DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION

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Monthly Hatchery Report

September, 2015

Report by: Kyle Winslow; Hatchery Manager

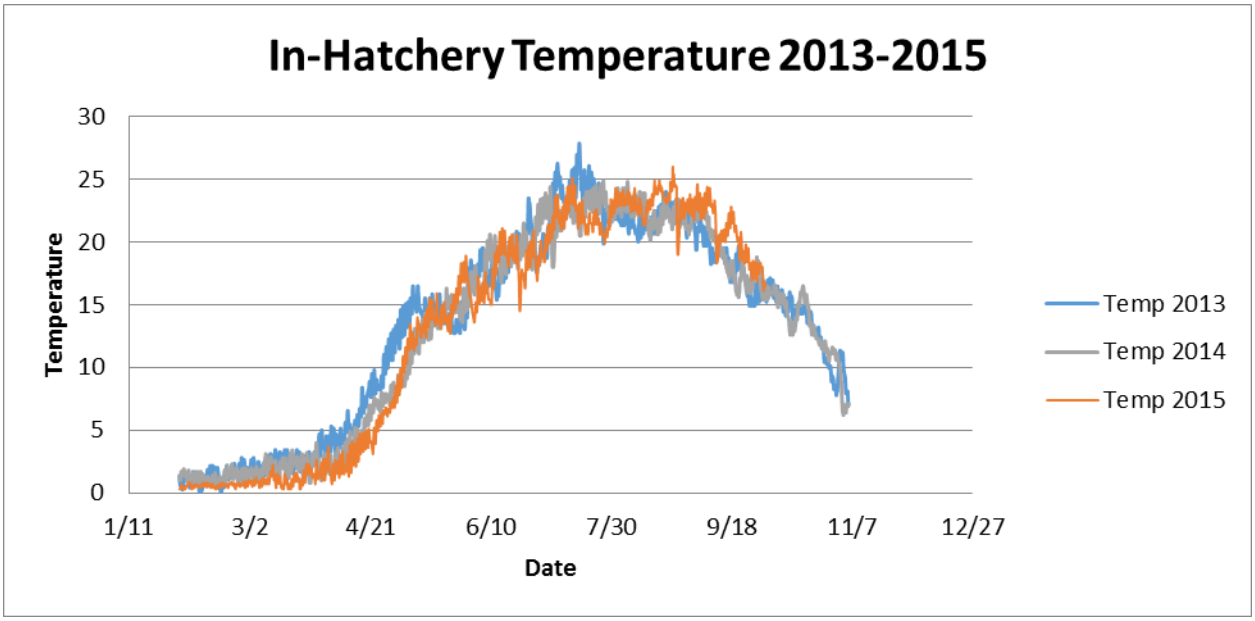
A report of monthly activities and events

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

Summer is winding down here and we are moving into the busiest, and most exciting, time of the year. This month we spent some time out in the field conducting electro fishing surveys with the Maine Department of Marine Resources and we have begun fin clipping. The hatchery is abuzz with activity.

Electrofishing surveys were conducted this September. These surveys are conducted under the supervision of the Maine Department of Marine Resources and the results are processed by their office. As of now we do not have specific results from DMR, but anecdotally, the numbers of parr in the river looked very good. We surveyed a total of 18 sites throughout the watershed, representative of the sites we stocked. I will send along DMR's report once we have it in hand.

Electro fishing was delayed by a week or so this year due to warm temperatures. Temperatures this late summer have been quite warm. Through August, and well into September, temperatures have remained above 20°C, only dropping briefly when significant rainfall events occurred.

