



Monthly Hatchery Report

July, 2015



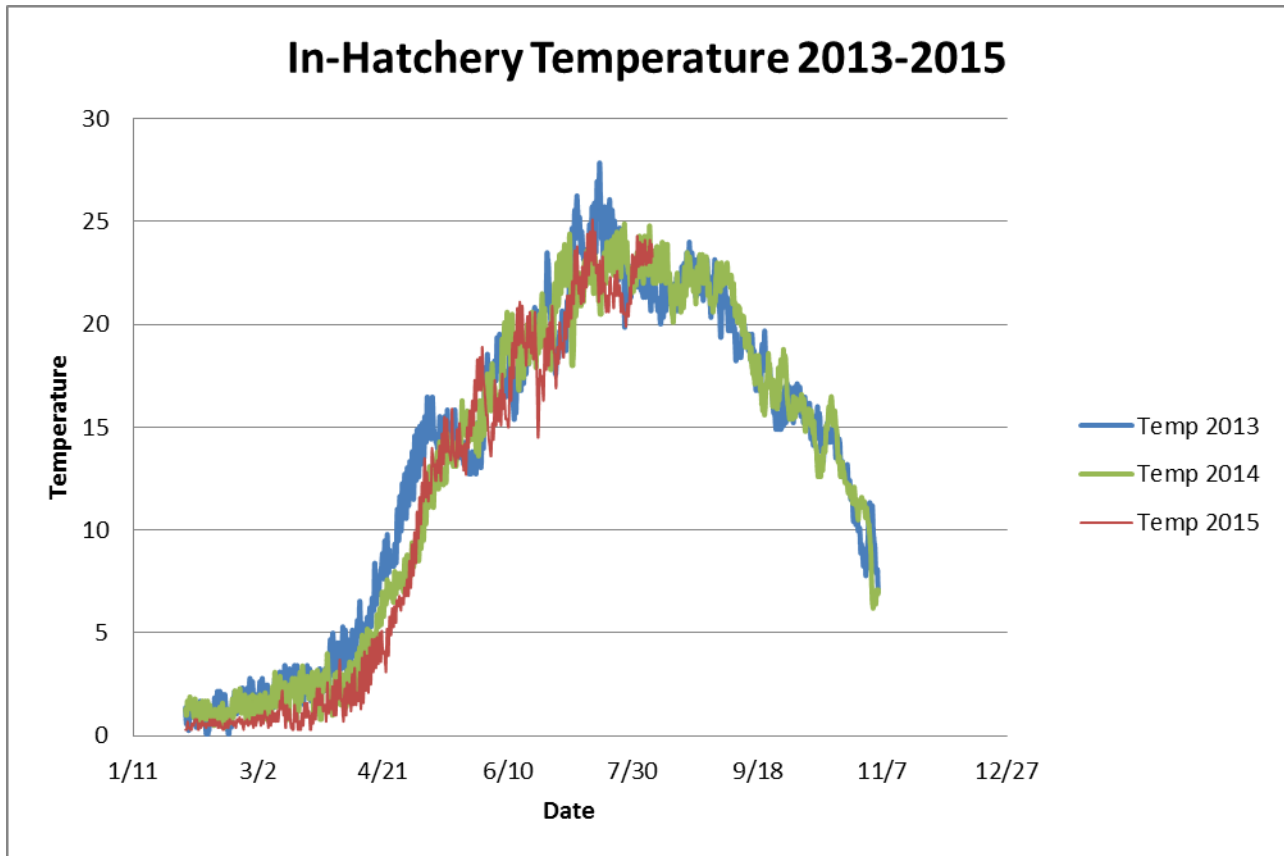
Report by: Kyle Winslow; Hatchery Manager

