

Admin # 222



Re: shad larvae
Joe_McKeon to: Ericp Nelson

08/09/2010 04:47 PM

History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Eric:

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. Out of the office for work and vacation.

Typically the larvae are about 5-6 mm in length when stocked out. The hatchery folks do not like to hold them for too long. They mark them with an oxytetracycline immersion at about day 5 or so, and out they go. If necessary we have held some to larger size but they do suffer high mortality if not fed. Given our hatchery operations - whether females are still providing eggs, as well as how many adult fish still remain in the hatchery (mortalities over time), all fish are typically off station by early August. Nashua NFH moved all fish off a the last week in July and No. Attleboro NFH is still holding adults however they are do to be released in the next week or so. They are still getting some eggs but the numbers are low.

In a normal year we are usually through with shad spawning by mid to late July. We will be out this week on the Merrimack River for monitoring near the site where larvae were released from Franklin, NH to Manchester, NH. Not sure if we will find juveniles as it is a flowing river and larvae/juveniles may move downstream. We do locate juveniles at the Charles River larvae stock out site as this is an impoundment, behind the Moody Street dam and some fish do hold and grow-out - 4 inches or so. We stocked one million larvae into the Merrimack River this year; whereas we wanted to release more, with construction here at the Nashua NFH it interfered with our plans for more fish. Next Year !!!

Joe

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ToJoe_McKeon@fws.gov

07/21/2010 02:53
PM

cc
Subjectshad larvae

Hi Joe:

I imagine you're busy stocking shad these days. Hopefully, you were able to collect enough brood stock to generate all the larvae you wanted to release. Regarding those larvae, what size are they when you stock them? I recall you saying that you try to release them before their yolk-sac is reabsorbed and have to start foraging on their own. I have an ASMFC document that states that shad larvae are 10-12 mm when they have absorbed their yolk sack, usually 4 to 7 days after hatching. Does that sound about right? Also, would fish of that size still be in the river in August? There aren't too many other fish larvae in the Merrimack in August (that I'm aware of) so it's important for us to know if protective measures need to be in place during August for shad.

Thanks.

Best regards,
Eric

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