



BUREAU OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES MONTHLY REPORT



May 14, 2021 – June 13, 2021

Lisa Barno, Assistant Director
Craig Lemon, Superintendent
Edward Conley, Superintendent
Shawn Crouse, Supervising Biologist

Christopher Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist
Ross Shramko, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Dominick Mercurio, Crew Supervisor Bldg. Maintenance
Tyler Tresslar, Crew Supervisor, WW

Scott Collenburg, Sr. Fisheries Biologist
Eric Boehm, Sr. Fisheries Biologist

Thomas Bissonnette, Technician II
Nicholas Healy, Technician II
Ron Jacobsen, Technician II
Charles Sedor, Technician II

Matthew Gadek, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Jonathan Kline, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Shaun Young, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Doug Cutler, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Kyle Civalier, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Nick Ruberto, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Brad Duckworth, Sr. Wildlife Worker

Grace Johnson, Wildlife Worker
Travis Nitko, Wildlife Worker

Steve Jeffries, Repairer

Nancy Geiger, Agency Services Rep
Elizabeth O'Neill, Administrative Analyst

Seasonals: Steve Jefferies, Kate Ayers, Karl Lightner, Jordan Allen, Joseph Citro, Justin Rozema, Nick Cornine, and Christian Nitko.

HACKETTSTOWN STATE FISH HATCHERY (Craig Lemon)

Intensive Culture (Inventory)

Species	# Fish	Avg.”
Landlocked Salmon	3,200	10.0”
Northern Pike	8,000	6.1”
Channel Catfish	40,000	„5”
Largemouth Bass	6,000	1.5”

Stocking Totals (May 15 – June 14)

Date	Species	Location	# Fish	Size (Inches)	Total Pounds
6/7	Np	Spruce Run Reservoir	6450	6.1”	315
6/8	Np	Budd Lake	1880	6.0”	89
6/9	Np	Pompton Lake	3068	6.0”	145
6/9	Np	Farrington Lake	2900	6.0”	136
6/10	Np	Passaic River	3420	6.0”	158
6/14	Np	Pompton River	2463	6.1”	121
6/14	Np	Cranberry Lake	2507	5.9”	113
6/3	Fhm	Warren Co. Mosq. Co.	6700	1.6”	20.1
6/3	Fhm	Salem Co. Mosq. Co.	5000	1.6”	15
6/3	Fhm	Cumberland Co. Mosq. Co.	5000	1.6”	15
6/3	Fhm	Gloucester Co. Mosq. Co.	5000	1.6”	15
6/3	Fhm	Camden Co. Mosq. Co.	5000	1.6”	15
6/9	Fhm	Warren Co. Mosq. Co.	7650	1.6”	23
6/9	Fhm	Morris Co. Mosq. Co.	7000	1.6”	21
6/9	Wa	Swartwood Lake	8000	1.8”	9.4
6/9	Wa	Lake Hopatcong	42960	1.8”	51
6/10	Wa	Canistear Reservoir	5600	1.8”	7
6/10	Wa	Monksville Reservoir	8080	1.8”	10
6/10	Wa	Greenwood Lake	30720	1.8”	36
Date	Species	Location	# Fish	Size (Inches)	Total Lb
6/10	Wa	Delaware River-Belvidere	32220	1.8”	26
6/11	Wa	Delaware River-Poxono	54596	1.8”	64
6/11	Wa	Delaware River-Milford	102263	1.8”	126
6/11	Wa	Delaware River-Phillipsburg	53703	1.8”	63
6/14	Lmb	Lake Hopatcong	17137	1.6”	30.6

Intensive Culture

Northern Pike - All the 2021 NJ production pike were stocked between 6/7-6/15. A total of 20,181 fingerlings were stocked in six water bodies totaling 964 pounds. 5377 surplus fingerlings were also stocked in Cranberry and Deal Lakes. Currently culturing 8,000 pike fingerlings in three 2,000-gallon tanks. They are fish that are being held to trade with PA Fish & Boat for Muskie fingerlings and Massachusetts F & W for Landlocked Salmon fingerlings.

Landlocked Salmon

Currently culturing 3,200 fish about 10.0-inches in three 2,000-gallon tanks. Staff are cleaning and feeding them daily. These fish will be grown intensively until November and stocked when they reach 16-18 inches.

