



BUREAU OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES MONTHLY REPORT



April 16, 2025 – May 15, 2025

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Craig Lemon, Superintendent
Edward Conley, Superintendent
Christopher Smith, Supervising Fisheries Biologist

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Scott Collenburg, Principal Fisheries Biologist

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Thomas Goetschkes, Wildlife Worker
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Seasonals: Anthony Belske, Noah Brady, Chris Cohen, Michael Kays, Samantha Lavan,
Michael McCarthy, Robert Rubino, Jesse Tyther, and Cheryl Weeks

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (Federal Grant Funding, F-48-R-30)

Lake Hopatcong – Two nighttime electrofishing surveys, targeting Walleye, were completed on April 14th and 17th at Lake Hopatcong (2,685 acres, Lake Hopatcong Twp.) as part of regularly scheduled springtime coolwater fisheries monitoring efforts. A combined effort of approximately 3 hours of electrofishing was conducted with the central and northern portions of the lake; including locations such as River Styx, Chestnut Point, Halsey Island, and Liffy Island. Approximately 225 Walleye were captured over the course of the surveys.

In addition to nighttime electrofishing, two weeks of trap netting were conducted at Lake Hopatcong from April 21st – 25th and April 28th - May 2nd. A total of 22 trap nets were set overnight targeting Muskellunge as part of regularly scheduled springtime coolwater fisheries monitoring efforts. A total of 6 Muskellunge were captured in trap nets. A full write-up and analysis of the data will be available at a later date. (Rozema, F-48-R)

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (State Funding)

Spring Trout: The spring 2025 trout season is underway, with only 2 weeks to go. A considerable amount of biologists' time goes into managing the program, including but not limited to providing information to anglers and troubleshooting on the ground issues, including issues with stocking points and directions. Staff also assisted in stocking, with Research and Management staff running the Musconetcong River transfer truck all season and assisted on the Black River run for three weeks. Held multiple conversations and site evaluations with Trout Stocking personnel regarding stocking adjustments due to field conditions (e.g., Paulins Kill, Veterans Park). Advised on possible new stocking points for the Musconetcong River. Communicated with Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement regarding possible new trout stocking points on the Paulins Kill River. Met with local officials regarding possible inclusion of Lafayette Park Pond in 2026 trout stocking program. (Civalier and staff)

C1 Workgroup E&T Species Listing – In a recent meeting on May 6th, between the NJ Fish and Wildlife (NJFW) and the Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Restoration (BEARS), NJFW was asked to update its recommendation for endangered and threatened species that should qualify a waterbody for Category One (C1) protection based on exceptional ecological significance. This update is part of an ongoing effort to modernize the state's Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS), which had not incorporated new water-dependent endangered or threatened species since 2003. Following the meeting, the NJFW revised its recommendation to include three fish species that were newly listed as endangered or threatened in January 2025. These additions—Ironcolor Shiner (*Notropis chalybaeus*), Bridle Shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*), and Slimy Sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*)—were highlighted in the updated recommendation as changes made after the meeting. The inclusion of these fish reflects a growing recognition of the importance of protecting aquatic habitats that support rare and sensitive species. The Ironcolor and Bridle Shiners are considered New Jersey's most vulnerable native minnows, suffering severe population declines due to habitat loss, water quality degradation, and the introduction of non-native predators. Similarly, the Slimy Sculpin, which is associated with cold, clean, high-

gradient headwater streams, serves as a key biological indicator of stream health and is also under pressure from rising temperatures, sedimentation, and habitat fragmentation. The recommendation document is being updated by the Endangered and Nongame Species program to also include newly listed mussels and Odonates. (Collenburg)

Musconetcong River (PFAS Sampling) - Conducted PFAS sampling on the Musconetcong River (Route 31) in collaboration with NJDEP's Division of Science and Research. Staff collected 5 Rainbow Trout, 5 American Eels, and 25 Blacknose Dace. Sunfish could not be collected due to absence at the site. Scheduled and coordinated the handoff of 10 hatchery trout used as control in the PFAS study to Dan Millemann (Science & Research). (Shramko)

Dam Removal & Project Support - Investigated Pleasant Valley Mill Dam for potential removal support and documented site conditions with photos. Drafted and coordinated Letters of Support (LOS) for Pleasant Valley Mill Dam until effort was halted due to deed restrictions on removing the dam. Worked with Bureau Chief, Shawn Crouse on other potential dam removal projects including Collins Dam (Pequest River Watershed). (Shramko)

