

STUDY PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Michigan

Project No.: F-80-R-4

Study No.: 464

Title: Coded-wire tag and oxytetracycline marking of salmonines in the Great Lakes and tributary streams and data base management for tagged fish returns and weir and survey data

Period Covered: October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003

Study Objective: To coded-wire tag and adipose fin clip, or mark with oxytetracycline, experimental lots of fish at state fish hatcheries. To design, develop, and manage databases for research studies which utilize coded-wire tags (CWT) or oxytetracycline (OTC), harvest weir data, and survey data from Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station research studies. To convert all past Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station main frame and personal computer data files into a common personal computer-based format.

Summary: Approximately 763,000 chinook salmon were marked with a coded-wire tag and adipose fin clip in 2003. In addition, 5,291 lake sturgeon were marked with CWTs. Tag retention for chinook salmon ranged from 93-98% and averaged 96%. Marked and unmarked Atlantic salmon, brown trout, chinook salmon, coho salmon, lake trout, and rainbow trout were sampled from index surveys, sport fisheries, tribal fisheries, weirs, and fish ladders. More than 4,400 salmonines with CWTs were processed from the 2002 collections. Chinook salmon (N=1,745), lake trout (N=1,343), and rainbow trout (N=1,277 fish) accounted for the majority of fish collected in 2002 for CWT processing.

Findings: Jobs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 were scheduled for 2002-03, and progress is reported below.

Job 1. Title: Mark fish and conduct quality control.— Approximately 763,238 chinook salmon received a coded-wire tag and adipose fin clip in 2003. Tag retention was high, averaging 96.1% and ranging from 93-98% across stocking sites (Table 1). In addition to chinook salmon, 5,291 lake sturgeon were marked with CWTs in 2003. The total number of fish marked in 2003 was less than in 2002 (Table 2), since 2002 was the final year of marking for the Lake Huron chinook salmon evaluation (Study 482).

Job 2. Title: Sample marked and unmarked fish.— Marked and unmarked Atlantic salmon, brown trout, chinook salmon, coho salmon, lake trout, and rainbow trout were collected in 2002 from assessment samples, sport fisheries, tribal fisheries, and harvest weirs (Table 3). These collections resulted in proportional samples of marked and unmarked fish. Additional, non-proportional samples of marked fish were obtained from the sport fisheries through creel census, fishing tournaments, and anglers and charter boat operators who observed an adipose-fin clipped fish and voluntarily returned the head to a designated drop-off site (Table 3). Some non-proportional samples of CWT fish were also collected at fish ladders (Study 487). Collection of marked and unmarked fish is ongoing during 2003, from the same sources utilized in 2002.

Job 3. Title: Read CWT and OTC marked fish.— All adipose-clipped fish collected during the 2002 field season (see Job 2) were examined for presence of a CWT; tags were removed, read,

and recorded in a database. Data were provided to other researchers and managers (both within and outside the MDNR) as requested. A significant portion of work in this job involves data sharing and exchange with other state and federal agencies.

A total of 4,420 CWT fish collected in 2002 have been processed at the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station (Table 3). This number likely represents most of the fish collected in 2002 with CWTs that will be turned in for analysis, although volunteer anglers may continue to return some fish. Chinook salmon (N=1,745) were the species with the highest number of CWTs recovered and processed, followed by lake trout (1,343) and rainbow trout (1,277). The majority (74%) of tag collections were from sport fisheries, through volunteer, creel census program (Study 427), and headhunter returns. The total number of fish processed in 2002 (4,420) was slightly lower than the average for the period 1990-2001 (Table 4).

Job 4. Title: Prepare annual report.—This Performance Report was completed as scheduled.

Job 5. Title: Develop data base structures and do data entry.— Database maintenance and improvement work is ongoing. Databases have been corrected to standardize data codes and fields, allowing users to link and work with multiple databases. In addition to the databases maintained at Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station (surveys, creel census, coded-wire tag), compatibility with databases maintained by other Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) units has been ensured. These units include the Fish Health Laboratory, Fish Production Section, and Fisheries Information Management Section.

Data entry has been completed for all CWTs collected during 2002 using the standard entry format that was developed previously. The entry form utilized simplifies the entry process and greatly reduces errors. Visual basic programming allows for automatic searches of the extensive volunteer and CWT databases.

Information on stocking and capture locations is entered in formats that are compatible with GIS (geographic information systems) mapping programs. Recording locations in decimal degree formats and standardizing entries allows for more efficient use of information obtained from within the coded-wire tag database when conducting spatial / movement analyses.

