



Fish Health Laboratory
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FISH PATHOLOGIST REPORT

Location

Iron Gate Hatchery

Date

April 29, 2008

Species

Fall-Run Chinook

Fish Health Assessment

Twenty fish were randomly selected (D Series) and assessed for over-all health condition. Although small, these fish scored well and were in over-all excellent health. The small size of these fish is attributed to the smaller size of eggs from spawning females (mostly 3 year old fish) and the later-than average date of spawning (set egg-take date back a couple weeks). The average weight of fish was 1.8 grams and the average length was 52.9 mm. The average length-weight condition factor was 1.2 (see raw data on accompanying Excel spreadsheet). All of the fish examined had seemingly perfect fins (no erosions at all), skin, gills, eyes, pseudobranchs, thymus, gastrointestinal tracts (all had food in tract), kidneys, and livers. One fish had a slightly enlarged spleen. The average hematocrit (packed blood cell volume) was 48.8% (in acceptable range) and the average plasma protein concentration was 5.1 g/dL (also in acceptable range). All fish scored a "1" on mesenteric fat while a score of "2" (a bit more fat) is more desirable. Similarly all fish scored a "1" for smolt index while an average of "0.7" or so would indicate that a few of the fish were certainly ready for outmigration. The overall score was 0.1, with 0.0 being a perfect score. In conclusion, these fish are scheduled for release in about 3 weeks and will have the opportunity for more growth and maturation. However, given acceptable river temperatures, it would be prudent to hold them even a couple additional weeks for further growth and maturation. Call the Fish Health Lab for a follow-up Health Assessment if desired.

Comments

Water temp is 50°F.

Submitted By: Mark Clifford, Ph.D., Associate Fish Pathologist, CDFG