Channel Catfish - The first Channel Catfish egg masses hatched and are beginning to feed. They will be inventoried in the next couple of weeks. They are currently growing in three 350-gallon round tanks.

Largemouth Bass - Staff netted 6,000 Largemouth Bass fingerlings from Pond 54 and they are being converted to a dry diet in one 350-gallon round tank. This has not been attempted for several years at the hatchery, but with better quality fish food diets this may work better than past attempts.

Extensive Culture

Walleye - Two million Walleye eggs were picked up at the Delaware Water Gap supplied by the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Linesville Fish Hatchery. The 4-Acre Pond is full and has been fertilized a couple of times. 516,000 two-day old Walleye fry were setup on 4/21 in the 4-acre pond. Staff sampled the pond on 5/24 and captured 500 plus fingerlings averaging 1.12 inches. Staff drained the pond between 6/8 and 6/11. The pond produced a record yield of 467,562 fingerlings (91% return) averaging 1.8 inches and 856 fish/pound. Fingerlings were stocked in five inland waters as per Regional Biologists requests and the surplus were all stocked in the Delaware River between Milford, PA and Phillipsburg, NJ. Another 55,338 fingerlings were reset in Ponds 30-32 to be grown out to four inches on Fathead Minnows.

Largemouth Bass - Hatchery staff netted Largemouth Bass fry from ponds 17 and 48 and reset them in ponds 54, 56, and 57 for grow out. Smallmouth Bass fry were also seined from pond 15 and reset in pond 51 for grow out. All the grow out ponds were fertilized several times to create zooplankton populations for the bass fry to feed on. The three Largemouth broodstock ponds were all drained and 100 adults were placed in pond 50 to hold till next year. The fry from pond 13 were placed in pond 48 for grow out. Fingerling production ponds 54 and 57 were drained and 49,119 fish were stocked in three North Jersey reservoirs.

Fathead Minnows - Ponds 85 and 5-Acre were filled and treated for weeds in preparation for minnow broodstock stocking. A load of 500 pounds of adult minnows arrived from Arkansas on 4/14. Two holes or 250 pounds of minnows were stocked into each pond. Staff seined both ponds for the first time to feed Walleye fingerlings and they produced 15 five-gallon buckets of fry.

Golden Shiners - Eight boxes of Golden Shiner fry arrived FedEx overnight on 5/4. The fry in all the boxes looked good. They were placed in ponds as follows:

Pond 18 – 2 boxes

Pond 82 – 2 boxes

Ponds 30-32 – 1 box

Pond 83- 1 box

The two boxes that were setup in pond 18 were purchased by RVTA for late summer stocking in Round Valley Reservoir.

Staff drained Pond 83 and added approximately 200,000 ¾” shiner fry to ponds 30-32 for Walleye forage.

Channel Catfish - Channel Catfish spawning barrels were placed in Pond 90 on 5/17. The barrels were first checked on 5/27. There were broodfish in several barrels, but no eggs. Staff checked the barrels a second time on 6/7 and there were fish in most of the barrels, but no eggs. The third check on 6/10 produced 8 egg masses weighing 15 pounds, about 170,000 eggs. The next check on 6/14 found 11 masses equaling 207,500 eggs. All egg masses were dissolved using the Sodium Sulfide method and jarred in McDonald Hatching Jars. The first 8 masses have hatched and are being reared in three 350-gallon circular tanks on dry feed. The second 11 masses were picked up by the PA. Fish & Boat Commission’s Pleasant Mount Hatchery. Purchased 15,000 six to eight inch Channel Catfish fingerlings from Keo Fish Farms in Arkansas. These fish were setup in Ponds 16 and 78 in the West Hatchery to be grown on dry feed into the Fall when they will be stocked at 12-14 inches.

Mosquitofish

The third round of Fathead Minnows and Bluegill Sunfish were distributed to County Mosquito Commissions. The State Mosquito Commission purchased 125 pounds of Fathead Minnows from Arkansas and they were delivered to the hatchery on 6/1. Hatchery staff distributed 20,000 minnows to four South Jersey Counties meeting in Camden. To date, 134,213 minnows and 5,000 sunfish have been distributed to 11 County Mosquito Commissions.

