IDAHO FISH & GAME

Southwest Region Fisheries Report

FEBRUARY 2017

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Greetings!

The early winter of 2016-17 has been a difficult one for wildlife in Region 3 and most of the rest of the state. Wildlife staff and conservation officers are busier than ever. Normally at this time of year, big game counts are conducted from the air to develop seasons for the next year. This has occurred or is ongoing. Plus, tremendous snow depths created an extra set of responsibilities, including responding to depredation and starvation concerns.

As is often the case in nature, what's bad for some species is often good for others, and so it will be as this tremendous quantity of wet stuff finally melts. Reservoirs struggling for moderate to low snowpacks will refill, base flows will be higher, and sediment accumulations will be scoured. The most notable may be some of our low elevation reservoirs that haven't refilled in years. Fish like snow, though they may not know it.

For more information on fisheries, please visit the IDFG website & our fisheries page at http://idfg.idaho.gov. The website holds a tremendous amount of information including regional pages, blogs, and other content that may improve your fishing experiences. Please, sign up for this newsletter by sending your email address to: **joe.kozfkay@idfg.idaho.gov.** Other news releases may be found on our SW Region facebook page.

A large Boise River brown trout

Bass tagging

A common area of concern for anglers and biologist is whether current harvest rates are sustainable or appropriate. IDFG spends much time chasing this very question whether it be for fish, deer, elk, bears, or other harvested species.

During the last several years, we have tagged thousands of bass in southwest Idaho. The intention has been to estimate harvest rates as well as catch and release rates. Bass have been collected by a variety of methods including electrofishing or by attending a local club or regional competitive bass fishing tournament.

At weigh-ins, bass are transferred to large livewells, measured, and tagged with an orange Floy tag (just like the tag on above photo of brown trout), then released back into a waterbody. The tag contains a reporting number and a phone number which allows anglers to report catches via a hotline or IDFG's website. After the tag has been in the water for one full year, staff summarize the reports and apply correction factors to determine whether harvest rates are sustainable or appropriate. Thus far, for most large reservoirs, harvest rates have been determined to be near optimal levels for providing both harvest opportunities and some trophy potential. The details of these studies may be found in IDFG's technical report library.

A large Brownlee Res. smallmouth bass

Fishing & boating access

Repairing a damaged control structure at Tripod

The access, engineering, and construction crews tackled major construction projects at Black Sands on CJ Strike, Cove Arm, Redtop Pond, Horsethief, and Tripod reservoirs during 2016 and the early 2017. The Black Sands project is cooperative (with Owyhee County) and partially funded by Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation Waterways Grant. IDFG assisted with grant writing, design, and other technical assistance. Owyhee County managed the project. The new concrete ramp is in place and final touches (new boarding docks and abutments) are planned for early spring 2017. Similarly and nearby, a degraded boat ramp was replaced at Cove Arm providing much better access to the Snake River Arm of CJ Strike. The Redtop Pond Project, near Notus, was completed during summer of 2016. Anglers now have walk-in access to a large retired gravel pit with healthy bass and bluegill populations. New amenities include a designated parking lot, a restroom,

New concrete ramp being poured at Cove Arm

and a high quality T-shaped dock. We are very thankful for the contributions of the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen, Idaho Transportation Department, and The Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Without these partners, this project wouldn't have been possible. Four new concrete restrooms were installed at Horsethief Reservoir. Lastly, vandals struck the outlet water control structure at Tripod Reservoir, a popular walk-in rainbow trout fishery near Smiths Ferry. This necessitated lowering the reservoir so that the control structure could be replaced.

