FISH PATHOLOGIST REPORT

Location
Feather River Hatchery

Species
Fall run Chinook

Date
9 June 2010

Ponds
B-6

Fish Health Assessment

Twenty fish were selected for a health condition assessment, using the Goede Health Condition Profile (HCP) method. The HCP is not intended to be diagnostic, but rather to provide a quick and simple means of judging overall health and condition of a group of fish. These 20 fish scored very well and appeared in excellent health.

The average weight of fish was 9.2 grams and the average length was 101.9 mm. The average length-weight condition factor was 0.86 (see raw data on accompanying Excel spreadsheet). All fins, skin, eyes, pseudobranchs, thymus, gastrointestinal tracts (food was absent in tract because fish were being readied for transport), kidneys and livers appeared normal. Two of 20 gills were slightly anemic, but hematocrit levels and kidneys appeared normal, suggesting this could have been a result of infection with Flavobacterium branchiophilum (see comments below). The average hematocrit (packed blood cell volume) was 45.5% (within normal range) and the average plasma protein concentration was 5.7 g/dL (also within normal range). The average mesenteric fat score was 1.45, indicating fish had good fat reserves. All fish scored a “1” on smolt index indicating that the fish are readying for outmigration, but will develop further. The overall score was 0.1 (zero is considered a perfect score). These fish appear healthy, properly developed and ready for outmigration.

Comments
Water temp 56°F.
Fish were treated with H2O2 for bacterial gill disease on June 10th (see June 8 and 9 path reports) after moderate levels of F. branchiophilum bacteria were found on the gills of all 20 of the fish examined, and mortality increased overnight. Ten additional fish were examined on the 14th prior to transport and found to have acceptable levels of the bacteria (which does not survive in seawater), and were cleared for release (14 June path report).

Submitted By: Tresa Veek, Associate Fish Pathologist, CDFG

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