General Hatchery Operations

Staff begin the day cleaning all tanks in the Intensive Culture Building. All the fish feeders are filled with proper size feed for the size and species in the tanks and all the feeders are set off to make sure they are feeding the correct amount. Feeder’s feed 24 hours a day so it is critical to be sure they are functioning correctly. Weight counts are done weekly to measure fish growth and inventories are performed when fish are being moved to larger tanks. Water flows, temperatures, and dissolved oxygen readings are performed every couple of days to check on water quality. Pond screens and water flows are checked and adjusted daily. This is especially important during the warm summer months and during low rain periods. Ten loads of fertilizer were sprayed from our pump truck into fry production ponds. This is a mix of pulverized alfalfa meal, liquid Nitro, and old fish food. This is done to create plankton and zooplankton blooms for young fish.

Budget, Purchasing, PO’s

Submittals for the Hatchery Alarm System upgrade (CBT Project) were returned, and a PO was generated with Pumping Services to do the work. They were contacted and we are scheduling dates for them to be on site to begin the work. Working on PB119’s for bulk fish food, fertilizer, and fish. Putting together a CBTM Project for dredging the Old Education Pond this Fall. Draining the last pond so that the area can begin drying. Working with Rick Pocino on ordering a new stocking truck. The new contracts have been a long time coming due to Covid vehicle shortages.

Maintenance of Ponds and Grounds

Mowed and weed whacked both hatcheries twice. Preparing the sickle bar mower for mid-June when waterfowl nesting is over, and the pond banks can be mowed. Staff repaired a section of security fence along pond 84 that was pushed over while neighbors were plowing snow. Started walking sections of fence to check for damage. Several trees were removed, and sections of barbed wire were repaired. Midhurst Tree Co. was in for four days working on emergency tree removal. They spent one day in the East hatchery removing dead trees on the property line in neighbors back yards. They spent another day removing trees around the red garage in preparation for demo. Hatchery staff spent a couple of days in the same area removing tree stumps and leveling ground. Several maple trees were planted along the entranceway and behind the fishing education pond. All the trees along the entranceway and around the Centenary Building were mulched.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (Shawn Crouse)

Fish Kill Investigations

Bell Lake (Gloucester) Fish Kill – A fish kill was reported on May 29 via the communication center, at Bell Lake located in Woodbury. The caller reported 48 dead sunfish and 60 dead Largemouth Bass, and an addition 12 fish consisting of catfish and perch. There were no odors reported, but a slightly oil sheen was observed. Conservation police officer Kiley responded to the incident on May 30 at which he observed only a few dead fish that were too decomposed for necropsy. The information was forwarded to Dr. Lovy. The kill is suspected to be an isolated incident possibly as a result of recent rainfall. (Smith)

Glen Lake (Gloucester) Fish Kill – A fish kill was reported on June 2 to Law Enforcement at the Southern Region Office. The caller stated that numerous fish of multiple species were affected, but primarily Common Carp. The information was forward to Dr. Lovy. Technician Kyle Civilier responded to the incident on June 4, at which time he collected water chemistry and performed a visual assessment. The temperature was 13.6 C, dissolved oxygen was 5.56mg/l and pH was 8.36. One dead Channel Catfish, weighing approximately 4 or 5 pounds, was observed. Live Bluegill and Pumpkinseed were observed and did not appear to be stressed. The kill is suspected to be an isolated incident possibly as a result of recent rainfall. (Smith)

Pancoast Lake (Atlantic) Fish Kill - A very minor fish kill consisting of 4 dead catfish (approximately 3-4 lbs. each) at Pancoast Lake in Buena Vista Twp. was reported to CPO Jonanthan Malinski on May 27. The caller also mentioned a potential harmful algal bloom (HAB) developing within the lake. The potential HAB information was forwarded to Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring personnel. Kyle Civalier, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries Senior Wildlife Worker conducted a site visit on June 4. No additional dead or dying fish or signs of a HAB were observed. A buildup of filamentous algae was noted by the dam. Water chemistry was taken with no readings out of the ordinary. Water chemistry measurements include Temperature: 15.4 C, Dissolved Oxygen: 12.04 mg/L, SPC: 151.8, Conductivity: 123.9, TDS: 98.90, Salinity: 0.07 ppt, and pH: 8.56. A long dry spell, followed by recent heavy rains may have played a role in the kill by washing toxins into the lake via runoff or creating a rapid drop in water temperature. Given the very small size of the kill, no follow up actions are necessary at this time. (Boehm)

