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Susquehanna River Anadromous Fish Restoration Cooperative

Summary of PFBC Activities in 2024

Brian McHail, Chief

Division of Fish Production Services

Overview



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- Hatchery Operations
- Biomonitoring
- Plans for 2025

- Seasonal facility since 1976 (April-June)
- Thompsettown, PA (Juniata County)
- Intensive fish culture and tagging techniques
- Normal Staff: Fisheries Biologist (1) and Wage (5)
- 2024: Wage Fisheries Technician (1) and Wage (4)



2024 Hatchery Operations-Eggs



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- Potomac River
 - USFWS strip spawn
 - Collections 4/29-5/8
 - 6 shipments (2.7 million eggs)
 - 139,263 viable eggs (6.0%)
 - Poor weather conditions during egg collection
 - Contract extended thru 2025
- Delaware River and Susquehanna River
 - No collections in 2024



2024 Hatchery Operations-Egg Shipments



2024 American Shad Egg Shipment Summary

<u>No.</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Date Spawnd</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Volume (L)</u>	<u>Eggs (#)</u>	<u>Viable Eggs (#)</u>	<u>Percent Viable (%)</u>	<u>Hatch Date</u>	<u>Initial Mean (# eggs/L)</u>
1	Potomac	4/29/2024	4/30/2024	6.1	447,390	2,101	0.5%	Dumped	73,343
2	Potomac	4/30/2024	5/1/2024	9.2	475,370	67,984	14.3%	5/10/2024	51,671
3	Potomac	5/1/2024	5/2/2024	6.4	450,262	56,849	12.6%	5/10/2024	70,353
4	Potomac	5/5/2024	5/6/2024	6.6	520,966	9,116	1.7%	5/15/2024	78,934
5	Potomac	5/7/2024	5/8/2024	5.5	455,486	4,097	0.9%	5/17/2024	82,816
6	Potomac	5/8/2024	5/9/2024	4.8	362,972	1,217	0.3%	5/17/2024	76,415

<i>Total</i>	38.6	2,712,446	139,263	6.0%
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2024 Hatchery Operations-Fry Stocking



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2024 American Shad Fry Stocking Information

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number Stocked</u>	<u>Stocking Location</u>	<u>OTC Mark (days)</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Age (days)</u>
6/10/2024	57,685	Juniata River, Thompsontown	10	Potomac	31
6/10/2024	49,815	Juniata River, Thompsontown	10	Potomac	31
6/14/2024	7,056	Juniata River, Thompsontown	10	Potomac	30
6/14/2024	3,635	Juniata River, Thompsontown	10	Potomac	28/29

<i>Total</i>	<i>118,191</i>
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<i>Hatchery Survival</i>	<i>84.9%</i>
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2024 Biomonitoring



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- Otoliths prepared and aged
- Data entry near completion



- Continue hatchery operations at Van Dyke in 2025
 - Wage staff will return early March 2025
- Bureau of Fisheries/Division of Aquatic Species Restoration
 - Anadromous Fish Restoration Unit (Shad Unit)
 - Fisheries Biologist 3 (1), Fisheries Biologist 2 (1), Fisheries Biologist 1 (1), and Wage (2)
- Relocate hatchery operations to Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery
 - Newville, PA (Cumberland County)

Questions???



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