Monthly Hatchery Report

October, 2015

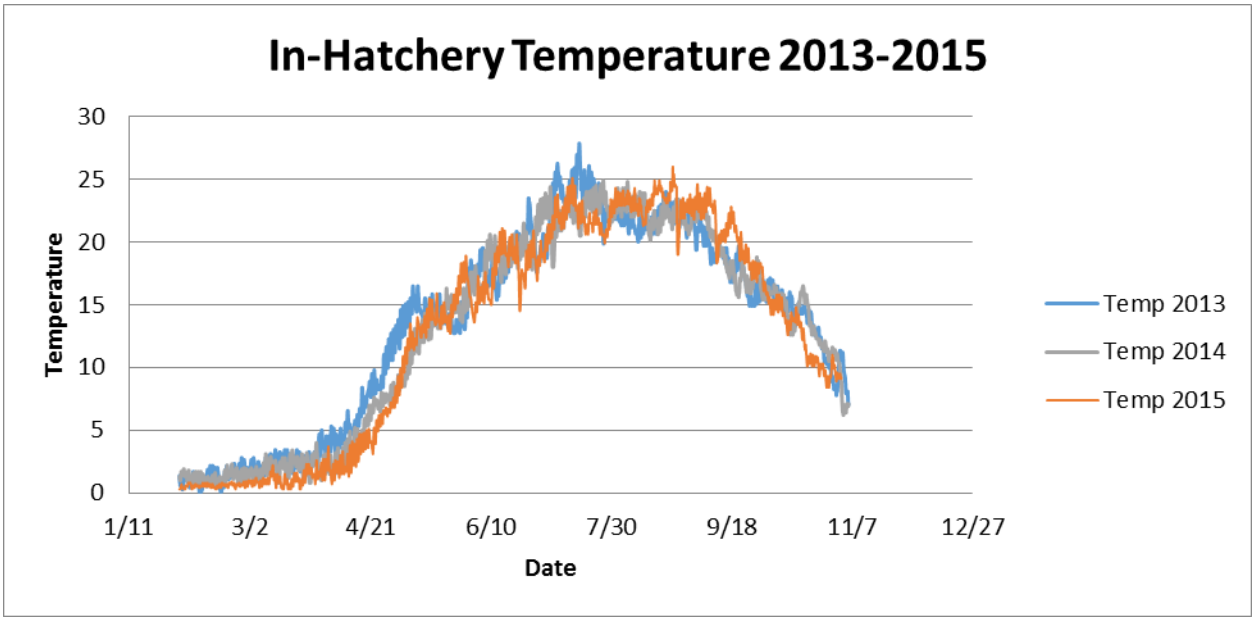
Report by: Kyle Winslow; Hatchery Manager

A report of monthly activities and events

A Report on activities from the *Peter Gray Hatchery*, East Machias, ME.

October has been a very exciting month here at EMARC. With help from many students and volunteers, and after many long hours, the fish have all been marked and released into the river! We have been working on cleaning up the hatchery and shutting down for the next couple months.