Drought Response Advisory Group – Multiple meetings were held to discuss the current state of drought in the state of NJ. Scott Collenburg, Principal Fisheries Biologist, provided comment in relation to any concerns with the fisheries resources. Conditions are generally improving, and we have had wetter conditions than average in most parts of the state in the past 30 days. Reservoir levels are increasing as well. The drought status is still “Warning.” The public is strongly urged to continue voluntary water conservation practices. The Drought Response Advisory Group meets every Friday. (Collenburg)

Fish Kill - Archway Lake (Camden) – Archway Lake is a private 4-acre impoundment on the upper Mullica River located in Waterford Twp., Camden County. A fish kill was reported on 5/2/2025. A site visit was conducted on 5/6/2025. Upon arrival approximately 100 dead fish (15 Largemouth Bass, 50 Bluegill, and 25 Golden Shiner) were observed along the shoreline of Kettle Run Road. All fish were extremely decayed and not suitable for testing. No stressed or actively dying fish were observed. No chemical slicks or foreign odors were present. Overall, the lake appeared quite shallow, with a very small spillway, and impounded sediment inches from the crest. A fire at a nearby salvage yard recently occurred, however it's unknown if this had an impact as it's located downstream of Archway Lake. Water chemistry was collected, and all parameters would readily support aquatic life except for dissolved oxygen (DO) levels which were well below lethal levels at 0.50 mg/l. (Boehm)

Fish Kill - Sunset Lake (Monmouth) – Sunset Lake is a 12-acre coastal pond located in Asbury Park, Monmouth County. A fish kill was reported on 5/9/25. A site investigation was conducted on 5/12/25. Upon arrival 15-20 adult Gizzard Shad, 5 adult bullheads, White Perch (10 5”), and 1 Largemouth Bass (17”) were found along the shoreline. All had been dead for several days and were starting to decay. The water was very turbid but didn't have any sort of foreign odor. Water quality readings were normal (7.29 pH, 7.84 DO, 0.1 SAL, and 23.4°C). The lake is currently on the HAB “watch” list. (Civalier)

FishTrack Database – Work has continued to transition the old database from Microsoft Access to a geodatabase stored and managed by the GIS group. (Collenburg)

Habitat Restoration and Connectivity:

Participated in The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Connectivity Grant meetings. TNC is applying for a grant that would fund work in NJ, NY, & PA to restore aquatic and terrestrial connectivity in priority focal areas. (Shramko)

Coordinated with Scarlet Simpson, Bureau of Freshwater Wetlands & Highlands Permitting, on the Big Flatbrook logjam removal. She said that we can remove the logjam without a permit under permit by rule #6. I forwarded this information to Lands Management along with the rules under permit by rule #6 that need to be followed. Lands Management is looking to perform this work during the summer when water flows are lower. (Shramko)

Shared 11 CBT-funded project ideas for potential implementation on state lands; attended CBT project prioritization meeting with Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries Staff. (Shramko)

India Brook Restoration Project - On May 5, 2025, NJ Fish & Wildlife Fisheries Biologists, Scott Collenburg and Ross Shramko, met with Brian Cowden of Troutscapes to discuss a proposed stream restoration project on India Brook in Mendham Township, specifically within India Brook Park. Mr. Cowden outlined the project's early concept, which includes deepening 12–14 in-stream pools along a stretch extending from Patriots Path to the park's internal trail system. Additionally, TU proposes reinforcing the right bank between the trail and the stream to prevent stone runoff. The project would also involve invasive species removal and the planting of native vegetation along the trail to narrow its footprint, improve stream shading, and further stabilize the area. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the conversation around potential NJFW support in the project. While no commitments were made, the group agreed that the site and stream present valuable public access and ecological benefits, making the project worth further exploration. Plans will be supplied to NJFW prior to any commitments. (Collenburg/Shramko)

NAACC Site Planning – The Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries is planning to continue work related to assessing road and stream crossings structures using the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) framework. These assessments aim to identify barriers that impede aquatic organism passage, with particular attention to wild trout populations and their habitat connectivity. This period focused on selecting new sites to assess that have documented the presence of Brook Trout in the past and are within the Raritan River drainage. Over 100 sites have been selected and assessments of those crossings have begun by full-time and seasonal field staff. (Collenburg)