As always, we've been looking for new projects. Our priorities focus on maintaining and improving existing properties and looking for other sites that will improve public access to underserved waters. The largest 2017 project is the dredging of Wilson Ponds. These popular ponds had become silt laden. Suction dredges are beginning to remove 13,000 cubic yards of material. Map Rock Access on the Snake River will be getting a complete makeover during 2017 including parking areas, roads, fences, and a boat ramp. At Sawyers Pond near Emmett, a long-reach excavator is being used to remove a gravel bar from in front of the boat ramp which will reduce problems caused by shallow water and excessive Eurasian Watermilfoil. In addition, the Roberts Access boat ramp had been undercut by Snake River's currents causing it to slump. This non-functional ramp will be removed and replaced. Further planning is beginning for an additional access point about four miles downstream of Swan Falls Dam, splitting this reach into shorter segments, though this project may not begin until 2018.

IDFG maintains about 350 access sites statewide, including about 50 sites in the Southwest Region. The best way to learn about these is through an interactive map tool found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/access/index.html.

Poor-and –push technique which allows ramp blocks to be poured on dry ground and pushed into place underwater

Another newbie

The shuffle continues. As retirements and transfers occur, opportunities for infusions of new energy and ideas follow. In October, John Cassinelli transferred from our statewide research program where he spent his time studying methods for making our hatchery trout program better. John's new focus will be on the region's northeastern waters (Arrowrock, Deadwood, Lucky Peak, and river reaches in the Boise & Payette drainages) as well as working on improving local community fishing ponds. John grew up on a ranch in northern Nevada and enjoys taking advantage of all the outdoor recreational opportunities Idaho has to offer.

John Cassinelli with a Westslope Cutthroat from an alpine lake

Aquatic pest management

Staff apply a dilute formulation of rotenone from a small boat.

Invasive species have been described as one of the greatest threats to healthy populations of fish & wildlife of our time. New "invasives" find their ways to the wild through a variety of means. Though it's impossible to say for sure, we suspect that a new, potentially-invasive fish species (Rosy Red Shiner) arrived in Boise's Redwood Park Pond from somebody's aquarium.

Can a three-inch fish really be that bad? Well, yes, in certain circumstances. Many small "new" fish species are extremely prolific breeders and can out compete or steal food from the mouths' of Idaho's preferred or native species. Predicting the impact is nearly impossible; so, IDFG is forced into a corner when they are found. Not wanting to risk the health of existing fish populations, we occasionally "renovate" waters to prevent the spread. Renovate is fish-lingo for hitting the reset button by euthanizing all fish with fish pesticides and then restocking.

During summer 2016, trained staff applied about 6 gallons of rotenone to this 3/4-acre pond. It did what is was supposed to and about 10,000 fish were euthanized within several hours, most succumbed within minutes as rotenone interrupts a fishes ability to process oxygen at the cellular level. In addition to Rosy Red Shiner, several other aquarium species were found including large goldfish and Plecostumus, further hinting at the likely method of introduction. Fortunately, rotenone breaks down quickly by exposure to sunlight and no non-target mortality occurred. Common pond fishes (largemouth bass and bluegill) will be restocked during 2017.

Within minutes, the shoreline was lined with thousands of Rosy Red Shiner starting to succumb to rotenone.

Nampa Hatchery: the cycle of a catchable

A "catchable" is a hatchery produced rainbow trout stocked at a size (10-12") that is ready to be caught and (harvested or released) as soon as or shortly after being released. Catchables are stocked into a variety of water types in Idaho including lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and streams of all shapes and sizes. Normally, catchables are stocked in places that do not provide all of the habitat characteristics that wild trout require to support recreational fisheries solely. After stocking, catchables provide tremendous enjoyment to many anglers, but we wonder how many anglers know how and what it takes to provide these fish and fisheries. Below, we thought we'd share: the life cycle of a catchable trout.

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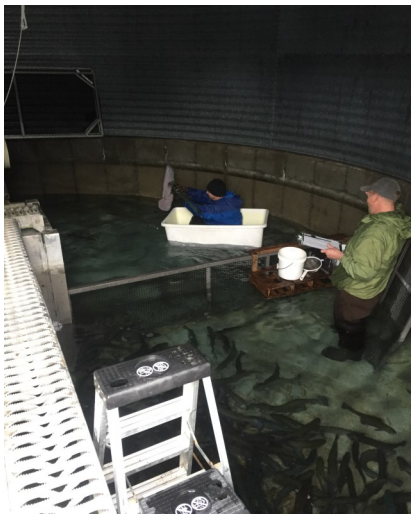
Large production raceways at Nampa Hatchery. Note: predator exclusion mesh and aeration.