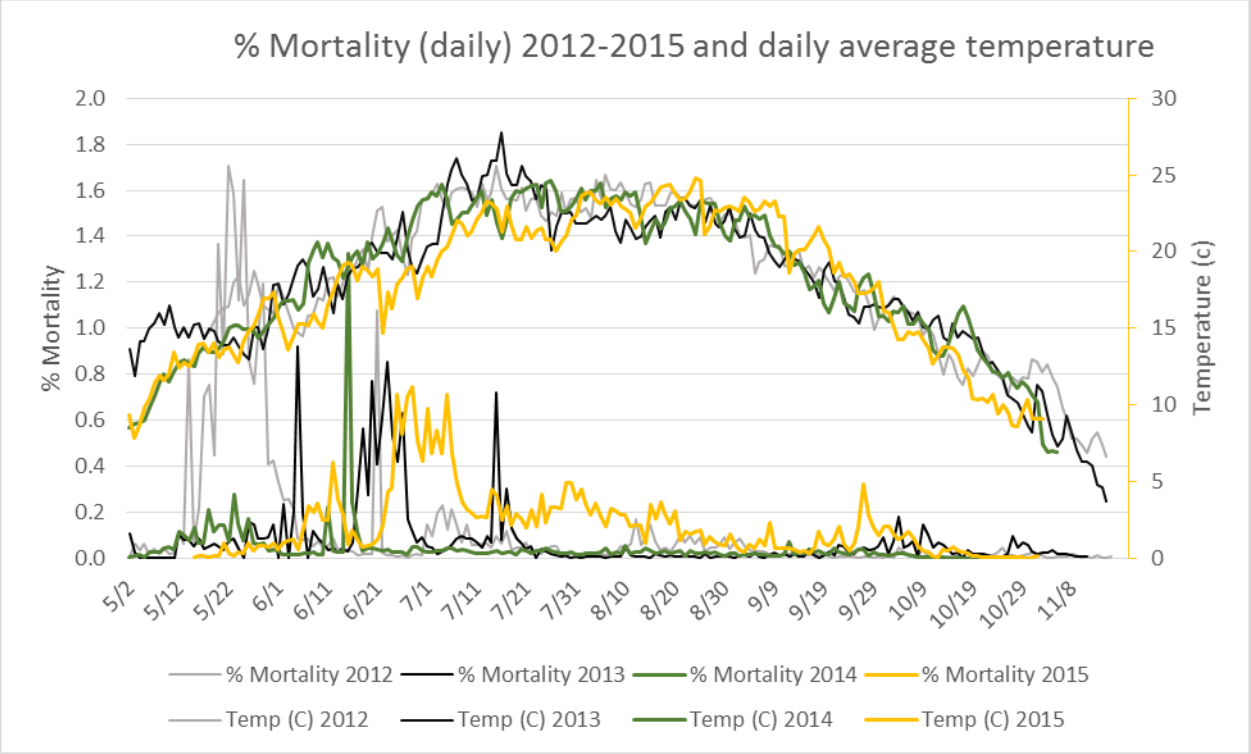
Fin clipping began slowly in September. Temperatures remained high through September which forced us to push fin clipping back further. Once temperatures began to drop, they dropped quickly and then leveled off a bit toward the end of October.



