



Mora National Fish Hatchery

January 2014

Safety and Security

During the first two weeks of January, hatchery staff concentrated on improving safety and security around the station. The hatchery was originally designed with outside halogen security lighting that has worked intermittently through the years. These fixtures were replaced with modern LED lighting which are very energy efficient and provide a much longer service life. These new lamps are consistent with the lamps that were installed throughout the hatchery building for lighting and will reduce the different types of spares that the hatchery will have to keep in stock. In addition, the lamp bases were replaced with a weather resistant housing that incorporates independently adjustable heads and a dusk to dawn module that will realize additional energy savings.

Hatchery staff also identified several areas in the hatchery building where tripping and slipping hazards could potentially exist. One such area exists around the raceways. Hatchery staff routinely uses the 14 inch supply line to access the walkway between raceways. As this is near the head of the raceway, it is subject to splashing from influent water. A commercial non-slip coating was purchased and installed at both ends of the raceways to prevent such an event.

The stairwells that connect the up and down stairs portion of the hatchery were also identified as a potential hazard. The stairwells received the same coating that has dramatically improved traction in this area. The last area to receive the non-slip coating was on the beds of the stocking trucks. The beds were particularly slick as it was just painted steel. Mora staff will continue to be pro-active as more potential sites are identified.



Future Broodstock Tagging

Pit tagging of the 2013 year class started in January. The main diamond fish were completed with roughly 12 fish per family being tagged. South Diamond fish will start in February with approximately 500 fish from each lineage being tagged.



Wild Fish Alarm System

Installation of the wild fish alarm systems started in January. Once completed this new alarm system will provide another layer of protection for these rare fish.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



- Hatchery staff began checking captive broodstock for “readiness” in January. Several males have begun to produce milt, but, in general it looks like it will be a month or two before spawning commences.
- Additional aquariums that will allow the hatchery to keep more individual families were installed in January.

Maintenance

- A flush valve was replaced in the hatchery bathroom, as it had been leaking for several months.
- Lighting in the hatchery bathroom was repaired and the ballast was replaced.
- Restoration work continued on the “airlift box” for fish transport.
- New standpipes were created for the 30 gallon round tanks. The new design will allow fry to be placed into them, if needed.
- The effluent line contained in the bio-filter of recirculation system 2 ruptured on January 30 during a power outage. This condition then allowed bio-media to escape the bioreactor and enter the stripping tower and raceways. Hatchery staff diagnosed the problem and repaired the broken flange. This same type of repair had been completed on system 1 approximately 7 years ago and appears to be a design flaw in the system.

In Brief

The volunteers for the 2014 season were selected. One is returning volunteer Sandy Kalb, who was instrumental in designing several projects last year. The second is a couple, Jim and Gail Graham, who have previously worked at several other hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest.

Mora had a site visit from the local fire department as part of their certification process.

Hatchery Staff

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