Nampa Hatchery's primary goal is to efficiently raise fish and to ensure that stocked fish help meet fisheries objectives.

The steps:

- Adult broodfish are held in partially-underground silos at Hayspur Fish Hatchery (FH) until ready to spawn. Spawn timing is altered with artificial light to ensure eggs are available in order to meet nearly year-round stocking demands.
- Spawning occurs nearly year-around. Eggs are collected by a crew of four or five people and fertilized. After spawning, fertilized eggs are transferred to heath trays (incubators) arranged in stacks. Constantly flowing water is supplied to the eggs by an intricate plumbing system.
- Dead or deformed eggs are hand picked and removed daily to prevent fungal growth and mortality of healthy eggs.
- Eyed eggs are packed in coolers and then shipped by the hundreds of thousands to their grow-out destination (such as Nampa FH).
- Shortly after arrival at Nampa FH, eyed eggs are disinfected, a second time, to prevent possible disease outbreaks before being placed in upwelling incubators in nursery raceways.
- Once the eggs hatch (one to two week after receiving them) and their yolk sac is completely absorbed, food (small pellets) is provided to the fry for the first time.



Adult broodfish (egg producers) are held in "silos" at Hayspur FH

Eyed eggs ready for shipping

Freedom! Catchables being released from a transport truck

- Once the fry are readily feeding, growth rates approach about an inch a month in Nampa FH's 59°F water, near optimal water temperature for trout. Diets and feeding rate are adjusted on a regular basis to promote optimal growth rates.
- When the trout are about 4" long (i.e. fingerlings), they are moved from the nursery raceways to our bigger raceways (where they will remain until it's time for stocking).
- It takes about 11 months to grow a 10"-long catchable and 13 months for a 12"-long magnum trout.
- In an average year, about 700,000 catchable or magnum trout are stocked for anglers from Nampa FH.

The Crappies and Yellow Perch of CJ Strike Reservoir

In 2016, we began a study of population dynamics (e.g. age, growth, and survival rates) and angler harvest patterns of panfish (black crappie, white crappie and yellow perch; hereafter perch) at CJ Strike Reservoir. We hope the study will enable us to maintain or improve sportfishing opportunities for crappies and perch by increasing our understanding of these important population characteristics. Crappies and perch are popular among anglers, particularly when abundant. According to past surveys, anglers have spent up to an estimated 260,000 hours annually fishing at CJ Strike Reservoir. The fishery provides a financial boost to the state's economy as well. It was estimated that anglers spent $13.8 million in 2011 to fish here.

As part of the study, a creel survey was developed to answer harvest-related questions such as: what are catch rates for these species and how many fish are harvested by each angler. Random survey times, locations, and dates were selected to ensure the average angler was represented by the survey. Anglers were interviewed at check stations as they completed their fishing trip. Surveys were completed in the spring and fall, over a two-month period in each season.

Chasing panfish in the narrows

We surveyed a total of 317 anglers in the two surveys, of which most anglers were residents (92%). Surveyed anglers fished a total of 1,452 hours and captured 2,126 fish. Roughly 24% of the captured fish were crappies and 41% were perch. The remainder of fish captured consisted mostly of smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, bluegill, hatchery rainbow trout and pumpkinseed. When we asked anglers "what they were fishing for" the responses were different between the spring and fall surveys. Most anglers in the spring survey were targeting crappies (39%) and smallmouth bass (26%). However, anglers in the fall were after "any" species (39%) or perch (29%).

