



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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TO: Region 6 Fisheries
Friends of Gavins Point NFH

FROM: Project Leader, Gavins Point NFH

SUBJECT: January 2010 Station Update

Production/Hatchery Operations

Fish currently on station:

2009 year class pallid sturgeon	5,965 – representing 14 family groups
Captive pallid sturgeon brood-stock	2,686 – including 12 different year-classes
Wild adult pallid sturgeon	5 – middle basin origin to be over-wintered
Rainbow trout	1,195 at 0.69 fish per lb – Age 2 - 3 derby fish
Rainbow trout	3,883 – at 2.0 fish per lb – Age 1 derby fish
Rainbow trout	6,044– at 28 fish per lb – Age 0 derby fish
Rainbow trout	110,000 – at 826 fish per lb and approximately 100,000 sac fry – forage for pallid sturgeon

The chloramine-T treatments administered in December appear to have been effective as the pallid sturgeon performed pretty well in January. Feed amounts were increased slightly during the month and prophylactic salt treatments are still being administered monthly on all pallid sturgeon.

Three year classes of rainbow trout continue to be maintained to meet annual stocking requests, for the kids fishing derby, and for pallid sturgeon forage. Monthly eyed egg shipments from Ennis NFH are scheduled through March. 179 pounds (109,365) of two inch rainbow trout were fed as forage to the various broodstock on station in January.

Jeff Powell completed a complete inventory and catalog of the pallid sturgeon captive broodstock and linked all the wild individuals which have been spawned over the years to the fish we are currently maintaining on station. During this process, the family groupings and number of individual fish representing each wild fish were also updated. Our numbers were adjusted slightly over what has been previously reported. In all, we have 2,686 fish in captivity. These fish are in 12 different year classes and consist of 128 families, representing 114 different wild fish.

Personnel/Training/Safety

Craig Bockholt attended a coordination meeting with the State of Nebraska hatchery folks on January 12. Walleye and perch production were discussed along with coordination of stocking.

The Hatchery provided a draft Asian clam risk assessment and risk management plan to its partners for review and comment. This plan outlines the risks posed by the discovery of the invasive Asian clam in Lewis and Clark Lake and suggests management actions to minimize risks associated with stocking fish from Gavins Point NFH. The plan will be discussed at upcoming winter meetings and modified and

implemented based on partner input.

The hatchery advertised its seasonal Biological Science Technician position during the month. A selection should be made in February.

Paperwork was submitted to extend Jason Rockne in his Student Temporary Employment Position (STEP) during the month.

Kurt Schilling attended the Middle Basin Pallid Sturgeon Work Group winter meeting.

Jeff Powell and Tom Kent attended the Upper Basin Propagation Committee meeting and pallid sturgeon early mortality workshop.

Craig Bockholt conducted the monthly safety meeting. Marv Ehlers discussed using personal protective equipment (PPE), and Tom Kent discussed the stations hearing conservation program. All staff will be getting baseline hearing tests next month.

Craig Bockholt took decibel readings throughout the hatchery to establish baseline data for incorporation into the hearing conservation program.

Dr. Cliff Summers presented a talk to the hatchery staff presenting some of the results on the trials and experiments that the University of South Dakota has been conducting on rainbow trout here at the hatchery.

Diane Von Eschen continued working on the continuing education training required under her warrant.

Outreach

Marv Ehlers assisted the Friends Group with website updates and coordination.

Tom Kent continued making contacts needed for the American Fisheries Society Hutton Scholarship Program position at the Hatchery.

Several staff met with contractors inquiring about the Well #4 construction project which was advertised during the month.

Maintenance

Snow removal was ongoing and frequent during January.

Contractors completed bi-annual generator service and replaced a fuel solenoid in the new generator.

The new well and motor (on the new water tower) were pulled and repaired. Several shaft bearings, shafts, and one of the bulls were replaced. The motor was also adjusted and serviced. This repair was done on an emergency purchase order, as the problem once discovered, needed to be addressed immediately.

Four aquarium tanks were drained and prepped for glass replacement.

The new fish transport tanks were set up and prepped for use.

Visitor facility enhancements, energy projects, deferred maintenance and construction projects were updated and submitted to the Regional Office.

New storage shelf units were assembled and installed in the 6-stall garage.