

# Yuba Habitat Project Committee Meeting

Salt Lake Office, Room 2130, March 7, 2002, 1 p.m.

Present: Tom Pettengill, Salt Lake; Don Archer, Salt Lake; Mike Slater, Central Region; Charlie Thompson, DWR Retired; Don Wiley, Central Region; Ray Schelble, Rocky Mountain Anglers; George Sommer, B.A.S.S.; John Tomich, B.A.S.S.; Ron Colby, B.A.S.S.; Wes Schneider, Rocky Mountain Anglers

**Next meeting Thursday May 9, 2002, 1 p.m., Salt Lake Office, Room 2130**

Don Wiley voiced his appreciation for everyone's time and effort in building the reefs.

Two berms have been built east of Walleye Point. Location should shelter them from wave action.

Possibility of planting willows on berms. Don is discussing options with the Habitat Section. Possibility for building rock pile berms.

Will investigate possibility of using cedar or juniper trees for reefs. Should be effective longer

Aquamats failed in Deer Creek. The fabric wouldn't float. They lasted from June to September. Company says reason was because they were wet and froze, which broke down the fabric.

At Canyon Ferry Reservoir (Montana) biologists and hatchery worker say Aquamats do the same thing, some within 1 month. Considered them a waste of money. They are using 5,000 to 8,000 Christmas trees a year. Feel they get about 6 months of use out of them. Still have 80 Aquamats on hand.

If Christmas trees last for 6 months, will they last long enough to get the perch through their critical time?

Polypropylene rope structures in Bountiful pond collapsed, probably due to silt. When shook some floated back up, but it doesn't look like it will last. Some have been exposed to wind action, which doesn't appear to help. Most of the structures in Bountiful pond had the rope unraveled.

Used 100 polypropylene structures at Yuba this past summer.

Artificial Christmas trees. Roberts, Modern Display, internet. Could have them made in a different form, rather than have it look like a Christmas tree. Galvanized wire frames are toxic and could not go in water.

Habitat that floats with filaments hanging down would not work because perch spawn on top of habitat, rather than underneath.

Group consensus to not go with Aquamat.

Polypropylene rope structures. Could use cable tie to attach Styrofoam to polypro rope to make it more buoyant. Could use net floats also. Could use full strands of polypro rope (not unraveled) to give it more bulk. Anchor with leftover anchors from Christmas trees.

Group consensus to go with polypro rope structures. Need to get going on it in March.

Suggestion for anchors: Talk to landscapers to get 2 gallon buckets they discard. Liners for paint buckets. Cardboard tubing makes good form.

Yuba perch start spawning at 44 degrees, middle of April or May.

Weekend after Easter (April 6). Install polypro structures and Aquacribs.

To evaluate: electrofishing, Aqua vu

Install Aquacribs shallow and move them deep after the spawn. Need to call orchard to get tree branches.

Perch collected at IPP ponds came back negative for diseases. Getting close to collecting eggs. Will try Aquamats to collect eggs. Worried that water temperature difference between IPP and Yuba may delay hatching after moving and could lose many eggs. Could use net pens to keep carp away. Also snow fencing. Consensus to move perch rather than eggs to avoid temperature problems.

Collecting perch needs to be done during the week. Don, Charlie and Mike will check fish and let us know when we can start. Numbers of fish we can expect to get is an unknown.

Continue contact with media and keep them informed.

Need signs on the beach to identify habitat area. Signs at access areas and boat ramps also. Check into making Walleye Bay wakeless. Shouldn't restrict fishing, except maybe during perch spawn.

Buoys to mark fish habitat area. Possibility of standardized wording on buoy to identify habitat areas

Trawls several years ago found most young of year perch in Painted Rocks area. Suggested to install some habitat in this area.

Water levels and grazing limit what types of vegetation can be planted. Tough to get aquatic plants established. Carp complicates by creating turbidity that shades plants.

Structure at Havasu uses milk crates piled up. Filled with brush. Can stand fluctuating water levels, but probably not as drastic as at Yuba.