Final 2021 Spring Trout Stocking -79,990 production-sized Rainbow Trout were stocked during May 10 – 14, which was second part of the modified Spring Trout stocking schedule due to the pandemic. Stocking truck drivers, from the Bureau of Land Management, were provided load sheets for each individual stocking run. The load sheets provide detailed instructions for specific waterbodies, stocking point information, as well as additional information regarding transfer trucks, and meeting locations to stock their assigned waterbodies with appropriate number of fish. Many days were spent answering emails and phone calls from anglers regarding trout stocking. Research and Management staff went on 2 stocking runs. The annual baseline of 570,000 was surpassed, as a total of 597,150 were stocked. (staff)

ENSAC Committee Meeting - On May 19 Division taxa specialists presented updates reflecting any new information that may influence the Division to reconsider previous Delphi review recommendations. Shawn Crouse presented the 2016 Freshwater Fishes Delphi results and concluded there is no new information that would result in a recommended change to previously approved recommendations. (Crouse)

Northeast Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need Threats and Actions Review – As a member of the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Northeast Fish Taxa Team, a review and assessment was conducted to evaluate regionally identified Threats and Actions to Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need for Freshwater Fish. Species evaluated include American Brook Lamprey, Banded Sunfish, Blackbanded Sunfish, Bridle Shiner, and Swamp Darter. Common Threats include pollution, habitat degradation, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change. This was conducted prior to the May 14 due date. (Crouse)

Stream Temperature Monitoring – This program was initiated in 2012 to monitor stream temperature in our major rivers that are currently regulated as Trout Maintenance. The continuous temperature monitoring program is designed to closely monitor stream temperature in areas that have marginal thermal habitat for the purpose of trout stocking, understanding thermal regimes in our major river systems, and expand the program to Trout Production streams to gain a deeper understanding of stream temperature's role on the entire life cycle of wild trout in New Jersey and assist in guiding management of these streams. This reporting period effort focused on managing stream temperature data from the Brook Trout Strongholds Project. (Collenburg)

Stormwater Analysis – Analysis of stream temperature data from 2018-2020 continues and preliminary results show that a total of 272 stormwater surge events, defined as a 2°C increase of water temperature, or greater, in a 30-minute period. Analysis will be similar to those performed in 2019 to understand stormwater surge impacts associated with land use and fish populations. Methodology was developed in R to run land cover analysis on catchments/boundaries of any kind based on National Land Cover Database 2016. This is applicable to the current analysis for stormwater impacts, but also may be useful in determining impacts to wild trout populations based on land use and could be a helpful tool for surface water quality classification and their implications on trout. (Collenburg)

2021 Locations – Continuous temperatures monitoring sites were selected this year and were installed for four main project types:

- Brook Trout Strongholds – understanding the resiliency of stream temperature to future increases in air temperature where we have known Brook Trout or wild trout.
- Stormwater Investigations – locations that have been identified as having rainfall surge events defined as a 2°C increase of water temperature, or greater, in a 30-minute period. Locations above and below sites of presumed impacts were selected to determine the source.
- Annual Survey Site – locations that have been monitored with stream temperature for the past 5 years and have associated fish survey data.
- Investigation – a number of sites were selected to understand potential loss of wild trout or to support the other coldwater habitat research. (Collenburg)

Musconetcong River (trib.) (Changewater) (Warren) - As part of an overall temperature assessment of the state's Brook Trout, Trout Production streams in 2020, Division staff identified several streams with extreme temperature surge events likely related to storm water runoff. These extreme events are very stressful and in many cases lethal to Brook Trout and if possible, mitigation efforts need to be explored. Division staff identified one stream in Washington Twp. (Warren) in particular and reached out to Water Compliance and Enforcement about these extreme stormwater warming events. Compliance and Enforcement staff began an investigation and is looking into these warm surge events to determine what can be done to mitigate. Division staff is assisting with data collection and analysis and has deployed a temperature logger again in 2021 to aid with the investigation. Conversations are ongoing about this issue and what can be done to mitigate these stormwater impacts. (Shramko / Collenburg).