Anglers caught one crappie or two perch for every three hours they fished. These catch rates were comparable to past surveys conducted at Brownlee (crappies) and Cascade (perch) reservoirs, where anglers harvested one crappie and two perch for every four hours they fished, respectively. While catch rates were on the low side of the spectrum, size of harvested fish was good. The average length of crappies harvested by anglers was 10.5" (spring) and 8" (fall). The average length of perch was 9.75" (spring) and 10" (fall). We also wanted to quantify how many panfish anglers retained. Most anglers (68%) did not harvest any crappies or perch. On the other side of the spectrum, a small percentage of angler trips (8%) resulted in the harvest of 15 or more crappies or perch. Maybe the old adage of, "10% of the anglers catch 90% of the fish" is sort of true.

So what do all of these results and numbers mean? For now, it's too early to tell as we are just starting to learn how CJ Strike panfish populations function and how anglers use these fish. The angler creel surveys will continue for the next several years, but this is only one piece of this panfish assessment. In addition, we plan to monitor several year-classes of crappies and perch through their life-cycle (e.g. young-of-year through mortality) using multiple survey methods (netting, electrofishing, and trawling). Combining the angler survey data with additional fish population surveys will increase our understanding and improve management of this important fishery.

Anglers harvested more than 15 crappies and/or perch 8% of the time.

Adult yellow perch were common during 2016

Check stations are important tools for learning about angler harvest patterns

South Fork Payette River

The SF Payette River originates in the scenic peaks of the Sawtooth Mountains and flows westerly for about 80 miles where it meets the NF Payette River at Banks and forms the main Payette River. It's hard to imagine clearer water and better scenery especially in the upper reaches; though to anglers, scenery matters little if and when fishing is poor.

Recently, anglers had expressed displeasure over trout catch rates compared to years ago, leading us to review our management of this drainage and initiate studies to learn more about current fish populations. Part of this, included examining habitat, stocking, rules, geology, flows, and repeating historical surveys.

A couple of items stuck out quickly. First, geology of the area is extremely unproductive. The river sits on a giant hunk of granite, an unproductive rock type. Salmon carcasses, which were once the primary source of nutrients, were blocked when Black Canyon Dam was completed in 1924. These factors contribute to extremely slow growth rates. Here, it takes 4 years for a redband trout to reach 8". Growth rates in "blue-ribbon" rivers are often double. In the SFPR, redband trout are known to live 6 or 7 years, so large trout are exceedingly rare. Also, IDFG drastically altered stocking practices. In the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, the SFPR was stocked very heavily. Stocking ceased after 1999 for a variety of reasons including rising hatchery feed costs.

Considering a variety of these and other factors, the SFPR should still support wild native redband trout, albeit small ones, and mountain whitefish in fishable numbers. To gauge abundance and fishing potential, IDFG periodically conducts snorkel surveys and counts fish and estimates their lengths. During the last several decades, snorkel surveys were conducted during 1996, 1997, & 2004. We repeated these surveys in the same locations and compared data to determine trends in numbers and sizes. In short, whitefish numbers appeared relatively stable, but redband trout numbers declined substantially and are low compared to other nearby waters. Sizes for both species were relatively stable. "Why" will be the next question and will, hopefully, inform management changes. Until then, IDFG is looking into whether stocking might be possible in certain sections of the river.

Teams of four snorkelers floating downstream counted fish in their "lanes" to gauge gamefish abundance

Mountain whitefish were the most common gamefish in the South Fork Payette River

Perfectly clear water with little algae on rocks (below) is often an indicator of low productivity and poor food resources for trout.

Lower Boise River: A Unique Urban Fishery

A large wild rainbow trout tagged and ready to be released

From Lucky Peak Dam, the Boise River stretches 64 miles across the Treasure Valley to its confluence with the Snake River near Parma. This section is referred to as the lower Boise River. Water released from Lucky Peak Reservoir supports a tailwater trout fishery that is unique in that the majority of this fishery exists in the most populated area in the Gem State. As water moves downriver, temperatures increase and the fish community transitions from rainbow and brown trout, mountain whitefish, and sculpin to species that are more tolerant of warmer waters such as smallmouth bass, channel catfish, and common carp.

