

May 1984

Dear Foundation Member:

With a touch of Spring in the air and snow starting to melt in the high mountains, it is time for a Henrys Lake up-date. Everthing is look'n good. Fishing at the lake was excellent last year with the prospects of 1984 being even better. David Cole has provided us with a brief up-date on Henrys Lake angling for 1983. David is working on his Masters Degree at Idaho State University, and we should all be seeing Dave this next summer as he investigates factors involved in downstream migration of trout fry in the lake's tributaries. Here is Dave's report!

"The angling pressure at Henrys Lake rose by more than 50% in 1983 to nearly 96,000 hours, and the number of trout harvested more than tripled to over 25,000 fish! The catch rate in 1983 was an amazing 1.27 trout per hour! This was nearly three times greater than the 1982 catch rate of 0.45 trout/hour and well above the goal of 0.70 trout/hour set by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for Henrys Lake. The increases in harvest and catch rate can be attributed to the increased stocking programs begun in 1980.

Trout harvest of all species in Henrys Lake was much greater in 1983 than in 1982, and cutthroat trout comprised over 80% of the harvest. As a result of the increased harvest of smaller fish (cutthroat), the mean total length (388 mm; 15.3 in.) and the percentage (2.5%) of trophy-size cutthroat trout harvested declined in 1983 (although the number of trophy-size--greater than 510 mm--cutthroat was similar to previous years). In 1983 the mean total length of harvested brook (392 mm; 15.4 in.) and rainbow x cutthroat hybrid (448 mm; 17.6 in.) trout remained comparable to previous years. The estimated harvest of Canadian strain brook trout was more than 500 fish (491-1981 year class Temiscamie, 30-1982 year class Temiscamie, and 20-1980 year class Assinica) and accounted for more than a quarter of the total brook trout harvest!

Resident anglers comprised over 64% of the fishing effort in 1983, and trolling was the most popular fishing technique at Henrys Lake. Over 25% of the angling effort was by fly fishermen.

Thanks to the Henrys Lake Foundation and the Department of Fish and Game, construction of fish screens at the headgates of the two irrigation laterals on Targhee Creek was initiated in 1983 and will be completed later this (1984) spring after the runoff has subsided. A gabion was also constructed on Targhee Creek in 1983 to allow fish passage through the highway culvert (which was a migration barrier in the past) to the excellent spawning habitat above the highway."

In addition to Dave's report, I'm enclosing some recommendations from Bob Rohrer's November 1983 Henrys Lake Management Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue the trophy regulations (two-fish limit) on the fishery.

Continue present stocking programs and numbers (2+ million cutthroat at 200/lb; 200,000 hybrids at 150-200/lb; about 20,000-50,000 Canadian brook

trout fingerlings. If cutthroat fry 2,00 /lb are stocked at Henrys Lake, a minimum of 4.5 million per year should be stocked).

Continue stocking Canadian strains of brook trout through Hatchery Creek to develop our own source of eggs.

Initiate riparian fencing, screening, and other long-term habitat improvement measures where needed on tributaries to Henrys Lake.

Determine instream flow needs for tributaries to Henrys Lake and file for water rights where available.

Obtain water rights on Targhee Creek.

Initiate a limnological study of Henrys Lake to relate the physical and chemical parameters to fish production, determine the effects of drawdown levels on survival of trout, and to determine a nutrient budget and effects of continuing cultural eutrophication.

The annual meeting this summer for all members & friends will be July 7, 1984. Like last year, there are plans to have a party, meeting & general gathering. I sure hope that your travel plans include being there to hear about this year's spawning run, the fish screens, Canadian brook trout, hybrids, heat treated hybrids, tributary improvements, fishing pressure, and much, much more. The time and place will be announced within the Island Park-West Yellowstone area in June, but don't forget July 7th, Henrys Lake.

Our membership numbers have not grown much over the last two months, so please encourage any fishing and conservation friends to join now!! Our bank account includes approximately \$~~1,500~~ in our checking account and \$~~1,400~~ in CD's, which represent the lifetime memberships in the Foundation. If any of you is aware of someone who has not received the membership card & newsletter, please notify me, as I sure hope we haven't missed anyone.

People up-date -- Fish & Game personnel Virgil Moore has a new position, Bob Rohrer is now in Boise, Gene McPherson has a new job, and Dave Cole will be a new technician on Henrys Lake. Congratulations to all of you! It looks like the Foundation has a big job coming up this summer in getting to know the new hatchery manager, research biologist and Regional Fisheries manager. Also, I want to remind you that the work is not done--it is just beginning--stream improvements, better regulation enforcement, bigger and more hybrids, and much more is very much needed.

I certainly hope that all of you are as anxious as I am for this summer's fishing and that your travels will find you throwing those "special bugs" for Henrys Lake Trout! Many tight lines until July 7.

Mike

P.S. Sign up a buddy!
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It's so much for
the help in the
future on the newsletter