NJDEP Invasive Species Workgroup - Completed a 9-question questionnaire regarding the need for a statewide invasive species management plan, including the need for a plan, current limitations, staffing, communication, and the need for an advisory board. (Smith)

Musconetcong River Dam Removal Fish Sampling (Warren / Hunterdon) - Division staff participated in an online meeting with USFWS and Musconetcong Watershed Association to discuss future sampling protocols for the Musconetcong River. The current protocols in place have not been performed each year as planned due to high flows and COVID-19 restrictions. Future sampling will heavily focused on juvenile American Shad to determine if they are reproducing in the river. Several sampling techniques will be used such as electrofishing and seining, along with observational surveys using underwater video recorders. E-DNA techniques will continue to be explored to determine if E-DNA sampling can be an effective tool to determine if American Shad reproduction has occurred. (Shramko)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Columbia WMA (Warren) - Division staff was contacted by The Nature Conservancy about the Adaptive Management Plan for the Columbia Dam removal project. The Nature Conservancy informed the Division that they feel that the current small scale adaptive management activities discussed at an onsite meeting this spring are too involved and destructive and that they have chosen not to perform these actions. Discussions by the Division on how to respond and move forward are ongoing. (Shramko / Barno)

Paulina Dam Project (Warren) - Division staff reviewed and supplied comments / concerns on the Paulina Dam, Dam Safety Permit Application to Dam Safety, and the Office of Environmental Review. Division staff noted several concerns with the dam removal timeline and sediment control and monitoring during dam deconstruction and post dam removal timelines. Division staff also had several comments that need further clarification on the proposed Adaptive Management section of the permit application. (Shramko / Barno)

Watergate Restoration Project (National Park Service) (Warren) - Division staff was contacted by the general contractor on the Watergate Wetlands Restoration Project to discuss fish salvage work on 5 ponds that will be permanently removed and the possible need for a fish

salvage on Van Campens Brook prior to any of the planned in-stream work. Permits for the collection of the fish and stocking of the collected fish from the ponds were issued in January. Additional work in Van Campens Brook itself was recently brought to the Division's attention. This work requires the contractor to coffer dam part of the brook and pump the water around a working area. After several meetings to discuss the best way to perform the necessary in-stream work, it was determined that a scientific collection permit is needed for this work and was issued by Division staff. (Shramko)

Glaubeman Lake / Reynolds Lake Paulins Kill WMA (Sussex) – Spoke with Dam Safety and Land Management about a complaint that the pond is not being maintained. Division staff has mowed the dam earlier in the year and recently removed debris from beaver activity in the area. The pond spillway is now clear of all debris and is functioning properly. Division Land Management Staff will continue to observe and take actions when needed. (Shramko)

Lopatcong Creek Restoration Project (Warren) – Division staff has been working with Trout Unlimited in creating an in-stream restoration work plan on several sections of the Lopatcong Creek for several years. Most of the planned work creates riffles and pools within the stream along with regrading vertical stream banks to allow the stream to enter a flood plain under high water levels. This will create beneficial in-stream habitat for trout along with other resident fish species. The regraded stream bank will allow the stream to reach its natural flood plain and aid in reducing water velocities and bank erosion. This project will also plant trees and shrubs to increase the riparian buffer where possible reducing sedimentation and stream temperatures. Construction work began on this project in early June and will continue for several weeks. Division staff will continue to monitor progress on this restoration project. (Shramko)

Lake Sonoma Siphon (Passaic) – Met with Robert Lewis of Urbani Fisheries, LLC and members of the Wind Beam Club for a feasibility study on installation of a siphon to release colder water into a tributary of Burnt Meadow Brook, which holds native Brook Trout. (Collenburg)