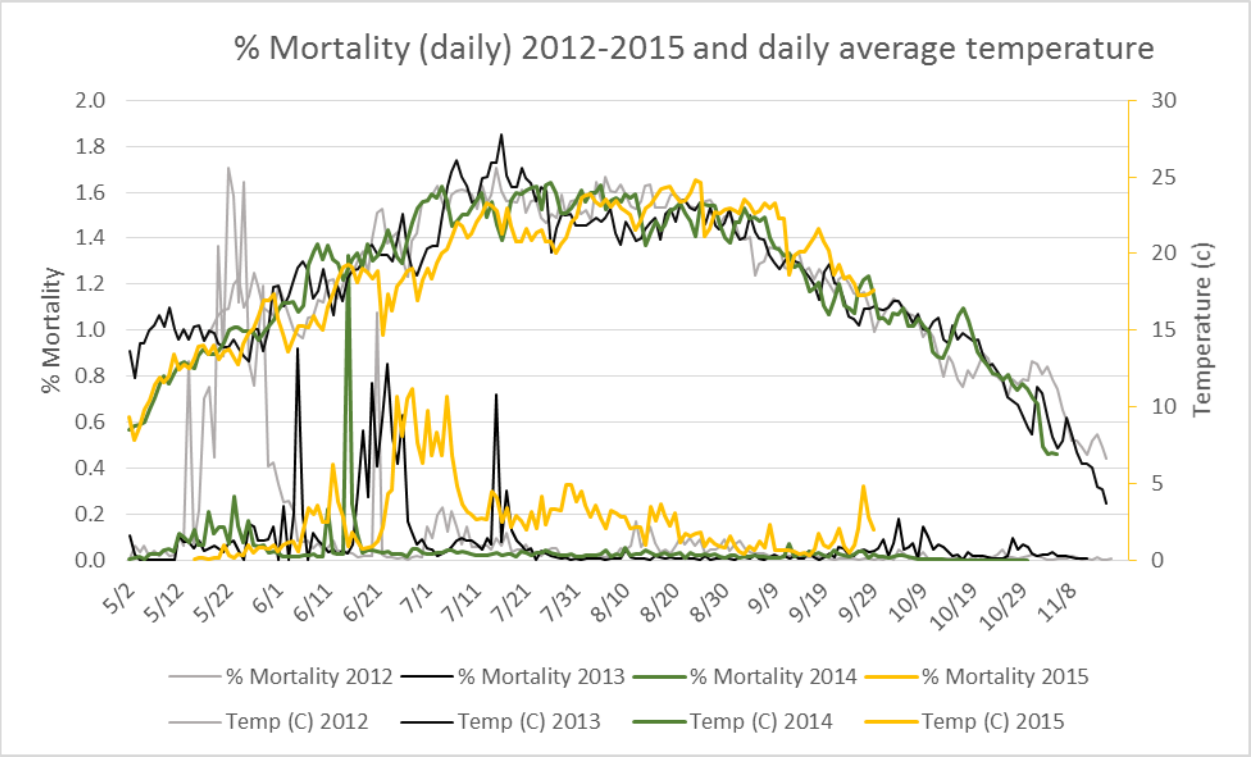


These warm temperatures have also impacted fin clipping. We were hopeful to begin fin clipping by September 14th, but had to push the start date to September 21st due to warm temperatures. Because of the anesthetic we use during this

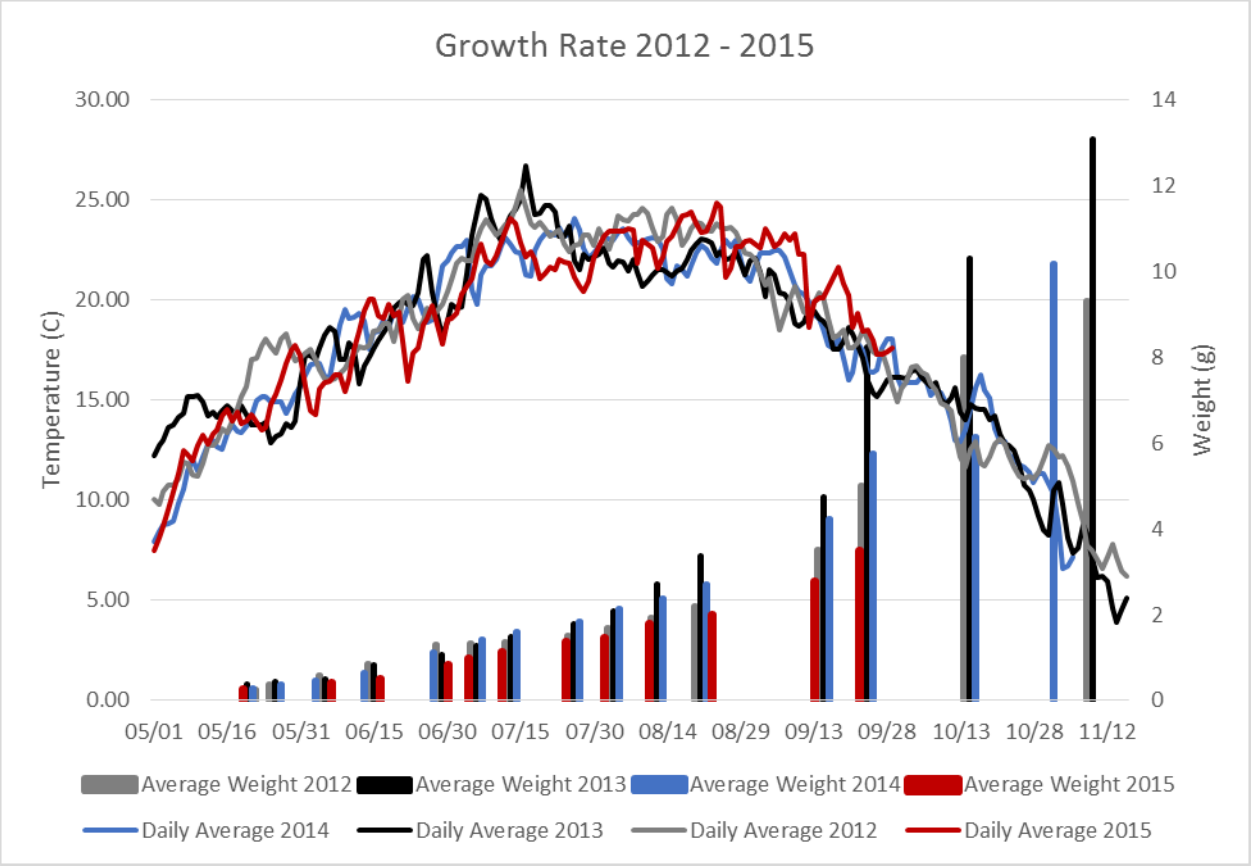
process, and the handling stress on the fish, temperatures need to be below 19°C. In an effort to not lose more ground, and get the fish clipped and ready to stock before November, we began adding well water to the head tank to drop the temperatures another degree or so.