NAACC Road-Stream Crossing Assessment Work - Focused on site selection within the Musconetcong River Drainage pending grant decision for Delaware River projects. It may be determined that we will work in other watersheds in 2025 and postpone activities in the Delaware River Watershed until 2026 when this work might be fundable under The Nature Conservancy Connectivity Grant currently in a draft proposal status. (Shramko & Collenburg)

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT (State Funding)

Participated in the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) Panel's annual spring meeting on April 29th and 30th. Highlights of the meeting include presentations on on-going AIS projects in surrounding states and regional species updates.

The new AIS Reporting Form has been published and is ready for public introduction. Submitted updates and improvements on NJFW's AIS webpage and drafted social media posts and a Postmaster in preparation for the reporting form launch. (MacQuesten)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (State Funding)

Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoir Coordination Meeting - A multi-agency coordination meeting was held on April 30, 2025, with participation from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, State Park Service, State Park Police, and Fish & Wildlife. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate interagency communication and coordination regarding ongoing operations and management of the Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs. Each agency provided general updates on recent activities, operational developments, and any emerging concerns related to their respective areas of responsibility. While the meeting served as a useful forum for information sharing and maintaining strong communication among partners, no significant issues or action items were identified during this session. NJFW Biologist, Scott Collenburg, provided a presentation on the recent fisheries work related to sampling the Lake Trout and Largemouth Bass populations at Round Valley Reservoir, as well as, sampling for Hybrid Striped Bass at Spruce Run Reservoir. (Collenburg/Rozema/Smith)

Fish and Mussel Work Group – Biologists with the Endangered and Nongame Species Program, Alex Kisurin, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, Scott Collenburg, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, Jillian Stark, are in continued collaboration related to the common goal of overlaying fish distribution data with rare mussel locations to prioritize sampling for mussels. NJFW fish survey data was shared with the work group during this period. (Collenburg)

Land Management Reviews (LMRs) - Completed reviews and provided technical comments on several LMRs. Worked to ensure that timing restrictions, flood hazard rules and critical habitat protections were fully considered in all cases. (Staff)

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Attended the NJ Sportsmen's Federation Annual Convention (Jamboree) at DREAM Park in Swedesboro on 4/28/25. Worked alongside staff from the Hackettstown Hatchery who brought warmwater fish (Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Bluegill, Black Crappie, and Yellow Perch) for display/educational purposes. A touch tank was also set up which gave many of the children in attendance a chance to interact with and handle fish for the first time. (Boehm)

STAFF & ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

Northeast Fisheries Administrators Association (NEFAA) – Chief Crouse participate in the annual spring meeting, held on April 21. This meeting is regularly held on the first day of the

Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies annual conference, which was also attended from April 21 through April 24. The Northeast Fisheries Administrators Association was established to further the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' purpose of promoting the conservation and management of fishery resources. Meetings generally consist of updates from the USFWS, discussion of any relevant NEAFWA technical committees, a session of state/providence reports, and any specific agenda items that are established such relevant hot topics.

The Northeast Fisheries Administrators Association (NEFAA) has established an award to honor outstanding performance in fisheries management in the region. The award is named after Angelo Incerpi, who during his career was a State of Vermont Fisheries biologist, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist, active participant on the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, chair of the New England Salmonid Health Committee, charter NEFAA member and former American Fisheries Society Section Representative. The Angelo Incerpi Fisheries Conservation Award will be given to an individual from the region who has made significant contributions that further Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies objectives by advancing the conservation and management of fisheries and their habitats and has provided guidance and initiative for actions that achieve these objectives within and outside the recipient's jurisdiction. The fisheries chiefs voted unanimously in favor of Lisa Barno. Unfortunately she was unable to make it to the event, however Chief Crouse accepted the award on her behalf. (Crouse, F-48-R)

Skillful Angler Program: Received and reviewed 40 Skillful Angler applications from anglers. Applications reached 138 for 2025 and are coming in steadily. (Civalier)

