

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

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**FISH PATHOLOGIST REPORT****Location**

Iron Gate Hatchery

Date

February 24, 2010

Species

Steelhead yearlings (April release)

Ponds

A

Fish Health Assessment

Twenty fish were randomly selected and assessed for over-all health condition. These fish scored very well and appeared in excellent health. The average weight of fish was 17.6 grams and the average length was 119.5 mm. The average length-weight condition factor was 1.0 (see raw data on accompanying Excel spreadsheet). Three fish had minor erosion on one fin. All fish had seemingly perfect skin, gills, eyes, pseudobranchs, thymus, gastrointestinal tracts (all had food in tract), kidneys, and livers. The average hematocrit (packed blood cell volume) was 51.2% (in acceptable range) and the average plasma protein concentration was 6.2 g/dL (also in acceptable range). The average mesenteric fat score was "1.1" (some fat reserves) with two fish scoring a "2" (more fat reserves). The average smolt index score was 1.2 indicating that fish are readying for outmigration, but will benefit from the available 5 additional weeks of development before release. The overall score was 0.15, very close to a perfect score (0.0). These fish appear in good health. Consider increasing body weight feed per day to increase fat reserves. The over-all health of these fish appears excellent, and in early April these fish should be ready for release.

Comments

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