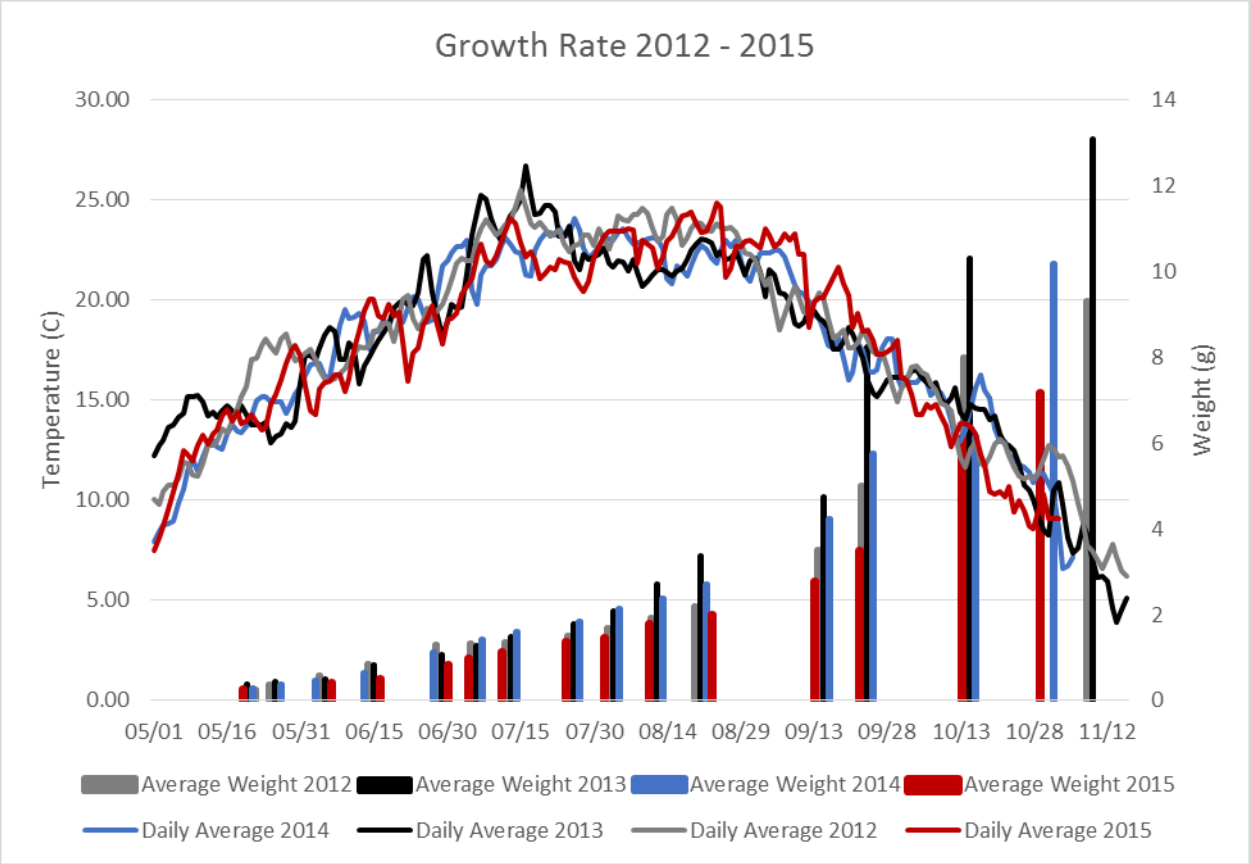

The fish recovered well from marking once temperatures dropped a little further. The mortality graph below shows a bump in mortality after the first tank was clipped through, mainly due to poor recovery likely due to warm temperatures. Once things were underway, we worked through the fish quickly. We had help from over 300 students from six different schools and many volunteers this year, and it took just over 3 weeks to complete.

Once the fish were marked, we moved right on to stocking. With two stocking trucks borrowed from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, fish were trucked and boated to 22 sites throughout the watershed at a density of 120 fish per unit of

habitat. We had great help from the University of Maine at Machias, Washington Academy, Maine Department of Marine Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Everything went very well and we estimated that 200,000 fish were stocked this year. See the stocking map at the end of this report for 2015 socking sites.




Growth was a bit lower this year than previous. As mentioned in previous reports, part of the reason for this was steadily warmer temperatures through the summer, and increased mortality due to bacterial infection. I have also found that rearing fish in higher densities, as we have been, simply produces smaller fish. Though feed is adjusted for density of fish, there seems to be an inverse correlation between tank density and growth rate.