IDFG has increased efforts to better understand the wild trout populations in the lower Boise River over the last couple of years. In 2016, we conducted three surveys on the lower Boise; triennial mark-recapture population trend surveys, wild trout abundance and exploitation surveys, and wild trout production surveys.

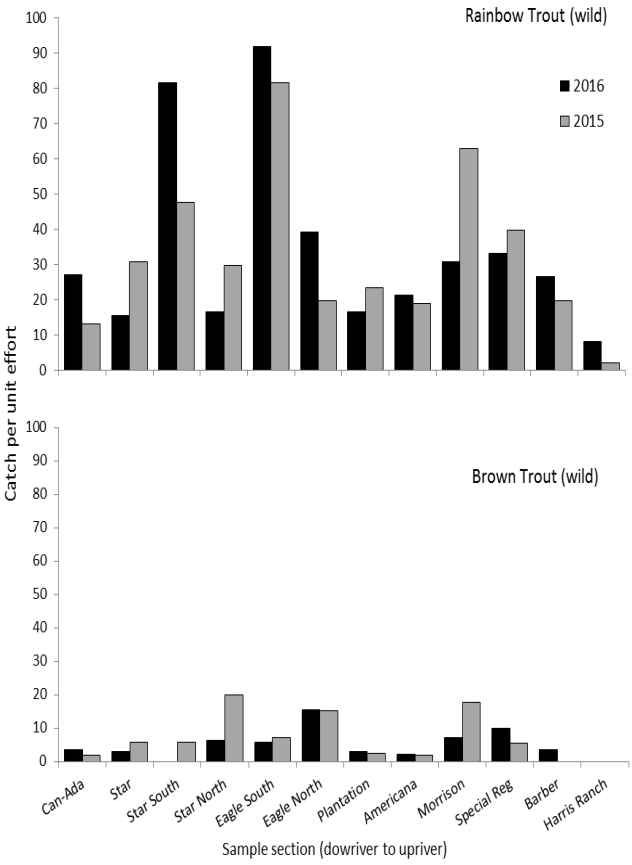
Triennial mark-recapture population surveys are conducted at fixed sites between West Parkcenter Bridge and Barber Dam, every three years. Sites are electro-fished using a canoe mounted shocking unit with three hand-held probes that are spread across the river. Long-term monitoring of this river section shows that wild trout abundance increased sharply from 1994-2010 (corresponding with improved river conditions) and has stabilized since that time. In both 2013 and 2016, wild Rainbow Trout densities remained constant at 6.6 fish/meter^2. The average size of wild Rainbow Trout has continued to increase slightly since 1994.

Starting in 2015 and continuing in 2016, 12 river sections from the Hwy 21 Bridge (east Boise) to Middleton were sampled in the summer using whitewater raft-mounted electrofishing gear. We collected trout by electrofishing each river bank in each section and recorded biological information, collected samples for estimating age, tagged fish with T-bar anchor tags, and released fish back into the river. Tags returned by anglers allow biologists to estimate how many trout are caught and harvested or released.

Wild rainbow trout remain the dominant trout species in the lower Boise River as about 85% of the trout we encountered were wild rainbows. Wild rainbows averaged 11" and the longest was 22". Our highest catch rate for wild rainbows was in the South Channel around Eagle Island. Wild brown trout averaged 11" and the longest brown was 24". Our highest catch rate for browns was in the North Channel between Eagle and Star. During the survey, we tagged nearly 650 wild trout. Angler catch of tagged trout has been pretty low. Only about 16% of the tagged wild brown trout were caught and none were harvested. About 6% of the wild rainbow trout were caught and 3% were harvested.

Preferred trout spawning and rearing locations in the Lower Boise River are poorly understood. To improve understanding, we conducted a comprehensive survey of trout fry numbers and locations in 2015 and 2016. We backpack electrofished shoreline areas at 61 mainstem and tributary sites between the Highway 21 Bridge (east Boise) and Middleton. In both years, fry densities were highest in tributary and side– channel habitats compared to mainstem sites. We also learned that most of the rainbow trout fry were sampled upriver of Eagle, whereas most brown trout fry were sampled downriver of Eagle. In 2017, we hope to repeat this fry sampling and determine what types of habitat grow the most trout.