Job 8. Title: Publish report.— The 5-year summary report was not completed as scheduled in December 2002, due to personnel shortages and re-assignment of duties at the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station. This report will be submitted by February 1, 2004, for publication in December 2004.

Prepared by: David Clapp and John Clevenger

Date: September 30, 2003

Table 1.—Number of spring fingerling chinook salmon marked with coded-wire tags and stocked in 2003, by stocking location. Number tagged is not corrected for tag retention or fin clip rates. Overall values are total fish for number tagged and average percentage for tag retention.

Study number	Stocking site	Number tagged	Tag retention (%)	Stocking date	Net pen
513/692	Medusa Creek, Charlevoix	204,498	96.8	05-28-03	Yes
692	St. Joseph River	152,680	93.8	05-10-03	Yes
513/692	Swan River, Rogers City	203,805	97.1	05-06-03	No
513/692	Little Manistee River	202,255	96.8	05-05-03	No
Overall		763,238	96.1		

Table 2.—Number of fish marked with coded wire tags, 1990-2002. Number tagged is not corrected for tag retention or fin clip rates.

Year	Atlantic salmon	Chinook salmon	Lake trout	Rainbow trout	Other	All species
1990	0	1,140,491	98,361	142,618	0	1,381,470
1991	50,315	1,464,558	97,344	0	0	1,612,217
1992	51,498	1,328,518	111,000	0	0	1,491,016
1993	78,580	1,420,863	0	32,597	0	1,532,040
1994	35,259	1,423,681	100,303	35,476	0	1,594,719
1995	70,853	515,240	107,957	36,320	0	730,370
1996	48,101	515,282	0	349,727	0	913,110
1997	45,211	512,938	0	435,148	0	993,297
1998	54,159	485,634	59,200	392,172	0	991,165
1999	0	270,280	0	378,864	3,195	652,339
2000	0	800,294	0	0	10,744	811,038
2001	0	1,115,262	151,176	0	4,370	1,270,808
2002	0	1,090,252	0	0	9,456	1,099,708
2003	0	763,238	0	0	5,291	768,619
Total	433,976	12,846,621	725,341	1,802,922	33,056	15,841,916
Average (1990-2002)	33,383	929,484	55,795	138,686	2,136	1,159,484

Table 3.—Number of fish collected in 2002 from various sources and examined for the presence of coded wire tags. Tags were removed and read at the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station. Percentage of total fish from each source and species is shown in parentheses.

Source	Gear type	Atlantic salmon	Brown trout	Chinook salmon	Coho salmon	Lake trout	Rainbow trout	Other	All species (% of total)
Assessment / Index Samples	Gill net	0	0	3	0	159	0	0	162 (3.7)
	Electrofishing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
Sport-Caught	Charter boat	0	0	30	1	39	39	0	109 (2.5)
	Creel clerk	0	4	238	32	214	398	0	886 (20.0)
	Headhunter	0	0	217	5	363	186	0	771 (17.4)
	Tournaments	0	0	93		392	120	0	605 (13.7)
	Volunteer	0	5	261	5	176	464	1	912 (20.6)
Tribal Samples	Gill net	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
Weir Samples	Harvest Weirs	0	0	893	0	0	0	0	893 (20.2)
	Fish Ladders	0	0	0	0	0	69	0	69 (1.6)
Other	Unknown	1	0	10	1	0	1	0	13 (0.3)
All Sources (% of total)		1 (0.0)	9 (0.2)	1,745 (39.5)	44 (1.0)	1,343 (30.4)	1,277 (28.9)	1 (0.0)	4,420 (100.0)

Table 4.—Number of fish collected from various sources and examined for the presence of coded wire tags, 1990-2002. Tags were removed and read at the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station.

Year	Atlantic salmon	Chinook salmon	Coho salmon	Lake trout	Rainbow trout	Other	All species
1990	0	276	66	343	857	3	1,545
1991	0	1,347	30	717	1,362	6	3,462
1992	2	2,193	22	929	2,146	8	5,300
1993	85	2,975	33	1,039	737	14	4,883
1994	268	4,141	18	1,771	386	21	6,605
1995	104	4,916	14	2,918	252	6	8,210
1996	81	3,638	55	3,493	440	29	7,736
1997	212	2,355	52	3,476	546	31	6,672
1998	166	1,447	59	3,115	2,110	22	6,919
1999	98	1,301	11	2,491	3,733	48	7,682
2000	84	749	18	2,511	3,812	27	7,201
2001	16	752	7	1,801	2,488	15	5,079
2002	1	1,745	44	1,343	1,277	10	4,420
Total	1,117	27,835	429	25,947	20,146	240	75,714
Average (1990-2001)	93	2,174	32	2,050	1,572	19	5,941