A report of monthly activities and events



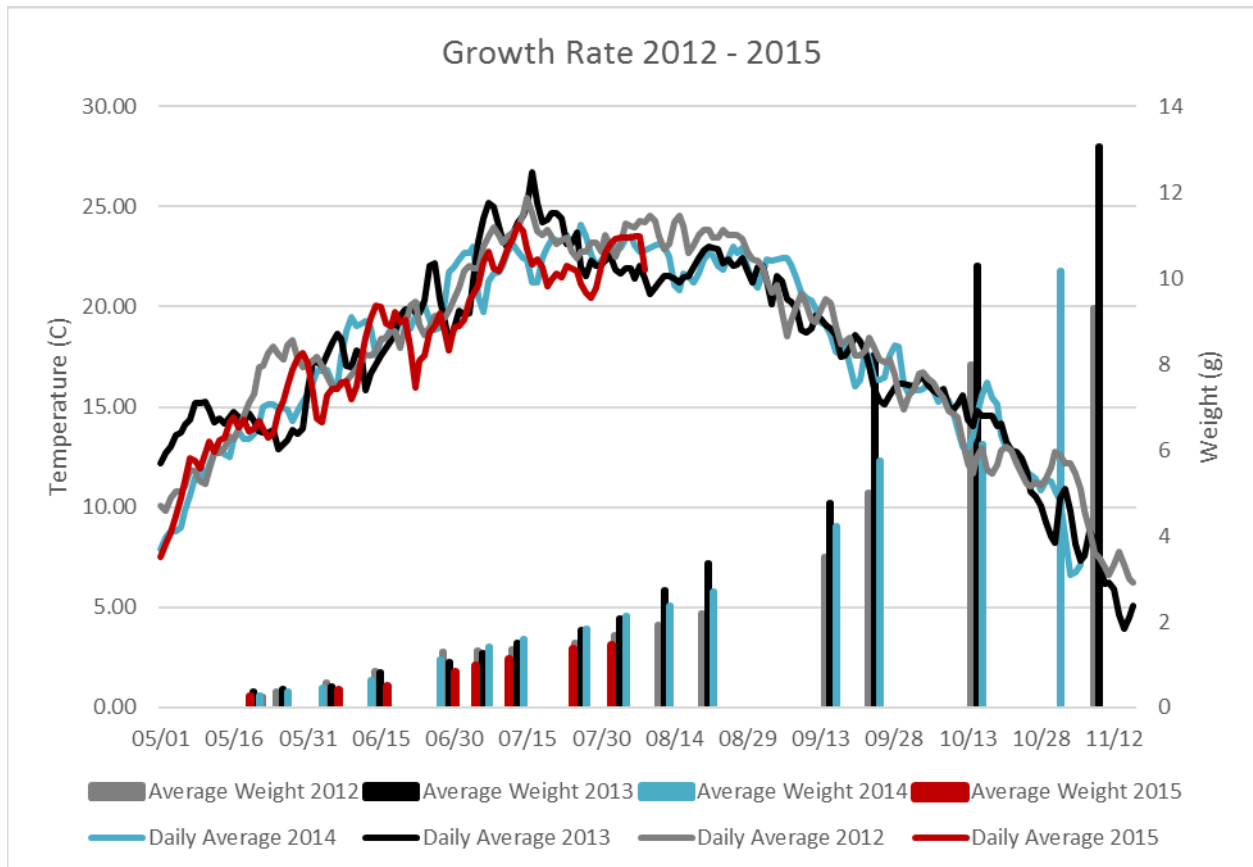
Summer is in full swing here at EMARC. The visitor's center has been busy and the fish are growing steadily. Temperatures have remained low this summer, which has been good for the fish. We are preparing for electrofishing and fin clipping, which will be here before we know it.

Temperatures through July have stayed relative low. July is our warmest month, and we generally see the warmest water temperatures the second or third week. As you can see in the graph, temperatures generally dropped through July, only rebounding to more seasonable temperatures in the last week of the month.

