

# Coldwater Hatchery Program Update



**January 8, 2010**

# Coldwater Production Program Review

- DNR Fisheries conducted a program review of the *coldwater species management and production* programs starting in December 2008:
- Evaluated coldwater lake and stream stocking and management plans for brook, brown, lake, and rainbow trout.

# Outcomes from the Review

- The review identified 1 lake for increased stocking, 23 lakes and 4 streams for reduced stocking, and 17 lakes and 12 streams to have stocking discontinued
- Determine program shifts could be accomplished without loss of trout production or staff.
- Prepare a plan to identify cost savings and develop a timeline for implementation.

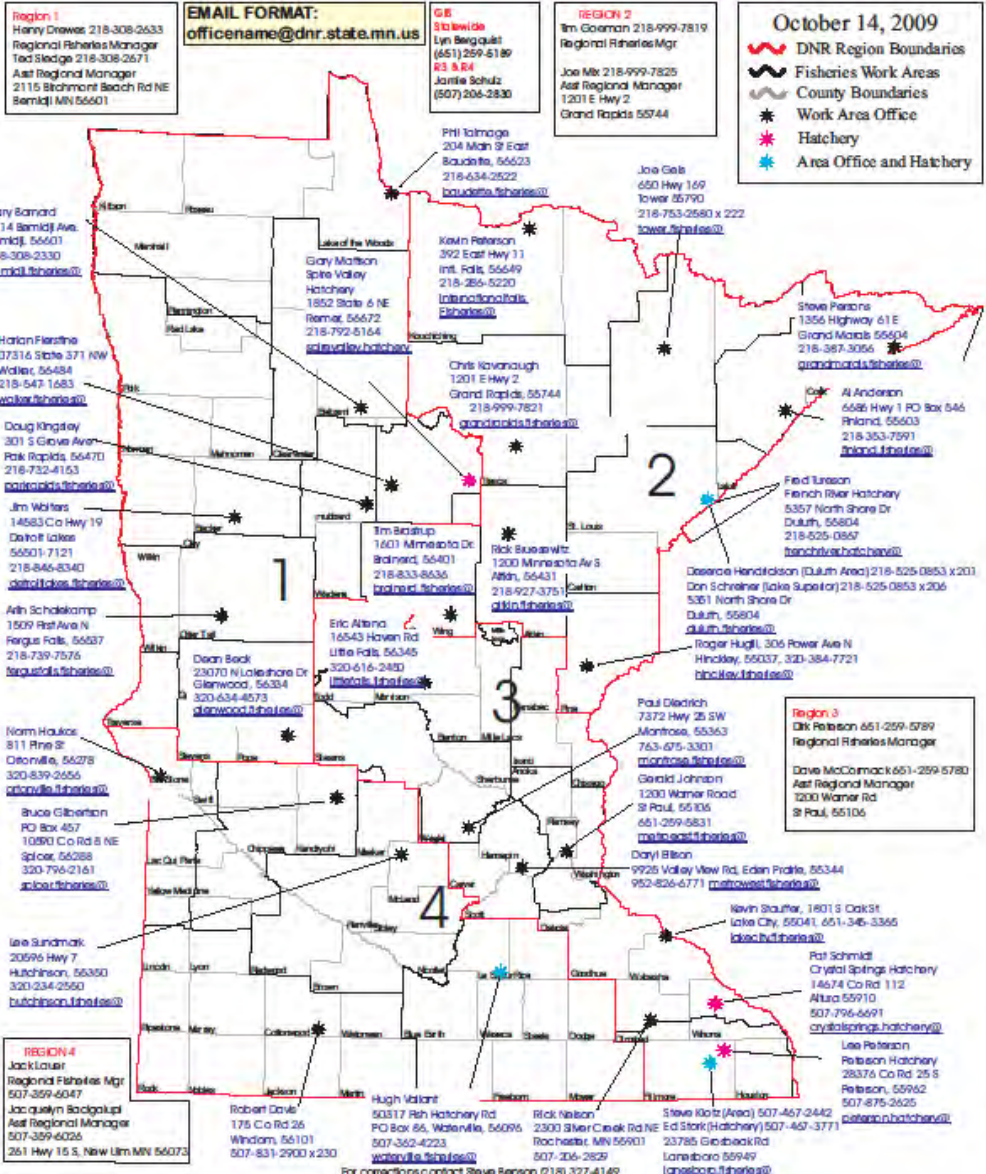
# Key Points from the Reveiw

- Brook Trout yearling sizes
- Timing and stocking of Kamloops in the Lester and Talmadge Rivers
- Screening Kamloops eggs for Bacterial Kidney Disease
- Spring distribution of Brook Trout and Lake Trout
- Develop inland Kamloops brood stock at Spire and continue to take feral eggs from Lake Superior

# Hatchery Changes

- Discontinue using the Burrows Ponds at the French River Hatchery
- Shift rainbow trout Kamloops yearling rearing to the Spire Valley Hatchery
- Shift brook trout rearing Spire Valley to Crystal Springs Hatchery
- Eliminate the Gillis Lake brood fish at Peterson Hatchery

# Minnesota DNR Fisheries Field Offices



# Program changes

- **Rainbow trout – Reduction in Arlee strain (around 11,730 yearlings) and an increase of 6,000 fingerlings.**

# Program changes (con't)

- **Kamloops rainbow trout – Increase of 9,000 yearlings, a reduction of 2,000 fingerlings and a change in the rearing location.**
- **Steelhead – Increase by 55,000 frylings.**

# Program changes (con't)

*Lake trout –*

- **Lake Superior - Planned reduction of Isle Royale strain (60,000 yearlings)**
- **Inland - A 5% reduction in inland lake trout production will occur.** The major program shift will be experienced beginning in 2012 with the reduction of 70,000 yearlings for Burntside Lake, where there has been increasing natural reproduction.

# Program changes (con't)

- **Brook trout – A reduction of 81,300 fingerlings and 14,000 yearlings.**
- **Brown trout – a reduction of 7,400 fingerlings and 9,600 yearlings.**
- **Splake – an increase of 9,100 fingerlings and a reduction of 3,798 yearlings.**

# Timelines

- **Spawning:** Reduce egg takes in fall of 2009(all)/spring 2010 with reductions in effect starting fall 2010(fingerlings) and spring 2011(yearlings)
- **Hatchery Reductions:** Partial reduction of production at French River beginning July 1, 2010 with \$ 70,000 of energy savings in the short term with additional savings as hatchery staff are realigned and the other hatcheries adapt to their new roles.

# Challenges

- The distribution and not the rearing of the fish.
- Historically, the strains and species were raised in locations that provided convenience for distribution.
- The use of privately contracted distribution could help us retain these programs at low overall cost.

# Questions?