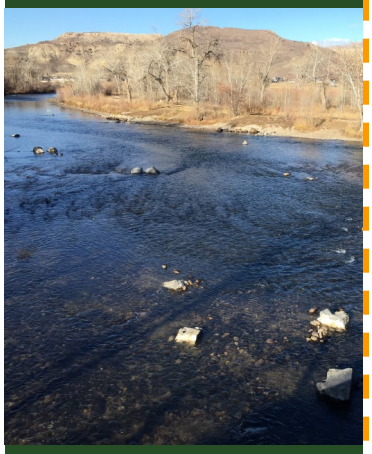
Overall, the lower Boise River continues to provide healthy and well-dispersed populations of wild rainbow and brown trout in the middle of Idaho's largest metropolitan area, though there is still much to learn about this fishery.



Electrofishing catch per hour for the lower Boise River

Boise River Flow Interruption

Flows at Barber Dam were zero for about 7 hours on February 5, 2015.



50 large boulders added to improve trout habitat !!!

Part two — for trout, especially young trout, late fall and winter can be a critical time. Hiding, resting, and feeding areas are hard to come by especially in sections that have been extensively straightened or channelized. Stable and adequate flows improve survival. Unfortunately, during early February 2015, a series of events led to "winter" flows in the Boise being drastically reduced for several hours. Outcry from concerned anglers and local media attention was substantial.

One of three engineered log jams placed in the Boise River to improve fish habitat. At higher flows these structures will be submerged.

In response, the dam owners (Ada County) and operators (Enel Green Power) granted a conservation donation of $45,000. A multi-entity planning board was developed and decided to improve fish habitat near Barber Park by installing engineered logjams or ELJs. ELJs are composed of chunks of large trees, including the root mass, and are secured to the bottom and bank by being partially buried and bolted to large pilings that are driven into the river's bottom. In addition, the design included the placement of 50 large, cubic yard, boulders. The intent of these structures was to improve habitat complexity, which gives fish and aquatic bugs, especially trout, more hiding, feeding, and resting areas, especially when the river's flows are very high or low. The construction part of the project was completed by a third party contractor (Copper River Energy) during November and December, 2016. IDFG's aquatic engineering staff and partnerships were critical to the completion of this project. It is our hope that this project will build momentum for improving fish habitat in the Boise River and create better fish habitat and better fishing in the long run.

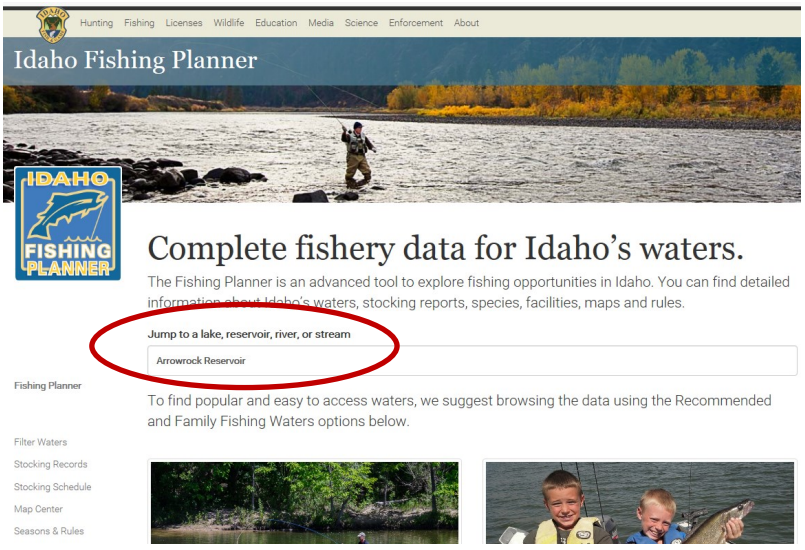
IDFG engineer and contractor discuss ideal material placement by excavator