Freshwater Permits - Reviewed Land Management Reviews (LMR's), water lowering permits and fish stocking applications and contacted applicants as necessary to obtain required information. Responded to constituent emails and phone calls about general fisheries questions, licenses, and stocking and water lowering permit programs. A few projects required significant lowering that necessitated fish salvages. The applicants were provided with a list of consultants to complete the salvage. (Staff)

WMA Fishing Tournament Permits – A total of 152 tournament requests have been received. Due to the catch and release season for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass from April 15th to June 15th only a limited number of catch and release fishing tournaments are held each year. (Smith)

PEQUEST TROUT HATCHERY (Ed Conley)

Inventory Data

<u>Stocking Program</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Average Daily Length Increase</u>	<u>Conversion</u>
Spring 2026 RBT (7 months old)	5.0"	0.020	1.74
Spring 2025 RBT (19 months old)	11.6"	0.021	1.86
Fall 2025 RBT (19 months old)	12.2"	0.018	1.10

Flow Rates – April 2025

2.77 inches of precipitation fell during the month of April.

Production Well Pumping Rate Average for April was 6,077 gpm with an average 8.75 million gallons per day pumped during the month.

The potable well pumped 12,436 gallons for the month of April.

Fish Culture Activities



Since the 2025 Spring Stocking program began on March 17th 512,235 production size Rainbow Trout have been stocked along with 7,855 brood-stock, and 3,800 surplus as of the end of Week #5 In-season. Surplus production fish started being added to stocking trucks during Week #5. With the final two weeks of stocking remaining, Spring 2025 production trout remains only in the H-line. 67 Hook - A-Winner tag numbers were returned so far.

The fish for the 2025 Fall Program were inventoried and reset into several pools to reach desired growth for stocking in October. Also, fish for the 2025 Winter Stocking Program were set up at this time to be stocked in November. 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.

The D, F, and G lines were all emptied, power washed, sterilized. Spring sorting of the 2026 production stock outside has concluded in which smaller fish graded off using metal grader boxes and pools have been reset to 13,500 rainbow trout (pictured to the right). The rest of C, D, and some of the F-line with these fish. Some of the sorted fish in the Nursery building were set up in the F and G-lines and the rest are being fed by automatic feeder twice every hour for about 10 hours a day in the nursery building. The feeders are being filled daily with 2.5 mm feed. All tanks are still being cleaned by all shifts and flows were adjusted and outside screens are being cleaned twice daily. Outside 2026 trout are being fed 3.0 mm by the feed truck 4 times a day. Approximately 78,000 four-inch surplus trout were given to Hackettstown Hatchery for forage during this time.



Rainbow Trout Broodstock for 2025 spawning were inventoried and reset at this time on the I-line. E-line pools are in the process of being cleaned for set-up up the 2027 Broodstock.

Hatchery flows were adjusted during this period and dissolved oxygen levels are being monitored.

Coordinated daily load assignments of Spring Stocking Trout runs to various water bodies onto selected distribution trucks. Hatchery Staff stocked all the Pequest River runs.

Pequest Maintenance

We had a few alarms during this time period regarding well levels and a quick power glitches which staff had to respond. Completed the CBT-M Bollard Sleeve Project. Shut off heating system in lower garage bays and top offices. Filled the Chiller system and tested for summer AC use. We had to adjust the pressure on the chiller after an alarm diagnosed low pressure which needed to be adjusted. Also, we replaced sparger motor number 2 in waste treatment plant.

We have also continued making repairs on stocking equipment and trucks as needed as well as daily oxygen checks. Truck 847 had air brake line issue and was sent out to be repaired. We replaced the rear brakes on truck 704, a broken valve on 126, an exhaust hanger on 682, and a broken gate hinge on passenger side of truck 917. A new battery was installed on the fish pump, replaced hot and ground cables, and relocated ground cable for better contact. Equipped scale cart with new scale and parts.

We sent the bid out for 2 new large stocking truck tanks for the new large stocking trucks that have been ordered. The bid was awarded to Taurus Home Improvement in the amount of \$53,518.00 to manufacture the tanks. Funding was determined and the purchase order is currently being processed.

Miscellaneous Activities

Engineers had several site visits regarding CBT Project P1334-00 Well Rehabilitation and Upgrades at Pequest State Trout Hatchery. We also scheduled upcoming meetings for other CBT projects as well at the hatchery.

Continued working with the Directors office with upgrading the Pequest phone system with a Teams based system which is now up and running.

Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery (Craig Lemon)

Intensive Culture (Inventory)

<u>Species</u>	<u># Fish</u>	<u>Avg.”</u>
Landlocked Salmon	3,200	8.6”
Northern Pike	50,000	4.5”
Tiger Muskellunge	4,400	3.8”
Muskellunge	40,000	fry

Stocking Totals (April 16 – May 15)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u># Fish</u>	<u>Fish/Pound</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Length</u>
4/17	Np	Cranberry Lake	7,993	355	22.5	2.2”
5/1	Np	Passaic River	6,450	113	57	3.4”
5/6	Np	Deal Lake	6,215	102	61	3.5”
4/21	Mk	Echo Lake Reservoir	420	4.8	87	10.36”
4/22	Mk	Lake Mercer	420	4.8	87	10.36”
4/22	Mk	Mountain Lake	125	4.8	31	10.36”
4/22	Mk	Furnace Lake	100	4.8	31	10.36”
4/23	Mk	Greenwood Lake	3,000	4.8	600	10.36”
4/23	Mk	Lake Hopatcong	615	4.8	123	10.36”
4/23	Tm	Greenwood Lake	7,260	908	8	1.8”
5/5	Wa	Delaware R.-Belv.	445,050			fry
5/6	Wa	Delaware R.-Pox.	386,040			fry
5/14	Bs	Wargo Pond	2,000	54	37	3.0”
5/14	Bs	Carteret Pk Pd	500	54	9.3	3.0”
5/14	Bs	Goffle Brook Pk Pd	500	54	9.3	3.0”

Intensive Culture

Northern Pike

Currently culturing 50,000 4.5-inch fingerlings in four 2,000-gallon tanks and six 1,000-gallon rectangular tanks.

Tiger Muskellunge

Currently culturing 4,400 3.8-inch fingerlings in two 1000-gallon circular tanks.

Landlocked Salmon

Currently culturing 2,800 fish about 8.6” in three 2,000-gallon tanks. Staff clean and feed them daily. Recent precipitation has helped our spring house levels enabling us to fill a third tank and split and fin clip the salmon. Staff fin clipped the left ventral fin. These fish will be stocked around November 1st at 15 inches.

Muskellunge

Currently culturing 40,000 sac fry in four 350-gallon tanks. Recently hatched fry are getting ready to begin the brine shrimp feeding and dry feed conversion stage, which is the critical part of their culture process.

Intensive Production Work

We are currently pumping 589 gpm of 52°F spring water, 251 gallons of 68°F water, and 137 gpm of 80°F water. Staff started up the 80°F Recirculation System on 5/14 in preparation for Channel Catfish egg collection. Upon startup a leak was discovered in the drum filter backwash line and was repaired. All other components started up fine. Water temperature in the system is currently at 60°F.

Extensive Culture

Channel Catfish

Broodfish overwintered in Pond 92. Overwintering three-year classes of catfish for future fishing programs in Ponds, 74, 89, and 90. All the catfish ponds are being fed daily and look to have come through the winter well. Ordered 12,000 six to eight-inch Channel Catfish fingerlings from Arkansas. They arrived on 5/13 at 6 pm. They were split 6,000 each into Ponds 16 and 77.

Hybrid Striped Bass

Ordered 250,000 fry from Keo Fish Farm in Arkansas. The fry are scheduled to be picked up at a local FedEx facility on 5/20. Staff plan to start filling Pond 60 on 5/15 and get it fertilized before the fry arrive.

Largemouth Bass & Smallmouth Bass

Drained Pond 50 and setup Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass broodstock on 4/16.

Pond 13 – 65 Largemouth Bass

Pond 17 – 40 Largemouth Bass

Pond 48 – 40 Largemouth Bass

Pond 87 – 94 Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth Bass fry collection on 5/7 & 5/8 – Moved and estimated 30,000 to 40,000 fry to Pond 82. Pond 82 had been fertilized a couple of times prior with pulverized Alfalfa Meal.

Largemouth Bass fry collection on 5/12.

Setup numbers

Pond 54-estimated 40,000

Pond 57-estimated 40,000

Pond 78-estimated 50,000

Staff noticed a bunch of small crawfish in Pond 78 while introducing the fry. We ordered some crawfish traps to see if we can bait them in and remove as many as possible. Started Pond 13 down to remove adults as the spawn seems complete in there. Leaving Ponds 17 & 48 alone for another week.