Residential Complaints about Frog Calling - Staff from ENSP and Freshwater Fisheries discussed potential management options that align with existing rules, regulations, and conservation practices to address this perceived conflict. Frog species most often causing this gripe include spring peepers, gray treefrogs (both northern and Cope's – Cope's state threatened), and bullfrogs. Recreational and commercial take of bull frogs, green frogs, and snapping turtles are still managed under the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, but reptiles and amphibians are managed by ENSP. The objective was to provide clear and consistent guidance when we collectively are asked to respond to these communications. When providing response to the public, we also want to include not only empathy for the situation, but also messaging that frogs are native species, a cog in our ecosystem, something our public generally values, and are targets of many of the Division's conservation efforts. One consideration to address this perceived conflict is for any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license can pursue following rules/regulations outlined in the fish code and the fishing digest. Seasonal restrictions, daily bag limits, and take method restrictions apply. Other recommendations to reduce conflict might include designing future projects where retention ponds are not proximal to residential housing units. (Zarate and Crouse)

Freshwater Permits - Reviewed Land Management Reviews (LMR's) from a freshwater fisheries perspective to address any foreseeable negative impacts to local fisheries. Reviewed water lowering permits and fish stocking applications and contacted applicants as necessary to obtain required information. Responded to requests from the public for information on general fisheries questions, fish stocking and water lowering permit programs. (Staff)

WMA Fishing Tournament Permits – The Division continued to receive applications for the 2021 fishing tournament season. A total of 163 applications for Wildlife Management Area fishing tournament permits have been received. The closed season for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass ends on June 15 and tournaments will resume on June 19.

Special Use Permit for Trout Unlimited Project – The Division is working with Keith Fritschie of Trout Unlimited to install a continuous temperature monitor in the Big Flat Brook that will record stream temperature and flow. This data will then be uploaded in real time to a website for the anyone to access. This logger will inform trout anglers, managers, and anyone interested in the stream's statistics. Land Management issued a special use permit for TU for this project. (Shramko)

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Skillful Angler Program - Completed processing and packing the 2019 and 2020 Skillful Angler certificates and patches. Contacted the Trenton mail room to set up a pickup date and all packages were picked up on June 3 and have been successfully shipped. Continued work on current Skillful Angler program submissions. (Civalier)

Division Website Meetings – Freshwater Fisheries staff participated in several virtual meetings aimed to redesign the Division's website. The consultant presented the first wireframe for the "how to get started" Freshwater Fishing page as well as the narratives for the conservation section. The full Division team was asked to participate in this meeting in order to see a wireframe. (Crouse / Collenburg)

PEQUEST TROUT HATCHERY (Conley)

Inventory Data

Stocking Program	Length	Average Daily Length Increase	Conversion
Spring 2022 RBT (8 months old)	5.6"	.015	1.55
Fall 2022 RBT (8 months old)	6.1"	.017	1.19
Fall/Winter 2021 RBT (20 months old)	12.5"	.029	1.64

Flow Rates – May 2021

4.92 inches of precipitation fell during the month of May.

Pumping Rate Average for May was 6065 gpm. An average 8.73 million gallons per day was pumped during the month of May.

The potable well pumped 13,874 gallons for the month of May.

Fish Culture Activities

The G-line was emptied and sterilized. All steaming and sterilization of the remaining empty outside pools has now been completed and have been reset.

The Spring inventory of the 2022 production stock has been completed. All the fish are now out of the nursery building. Feed quantities have been adjusted to regulate growth rates to reach our final goals for stocking. These fish are being fed by the feed truck 4 times a day with 3.0 mm feed. Screens are being cleaned twice a day and basins weekly.

Approximately 47,000 four-inch surplus trout were given to Hackettstown Hatchery for forage during this time.

The fish for the 2021 Fall/Winter Program fish were inventoried at this time. Feed quantities have been adjusted to regulate growth rates to reach our final goals for stocking. These fish are being fed by the feed truck 4 times a day with 5.0 mm feed. Screens are being cleaned twice a day and basins weekly.

Shutdown, cleaning and sterilization of the nursery building, and equipment has been completed.

Approximately 16,000 pounds of feed was fed during this time.

Hygiene

The iodine net/brush dip buckets were changed every 3 days or so to keep up with the hatchery hygiene plan. Weekly catch basin and aerator building cleaning was completed as scheduled.