So far, fin clipping has gone well. We have had over 230 students through the hatchery in the past two weeks helping out, as well as over a dozen community members lending a hand in the effort. So far we have clipped about 80,000 fish. I am hopeful that we will get the job done over the course of the next two weeks, and will begin stocking by mid-October.

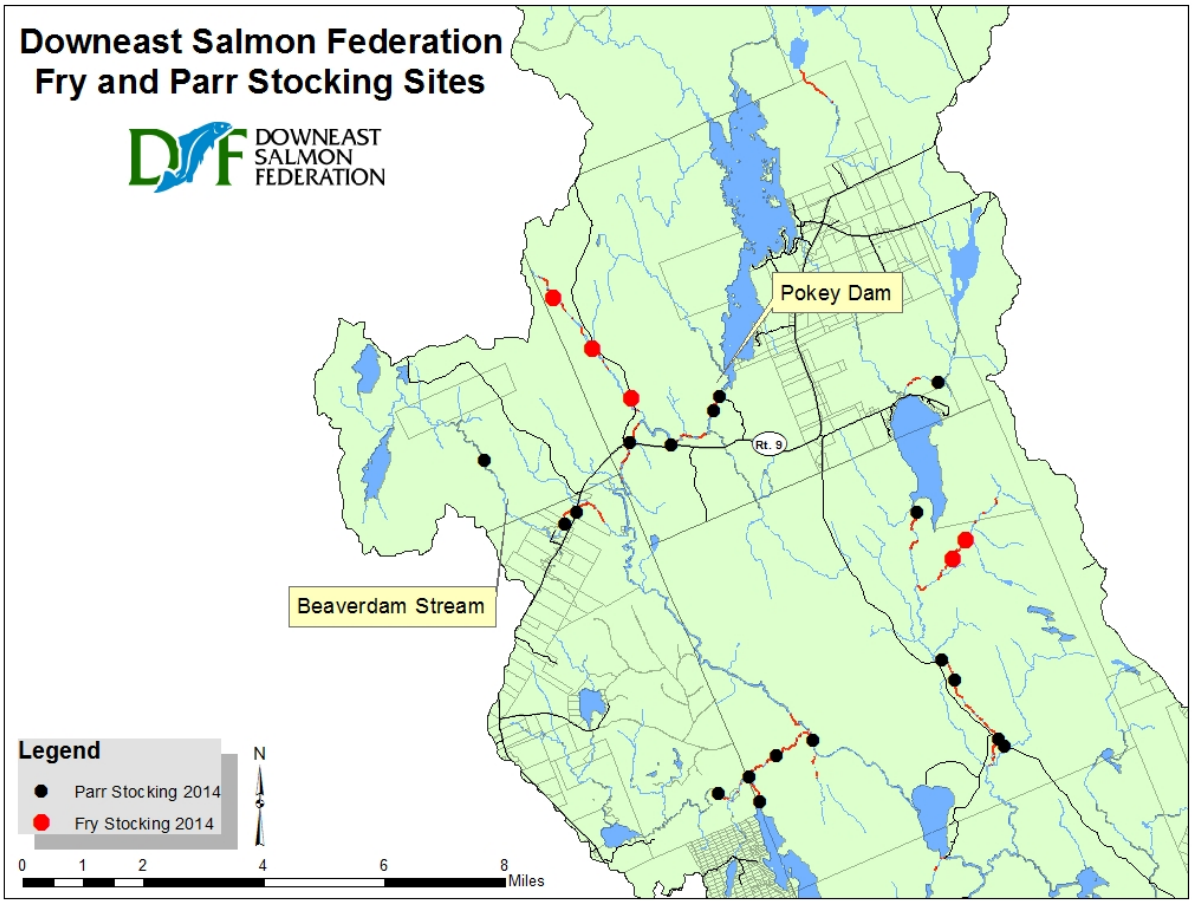
Mortality has decreased as we have moved into September, though we have seen a spike as we clipped through the first two tanks. This process involves a lot of handling, and thus, a lot of stress on the fish. Given the persistent problems with bacteria we have faced through the summer, and the increased mortality in the first tank we clipped through, we are proactively salting tanks as they are clipped to help get ahead of any problems we may encounter.



Growth through the beginning of September has been relatively slow with warmer temperatures. As things have cooled down the past few weeks, we have seen a significant increase in appetite, and the fish are growing pretty quickly.



Stocking will likely begin this month. The sites we will be stocking will remain the same as 2014, with the addition of two mainstem sites that have not been stocked the past two years. The stocking sites are shown in the stocking map at the end of this report.



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