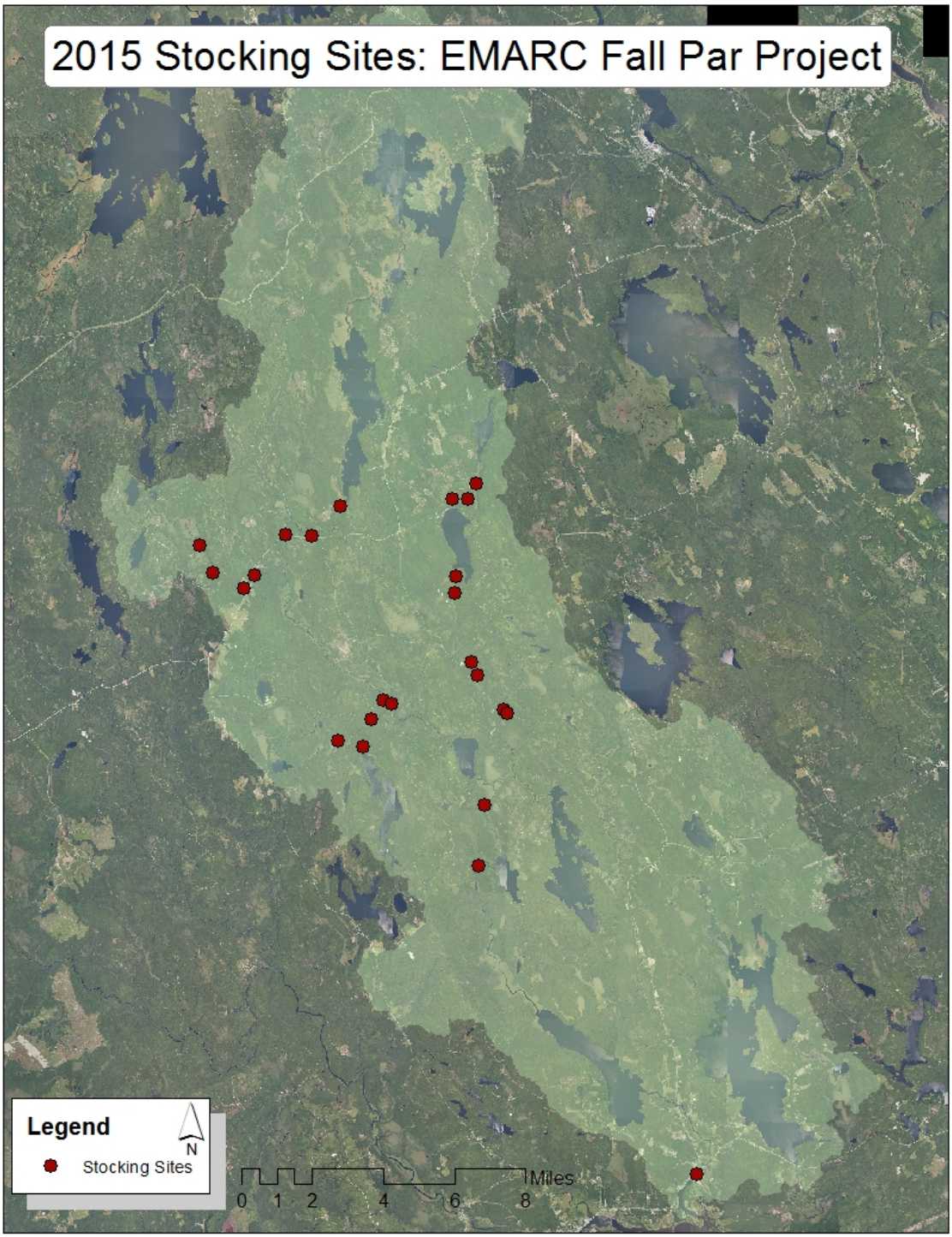



We are moving on to redd counting for the time being and entering remaining data from the year, as well as cleaning up and shutting down the hatchery. The US Fish and wildlife Service is in the process of spawning their fish now, which means we will have a good idea of what kind of egg numbers we will be looking forward to for 2016. For the Winter Report, I will include a break down of weight and length data collected during fin clipping, as well as a redd count summary for this year.

With one more year down, we are taking some time to clean the hatchery, and reflect on the past year, reflect on what worked and what didn't work. Though we were met with more challenges this year than in the past, we made it through the year successfully. We stocked 200,000 fish that would meet Peter's rigorous standards of excellence, we continued to learn about and improve our methods, we engaged with, and hopefully inspired, hundreds of students and community

members, and we met all challenges we faced head on and persevered. We are already looking forward to next year, and to continued success in our work. And with any luck we will begin to see our fish leave the river in ever stronger numbers, and returning to spawn - carrying on our work on their own, the way *they* know how.

DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION




A Report on activities from the *Peter Gray Hatchery*, East Machias, ME.