



Monthly Hatchery Report December, 2016



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A report of monthly activities and events



December began with a bit more redd counting in the East Machias watershed. DSF staff wanted to ensure that stretches of river were checked multiple times throughout November and December since salmon have been known to spawn “early” and “late”. Final redd counts in the East Machias watershed are at twelve for 2016. Six redds were found in the mainstem of East Machias River, three were in Beaverdam Stream, and three were found in Northern Stream. Eleven test pits were also seen and one adult Atlantic salmon during redd counting. We weren’t able to get a close enough look at the adult to see whether or not it had an adipose fin. A table is provided below with redd counts in other Downeast Rivers.

River	Number of Redds in 2016
East Machias River	12
Machias River	14
Narraguagus River	4
Denny’s River	6
Pleasant River	0 (incomplete count due to water levels – more counts to come in the spring)



Other hatchery related activities during December included getting the Peter Gray Hatchery (as well as the Pleasant River Hatchery) ready for our upcoming rearing season. Activities included double checking all of our egg trays, ensuring no holes or tears are present in the mesh screening, and priming our intake lines and testing our pumps. Tank screens were checked over, head tanks checked, and alarm systems tested. The hatcheries are now ready to receive eggs in 2017!

Over the first five years of the Parr Project, it has been identified that more hatchery space at the Peter Gray Hatchery could help benefit the salmon we raise. To continually improve our rearing capabilities we have begun planning an expansion to our hatchery in East Machias. This expansion will add hatchery space including tanks and monitoring equipment. We are exploring options for the best layout of this space, but the goal will be to decrease the densities of salmon per tank at the Peter Gray Hatchery, which could increase survival rates and raise more salmon in the future. This is an exciting possibility and is contingent upon fundraising efforts.

I hope you all had a wonderful 2016 and here at DSF, with your help, we are off and running towards accomplishing more than ever in 2017!