Updated Fishing Planner— Digital Tools for Fishing

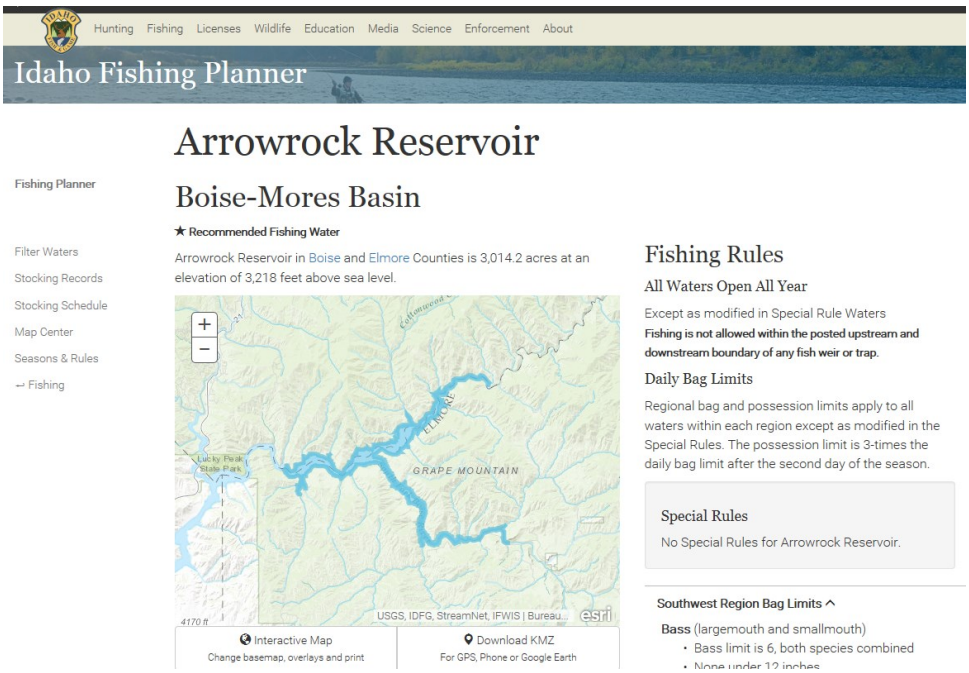
Staff have been focusing on updating the Idaho Fishing Planner to help people learn more about Idaho's many and diverse fishing waters. The new version is up and running with better features and layout! The Idaho Fishing Planner is an advanced mobile-friendly website that give anglers access to a huge amount of fishing information. This site's information includes locations of water bodies, stocking history, maps, amenities, as well as seasons and rules.

Finding the Fishing Planner is easy. You can either search the web for "Idaho Fishing Planner" or go directly to the IDFG's homepage (https://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/). From the homepage, scroll to the very bottom and click on the Fishing Planner logo (shown left).

To begin using the fishing planner, pick a water that you are interested in or browse a list of Recommended Fishing Waters or Family Fishing Waters, then filter the results to match your needs. We typically get a lot of phone calls asking questions related to stocking schedules or what species are present in certain rivers, lakes, or reservoirs. The Fishing Planner offers an opportunity for anglers to find this information on their own, provided an internet connection is available, and is especially helpful when IDFG offices are closed or staff is in the field.



When you arrive at the fishing planner page, you may type in a water of interest, say Arrowrock Reservoir, in the "jump to lake, reservoir, river, or stream" box (red oval to right). Hit enter, and a second webpage comes up with specific information related to Arrowrock (shown below). Here, you will find more specific information. On this page, you may find fishing rules (both specific to the waterbody and the regional bag limits), access facilities, fish species present, fish stocking information (both past and present), water flow and boating data, as well as interactive maps that include topographical and aerial images.



The new fishing planner has excellent search and filter options located on the left margin of the webpage, which makes finding fishing information easier. We have also put together a YouTube video tutorial, which shows how easy this digital tool is to use. The video can be found at the website shown below, https://www.youtube.com/user/idahofishgame.

