



Mora National Fish Hatchery

March 2013

2013 Gila Trout Spawning

The captive broodstock for the Main and South Diamond lineages of Gila Trout were spawned during the months of February and March. Each lineage was spawned on six different dates to fully capture the variability of “ripeness” for each lineage.

Sixty five genetically appropriate 1x1 crosses were taken from the Main Diamond lineage resulting in 38,404 green eggs. Fertilization and subsequent eye-up resulted in 20,847 eyed eggs or 54.3% eye up. This number represents a hatchery high, and is approximately 20% higher than previous record of 43.6% in 2011. Hatching was completed by the end of March and resulted in a final fry number of 18,864 or an eye-up to hatch rate of 90.5%. Fecundity of each Main Diamond female was 630 eggs and represents an approximate increase of 15% over previous years. Forty families were retained for future broodstock, with special emphasis been given to families that were tagged as totally unrelated by Dr. Wade Wilson at SNARC.

Fifty genetically appropriate 1x1 crosses were taken from the South Diamond lineage resulting in 31,045 green eggs. Fertilization and subsequent eye-up resulted in 15,677 eyed eggs or 50.5% eye up. This number represents a hatchery high, and is approximately 6% higher than previous record of 47.5% in 2011.

Hatching was completed by the end of March and resulted in a final fry number of 14,014 or an eye-up to hatch rate of 89.4%. Fecundity of each South Diamond female was 621 eggs and is equivalent to previous years. Thirty eight high quality families were retained from list provided by Dr. Wilson.



Teresa Martinez moves to the RO

Teresa Martinez, Administrative Assistant at Mora, was promoted to Budget Analyst in the department of Budget and Finance in the RO. Her last day was March 8. The staff wishes her well. She will be missed.



Intern hired

Daniel Gallegos was hired as an intern in March. His first day was March 5. He previously had worked at the hatchery as an YCC student, Emergency hire - Biological Aid, and as a volunteer. The staff is grateful to have him back.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



Wild Main Diamond Spawning

Throughout the month of March, hatchery staff had been checking the readiness of the wild Main Diamond Gila Trout. Softening of the females was observed mid-month, and when the fish were checked on March 28, they were very close to spawning. The fish were again checked on March 30 and were found to be approximately 30% ready. Genetic relatedness had been performed at SNARC and all poor crosses were ruled out. Twenty two 1x1 crosses were taken, and thus far, the eggs appear to be very good quality. Additional crosses will be made as the fish ripen. Hatch is expected around the end of April.

Maintenance

- Hatchery staff continued preparing the 2012 Ford F250 and 2006 Chevy 2500 for stocking. The F250 replaces the Dodge ¾ ton, and the Chevy was a transfer from the USFWS Fire program. These new units will allow the hatchery to have greater flexibility when stocking.
- One of the domestic water pumps was rehabilitated with fresh seals and new paint.
- A new headache rack was designed and constructed for the Chevy ¾ ton.
- MSDS binders were updated throughout the facility.
- The flammable cabinet located in the truck bay was cleaned, inventoried, and waste was properly disposed of. Some containers predated all current employees.

In Brief

The hatchery underwent an environmental audit on March 13 performed by Patrick McDermott from the Region 2 RECC. Steve McEvoy from the Region 2 safety office also performed the safety audit.

Grant Langmaid attended CDSO safety training in Albuquerque, in March and became the new stations CDSO.

Surplus chemical stock was donated to New Mexico Highlands University's chemistry department after checking with SNARC.

The remaining Whiskey Creek lineage Gila Trout held at NMFWCO were transferred to the newly constructed naturalistic rearing units in the Ozone room on March 22. All fish are doing well.

Hatchery Staff

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Grant Langmaid, Fish Biologist
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