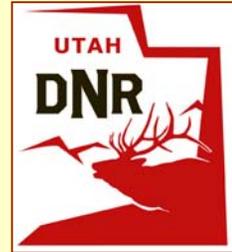


Scofield Reservoir

Summary of the 2010 Spring Survey

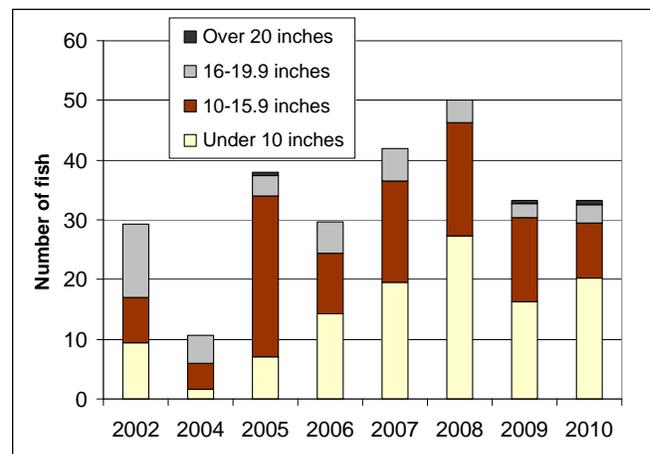
Justin Hart, Regional Assistant Aquatics Program Manager



The following data summarizes the annual spring gill netting survey performed at Scofield Reservoir in May 2010. Data from previous surveys are also included for comparative purposes. The Scofield Reservoir fishery is sampled every year with experimental gill nets. Gill nets are very effective for sampling lentic salmonid species, and are commonly used by biologist's state wide. Nets are set in the same location and at approximately the same time every year. This methodology allows for data comparisons across years and for trends in the fishery to be developed. The following figure shows the average number of trout caught per net and the relative abundance of trout in several length categories.

Catch rate in 2010 remained similar to 2009 for all trout combined. The number of fish under 10 inches indicates good survival of stocked fishes. The number of fish between 10 and 20 inches remained similar to 2009. In 2009 and 2010, collected fish over 20 inches indicates some biological response to the slot limit may be beginning to take effect (i.e., the proportion of fish greater than 20 inches may be increasing). Tiger trout stocking began in 2005, and Bear Lake cutthroat trout stocking began in 2009. During that time Scofield Reservoir has changed from a rainbow trout dominated fishery, to a more diverse population composed of rainbow, tiger, and cutthroat trout.

Trout caught per gill net by length group



Scofield Reservoir: Additional information.

In 2005 Utah chub were first discovered in Scofield Reservoir. Over the last several years, the number of Utah chub has grown exponentially. Shortly after the discovery in 2005, tiger trout were stocked to provide an additional predator and sport fish to the fishery. As chub numbers increased, it was decided that a regulation change and additional predator stocking should occur. Beginning in 2009 the regulations were changed (limit 4 trout in the aggregate, no more than 2 may be cutthroat or tiger trout under 15 inches, and no more than 1 may be a cutthroat or tiger trout over 22 inches. All cutthroat and tiger trout from 15 to 22 inches must be immediately released) and Bear Lake cutthroat trout stocking was initiated.

The intent of the regulation and the additional stocking of cutthroat trout is to biologically control the Utah chub through predation. It will take until approximately 2014 for several age classes of the newly stocked Bear Lake cutthroat trout to reach sizes that are exiting and/or approaching the upper end of the slot limit. Between now and then the UDWR will proactively begin work on drafting and finalizing a rotenone treatment plan for Scofield Reservoir. A great deal of planning and public input will be necessary. In 2015, with the plan finalized, a decision will be made on whether or not the regulations are working to control the Utah chub or if a chemical renovation with rotenone will be necessary to repair the fishery.