

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Laboratory Assessment of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, Whirling Disease Infection as a part of the Yellowstone National Park Whirling Disease Study
Type of Project: Research/natural resources
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Fish and Wildlife Service
Effective Dates: June 15, 2003 - June 15, 2004
Funding Amount: \$6,000
Investigators and Agency Representative (include name, address, phone, email): NPS CONTACT: Dr. Todd Koel, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, Yellowstone NP, POB 168, Yellowstone NP, WY 82190; 307-344-2281, Todd_koel@nps.gov UNIVERSITY CONTACT: Crystal Hudson, MSU Department of Veterinary and Molecular Biology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717; 406-582-8656; crystal_hudson@fws.gov
Project Abstract: Whirling disease (WD) is a serious health threat to salmonid fish in the United States. Exotic to the United States until 1958, WD has rapidly spread throughout the country and is now found in hatchery and wild salmonid populations in 22 states. The effects of WD have been particularly devastating to salmonid fish populations in the Rocky Mountain states and have caused a 90% decline in rainbow trout populations in the Madison River of Montana as well as the complete recruitment failure of rainbow trout in the Colorado River. <i>Specific objectives of this research include:</i> 1) Laboratory testing of sentinel cage fish and wild-reared cutthroat trout from streams to determine the prevalence and severity of whirling disease 2) Laboratory testing of incidental catch from gillnetting operations in Yellowstone Lake to determine the occurrence of whirling disease in adult cutthroat trout
Outcomes with completion dates (reports, publications, workshops, videos, etc.): All information collected during this study will be provided in electronic format to the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Section, Yellowstone Center for Resources. Final product describing overall research results will be in the form of a brief technical report.
Keywords: Yellowstone cutthroat trout, whirling disease, Yellowstone National Park
<u>For Administrative use only:</u> <i>Date Annual Report Received:</i> <i>Date Final Report Received:</i> <i>Publications, etc. on file:</i>