



Monthly Hatchery Report

March, 2015



Report by: Kyle Winslow; Hatchery Manager

A report of monthly activities and events

March has been a good month here at EMARC. We have been getting the hatchery ready for transferring alevin to their incubation boxes, plugging away at preparing the hatchery for another rearing season, and keeping busy with egg picking.

With temperatures remaining low this spring, egg development has been slow in the hatchery. At this point we have very little hatching, and the hatching that is occurring is coming from trays with the earliest take of eggs. Nonetheless, we have had good survival through the eyed egg stage, with right around 98% survival to date.

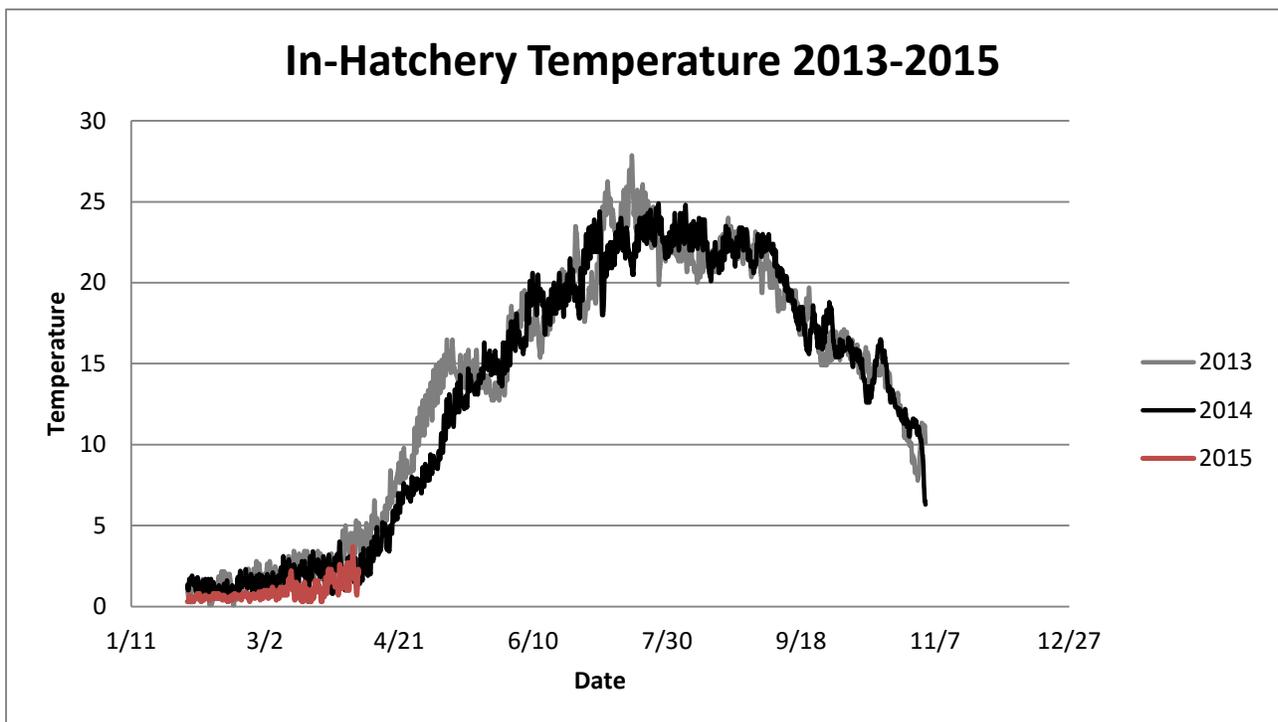


Fig. 1. Temperatures in 2015 have remained lower than the previous two years due to lingering river ice and persistently cold temperatures.

Incubation boxes have been plumbed in and running for the past two weeks and are ready for alevin. We have decided to run 9 tanks with fish and leave our 10th tank empty. This will give us right around 36,000 fish per tank. Since this is the highest density we have operated at we wanted to make sure there was a spare



tank open if the need arose to decrease density for any reason. The open 10th tank is also important during fin clipping season.

We had a great meeting with agency staff this past March. I have attached the minutes from the meeting as well as presentations that were shared. There continues to be great response to the work being done here at EMARC, and the agencies are giving us their continued support. On the heels of dismal adult returns in 2014 to Maine rivers, the positive trend we are seeing on the East Machias is a ray of hope. The work we are doing is progressive and significantly important at this stage of the game, and people are certainly noticing.

We finished up the first round of school visits for the Salmon in the Schools program early this month. We are looking forward to having many of the schools to EMARC for a tour and presentation on the incubation of eggs in the wild compared to in a hatchery setting. A morning was also spent with a group of migrant students from the Mono en Mono program in Milbridge, ME. The students were mostly kindergarten age. After a hatchery tour, the students enjoyed looking at alevin and eggs under a microscope and talking about the kind of habitat salmon live in. It was a great experience for all involved!

Preperations have been under way for our 15th annual Smelt Fry. This year's celebration will take place on Saturday, April 18th, and will run from 1 – 6pm. The idea is a town wide celebration of local fisheries throughout an afternoon. There will be informational booths and other activities such as tours of our Pleasant River Hatchery and heritage smelt shack.

The 3rd annual Smolt Bolt and Bloater Bash is coming up and is only one month away! Applications have been rolling in and the event looks to be another good one. With any luck, the snow will be gone by May, and hope abounds for some semblance of spring, complete with sunshine and warm temperatures, to adorn the day; time will tell if that is wishful thinking.