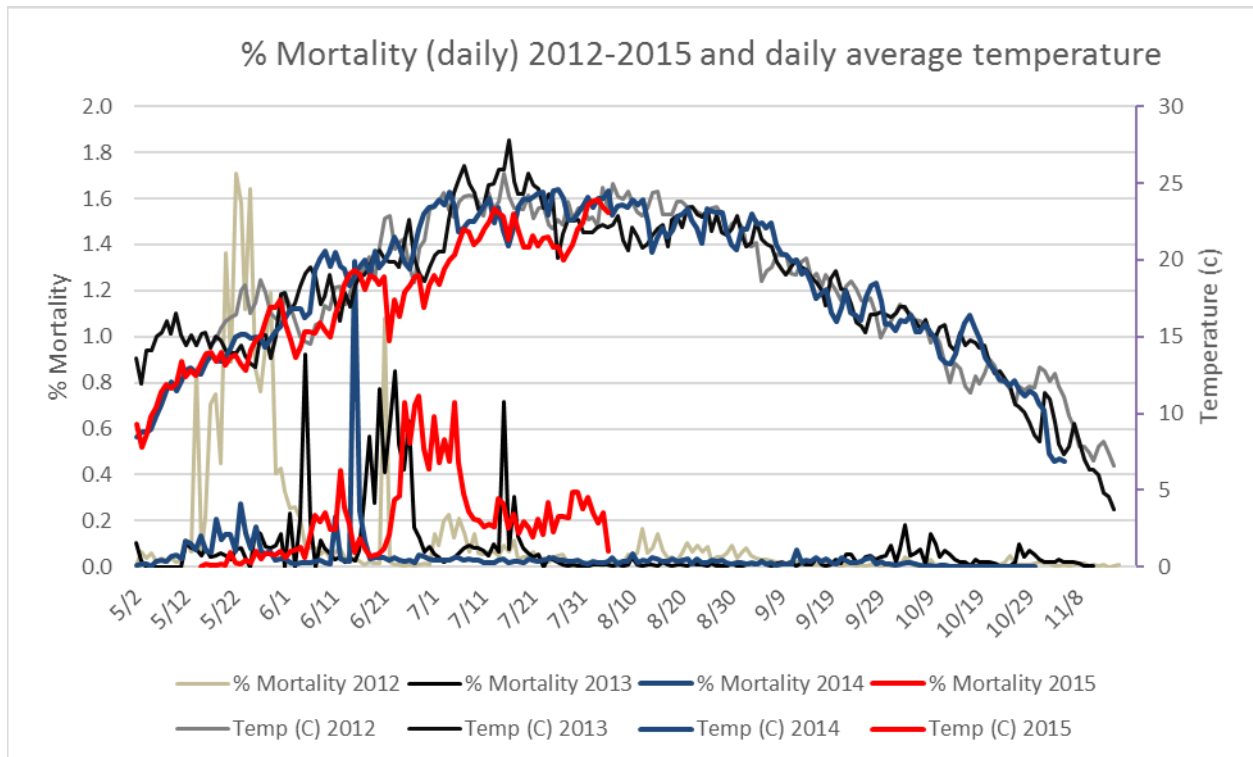


This has kept the fish feeding, though we are still getting warm enough that their feeding rate slows down on warm days. As you can see in the growth graph below, the fish are still a bit smaller than years previous. This is still an artifact of stress related to bacterial infections that have persisted through the summer. Though lagging behind in size compared to our previous years, the fish are still

healthy and growing at a good rate. As we get through the warmest days of August, we will be back in their prime feeding range, and they will begin to put on their fall weight.



Mortality has remained steady through July. We have not seen much increase, but have seen a slight decrease in the trend recently. Though higher than last year, things have been going well in the hatchery. We have had no other issues and the fish, in general, seem to be doing well.



We had our bi-annual Parr Project meeting this past month. The focus of the meeting was on the results we saw during smolt trapping this year. DSF staff sat down with Maine Department of Marine Resource staff prior to the meeting to discuss the results, and Maine DMR staff presented the results at the meeting. I have attached the presentation and meeting minutes to this report. There is concern that the very low smolt numbers were related to stocking numbers this past fall. Though the numbers we saw in the smolt trap are concerning, it is far too early in the project to make any assumptions, and the last thing we would want to do or support is backtracking at this point if there is not significant data to show the cause of low smolt numbers. Electrofishing results should help us understand what we have out there for juvenile salmon. Electrofishing will begin the first week of September, depending on water temperature.

We hosted an open house at EMARC this past month. We had about 40 people come through the facility, many were locals who had never been in. We had a jazz/classical guitarist playing music and offered some refreshments. It was a



wonderful afternoon and all who attended were excited about what was going on at the facility.

Construction and equipment outfitting of EMARC continues. The third and final construction phase features installation of an elevator, wet lab, and audio-visual equipment. The audio visual equipment is ordered and will be installed by fall 2015. Funding for the elevator is expected in fall 2015, after which we will commence contracting. We have also applied for or been donated lab equipment and are seeking support for lab furnishings. The third and final stage of construction at EMARC will be completed by fall 2016.