Give it a try to find out more information on your favorite spot, or research a new spot for your next adventure!

News & Notes

There are a number of other exciting fisheries-related projects happening in the region. Here are some highlights:

- Two University of Idaho fisheries graduate students are conducting important research on kokanee and bass populations in the Southwest Region. The first project is assessing the best methods or gear types for accurately assessing the numbers and sizes of kokanee populations in lakes and reservoirs. The second project is assessing smallmouth bass populations in the Snake River between Swan Falls and Brownlee Reservoir and other Snake River tributaries. The study is designed to assess population dynamics (e.g. age, growth, and survival rates), angler harvest patterns, and migration patterns.

- The US Army Corps of Engineers and other entities proposed project to raise Arrowrock Dam by 74' was discontinued due to being cost prohibitive. Alternate projects are being considered and assessed. Most of these involve smaller raises of multiple dams in the Boise drainage.

- Research and hatchery staffs are working to develop and rear sterile Fall Chinook Salmon that will be stocked in some large reservoirs to provide trophy fishing opportunity. A follow-up study will include an assessment of field performance (growth and survival). Lucky Peak Reservoir was stocked during 2016 with about 5,000 fingerlings. By Fall, anglers were already reporting catching Chinook that had grown to 7-8".

- Several eagle scouts completed projects to improve fish habitat in local ponds by constructing spider blocks or fish cribs. Structures are transported by boat and sunk in moderate depths where they provide hiding cover and feeding areas for small fish and, in turn, attract larger gamefishes.

Conor McClure, a University of Idaho graduate student, holding a smallmouth bass sampled from the Snake River during summer 2016. At times, electrofishing rafts were utilized to capture fish in an effort to better understand and manage this population

A volunteer puts the finishing touches on a wooden fish crib. Cribs provide great cover for bass and bluegill

- After several long dry years, sufficient water levels have returned to the Riddle area lakes and Lahontan cutthroat trout stocking will resume during 2017. These lakes are located near the Nevada border on the east side of the Region.

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Our Mission

(*Idaho Code* Section 36-103)

All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall only be captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.

Our Vision

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game shall work with the citizens of Idaho in providing abundant, diverse fish and wildlife and ensuring a rich outdoor heritage for all generations.

News & Notes Continued

- Continued control of spawning kokanee in Deadwood Reservoir has resulted in some very nice sized kokanee in angler creels. By mid-summer 2016, age-3 kokanee exceeded 15". Larger fish were a result of consistently controlling escapement (i.e. the size of the spawning run) for the last several years and by ensuring that control occurred for the entire duration of spawning runs. We expect adult kokanee size at Deadwood Reservoir to be similar or larger during 2017; however, numbers are likely to decline and high bags will be less frequent. IDFG will have to monitor this fishery closely to ensure that the Deadwood River's egg take is not substantially reduced by angler harvest to ensure future stocking needs.

- Annual kokanee stocking numbers for Arrowrock (100,000) and Lucky Peak reservoirs (250,000) are projected to be fairly stable for 2017. As in previous years, fingerlings will be planted in May to early June. Though numbers will be stable, a noticeable change was necessary due to a shortage of early run kokanee eggs from our Deadwood River collection site. Because of this shortage, we had to switch some of the stocking to late-run kokanee from Lake Pend Oreille. This is mostly unchartered water for these reservoirs. Staff will keep an eye out for any potential performance differences (survival, growth, and catch rates) to ensure that the quality of these important fisheries is maintained.

- Free Fishing Day 2017 is scheduled for June 10th. IDFG and others hold a variety of events throughout the region. If you know a young angler or somebody looking to get into fishing, please encourage them to attend, or better yet take them. Details may be found on IDFG's website.

- A schedule of fishing-trailer events and Free Fishing Day events is available at https://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/learn-to. At nearly all of these events, knowledgeable staff or volunteers will be available to provide fishing instruction and to loan out fishing gear and equipment.