Head ends as well as lower ends of the raceways were vacuumed and scraped to remove a buildup of algae and moss. The aerator wheel area of the I-line was vacuumed to remove built up fish waste and decomposing algae.

Floor disinfectant baths were changed on a regular weekly schedule or as needed.

Treatment Plant

Submitted monthly discharge reports, filed any applicable paperwork, and met with the treatment plant operator.

Weekly treatment plant checks including, wastewater testing, chlorine levels, and domestic pit flow were performed. Set-up and collected composite sample for pick up on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Coordinated the pumping, loading, and spreading of 9,500 gals of fish waste to the Pequest WMA. A total of 9.5 loads were spread to Field #5 during the month of May.

Performed preventative maintenance on treatment plant pumps, motors, greased bearings, and gears, and changed oil in blower motors.

Minor Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance

Coordinated and assisted in the maintenance of 6 in-hatchery vehicles, performed minor vehicle maintenance.

Maintained and submitted monthly mileage report for 16 hatchery vehicles.

Scheduled pick up of the oxygen bottles that were stripped off the stocking trucks at the end of the stocking season and returned.

Annual disinfection of the 11 Trout Distribution Trucks has been completed.

Performed weekly site check of both Gasoline and Diesel fuel levels.

Miscellaneous Activities

On June 8th we had power outage that was about 5-hours after severe storms. Staff maintained flows during the outage and tended generators to prevent loss of stock.

The Domestic Waterline Project continues, the contractor is in the process of tying in buildings and pressure testing the 1st part of the project. The second section still needs to be completed.

Work on the Administrative Building Roof Project continues. During the thunderstorms on June 8th, a section of roof leaked in the Main Lobby where the skylight was being replaced and we shut the breakers off to that section. An electrician was called in to inspect the lighting that had gotten wet and said it was OK, before power was turned back on to that section. The area was dried out and the roofers were allowed to continue work on that section.

Had a meeting with Treasury on June 10th regarding the status of the feed contract and about re-bidding it out.

The Hook-A-Winner Program entry total has reached 97. This includes 2 anglers that each caught 3 tagged Trout.

Grass cutting continues inside the fenced hatchery area, treatment plant, and the well houses. Weed control has also begun.

Predatory bird devices are in place (overhead lines, reflective streamers, propane cannons and scary-men, and scare crackers). This past month we saw mostly Great Blue Herons with an occasional Osprey coming into the hatchery.

There were no reported problems with trespassers by the night watchmen. The Information & Education Unit and building remains closed to the public, due to Covid 19.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (Dominick Mercurio/Steve Jeffries)

Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery

Repaired a leak in the 80-degree Amiad Filter.

Repaired the Ford Sickle Bar mower.

Looked at the North Jersey Law boat's battery and charging system.

Changed UV bulbs on both recirculation systems and adjusted sensors.

Salvaged feed tower auger from the Rockport Pheasant Farm that will fit our towers.

Cleaned up trees and debris around the red storage garage and leveled the area around it using the excavator.

Replaced the carburetor on the fertilizer pump sprayer.

Dug holes for the planting of several trees using the excavator.

Moved riprap to pond 92 and began setting it along the pond banks to slow erosion.

Mowed grass in both hatcheries and the Musconetcong angler lot several times.

Changed tires on a zero-turn lawn mower.

Installed two new low-pressure gauges in the recirculation system heating loop.

Pequest Trout Hatchery

The feed truck feed blowing system was repaired, two new bearings were installed and the fins on the blower assembly were welded back in place after being damaged due to years of wear. Several aluminum screens that keep the fish separated in the raceways were repaired with aluminum welding this month.

There was a power outage caused by bad thunderstorm, the well 6 flow meter quit working during the power outage. A new amplifier card was installed and the flow meter is now working properly.

The potable water line and main building roof projects are still on-going. Both projects are proceeding smoothly. The fish education pond water was turned off so it could be treated for weeds, and water was turned back on two days later.

Did full diesel run test of the whole facility. All diesels were run during this period to simulate a full power outage, there was a battery issue with well 2. A new battery and battery maintainer were installed, the well is operating properly at this time. All the alarm and control computers were rebooted. Did all monthly production well number, along with potable UV water numbers, well levels, monthly gallons pumped, rain fall etc.