

... below a report from Bob Gresswell on the results of a meeting held on 7/25 in which a plan is now established for studying the use of electroshocking equipment on one of the spawning beds. This is a huge step forward for alternative suppression.

"I wanted to get back to you with a brief update. During the meeting with Todd Koel, Dave Sweet, and Scott Christy at Lake on Wednesday, we decided to postpone any direct experiments on suppression techniques this fall and concentrate on developing a comprehensive study plan for implementing an experiment at Carrington Island next September. At that time we plan to test the efficacy of electrical current for destroying developing embryos. I have discussed the idea with Jackson Gross, and he thought that Smith-Root Corporation manufactures of a variety of electrofishing products and his future employer, would be very interested in participating. I am also in the process of contacting researchers from the University of Vermont that have pioneers in the development of methods for assessing lake trout egg deposition and larval emergence. We intend to get representatives of both groups to come to Yellowstone Lake this fall to view the site and discuss the feasibility of this approach. We would expect Smith-Root to develop a deployment plan and estimate for constructing the prototype equipment.

Tentatively, we plan to assess larval lake trout emergence at Carrington Island in the spring of 2013 to obtain an estimate of current lake trout production at the site. In September 2013, we would use buried egg bags to measure egg deposition. At that time, we would deploy the electrical equipment on the spawning site and proceed with the experimental application of lethal electrical current. We would obtain a variety of electrical measurements at that time in order to understand the characteristics of the electrical field at the experimental site. In the Spring of 2014, we would revisit the site and again estimate larval emergence. This strategy would give us the means to compare emergence among years, before and after treatment, and also estimate survival of fertilized eggs that were deposited in the September 2013. Of course this plan will undoubtedly be modified and improved following discussion among the invited participants and collaborators, but I believe this approach will give us the means to critically evaluate this technological approach to larval suppression. If successful, this technique should be very portable, with the capacity to adapt to a variety of local environments and lake depths.

I will keep you posted as we proceed toward development of the study plan.

Thanks,

Bob"

***Robert E. Gresswell
USGS - NoROCK
2327 University Way, Suite 2
Bozeman, MT 59715***