Golden Shiners

Shiner fry arrived FedEx on 5/9. We ordered six boxes and RVTA purchased two boxes. Our boxes went into Ponds 31, 32, and 83 – two boxes each. RVTA's boxes went in Pond 18.

Walleye

After struggling with trapnetting Walleye broodstock this Spring due to low water conditions in Swartswood Lake we reached out for assistance from NY and PA. New York DEC's Oneida Fish Hatchery was able to supply us with 2 million eyed eggs. We received them on 4/24. The eggs hatched and 500,000 fry were setup in the 4-Acre Pond between 5/2-5/4. The pond has been fertilized numerous times with a boat and spray truck. Rainy and cloudy conditions have not been ideal for growing fry so far this season.

Hatchery Extensive Pond Work

All ponds are full. Water levels are being adjusted daily. Screens are being brushed every morning. Fingerling production ponds are being fertilized, and temperature, oxygen, and Secchi disk reading are being monitored daily. Surface and ground water levels are looking better this Spring following severe drought conditions last Fall and Winter. Staff have been doing a great job balancing water flows in fry ponds following several heavy rains. Assisted the Lebanon Fisheries crew moving a couple of trapnets on Lake Hopatcong during their coolwater study.

Mosquito Control

Twelve County Mosquito Control Agencies received Fathead Minnows between 4/16-4/17. About 150,000 minnows were given out. The hatchery made a run to Camden County with a truck full of minnows to supply several Southern counties.

Information & Education

Provided information and photos for four GoFishFriday's posts 202-205. 1,770 likes, 67 comments, and 159 shares. Answered as many questions as possible on these posts. Participated in two Take Your Kid To Work Days, one in Trenton and one here at the hatchery. Both were very successful with nice weather and good participation, Supplied the Atlantic City Bass Pro Shop with several fish for their large aquarium. Participated in several meetings with PeaceNJ providing information about grants they have applied for to remove an old swimming platform from the Musconetcong River and do some bank restoration work. Also drafted a letter of support for these projects. Staff participated in two Earth Day events on 4/26. Trucks, aquariums, and touch tanks with fish were sent to Liberty State Park and the Sportsmen's Federation Event in South Jersey.

Hatchery Alarm Issues

A lightning storm on March 31 set several alarms off at the hatchery, we were able to reset all of the alarms but one. The hatchery has two separate alarm companies, one for fish culture things and one for fire protection. The new fish culture alarm group is wired into some of the older circuits. We have had both companies on site separately and then again together and have narrowed down the issue, but it seems we need one more visit to pinpoint the short and the equipment tied to the issue.

CBT/CBTM Projects

The CBT Project for Boiler Replacement has moved to the next step. An engineering consultant has been chosen, and multiple TEAMS meetings have taken place. The engineering contractor has made several site visits to gather information and measurements. They have also reached out via email a couple of times. The project has slowed down. We have made contact to see how it's

progressing as we have a window to do the work late this fall when all recirculation systems are shut down.

Hackettstown Wildfire

On Friday May 2nd, wildfire broke out a couple of miles from the hatchery. A New Jersey Forest Fire helicopter used the nearest water supply, which happened to be the hatchery pond. The helicopter dipped its 350-gallon basket in hatchery Pond 13 approximately 40 times to dump on the fire. This equates to about 14,000 gallons of water. Popular question seemed to be did they scoop up any fish? Staff drained the pond recently and all the adult bass were found and moved to another pond after spawning.

Budget/Purchasing

Working on a second order for minnows for the State Mosquito Commission. Completed Paperwork and orders for Channel Catfish fingerlings, Hybrid Striped Bass fry, and Golden Shiner fry.



Hatchery Maintenance

Had the generator serviced on 4/25 by Cory Brothers.

Spread stone on several hatchery roads. Took measurements and made sketches of the Pond 53 outflow flume. Emailed sketches and pictures of the flume to four businesses for quotes. We have received three quotes back so far.

Staff mowed the Main Hatchery. Looking into contracting mowing the East Hatchery as we are finding it difficult to find time to do it after losing two employees to new jobs. Those two employees did the majority of mowing the past two seasons.