc were from the headboxes of bank D and E. Knowing this we will concentrate our efforts into disinfecting both D and E headboxes and raceways when they become empty later this spring.

Hatchery Maintenance

- May 9- Government Quarters #3 had the bath/shower replaced by Larry Connally, owner of Great Western Plumbing and Heating, LLC. This was needed because the occupant was experiencing issues with the bath tub faucet leaking and the tub drain plug was not staying in the up position. Plus overall the two other government quarters had the bath/shower replaced prior and it was time for quarters 3 replacement.
- May 9- Last year Bio Tech Giordullo, Bio Tech Russell and YCC crew helped in landscaping an area that once was a juniper jungle into decorative xeriscape. In May both Bio Techs replanted the planter boxes with flowers and water fountains are back up operating making the office entrance and public bathroom area more attractive for visitors.

