

Division of Marketing
Agricultural Development and Diversification (ADD) Program

1990 Grant Final Report

Grant Number 05065

Grant Title Freshwater Salmon Culture in Wisconsin

Amount Awarded \$10,887.00

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Agricultural Development and Diversification
2nd Round Grants
Progress-Report *SUMMARY*

Date: July 12, 1991
Project Title: FRESHWATER SALMON CULTURE
WDATCP Contract No.: 50 65
Contractor Name: STAR PRAIRIE TROUT FARM
Project Leader: Charles + Marcy GRAHAM
Progress Report For (Dates) SUMMARY - END of 90-91 Phase I
of Project

This report is submitted in fulfillment of Appendix A of the contract. The reports should (1) summarize project activities and key results for the reporting period and; (2) describe project activities and results expected during the next phase of the project. Attach a summary of project expenditures for the reporting period (MK-DD-1.1 - Project Invoice [yellow form], with supporting documentation).

FRESHWATER SALMON CULTURE -- PHASE I

Project Report -- Summary; Completion of Phase I

Activities for the final months of Phase I reflect the stepped up activities on the farm in general for the period. Feeding and tank hygiene for the growing salmon fry in the hatchery progressed as planned: Atlantic salmon (hatched March 1991) are feeding vigorously and are averaging around 2"; Cohos (hatched February 1991) have reached near 4" (!) on the high end and need grading! This operation awaits completion of fry ponds outside the hatchery--currently in progress.

Additionally, the April-June period has included stepped up bird predation controls, seration and electrical work. We also paid a visit to Minnesota Aquafarms, Chisholm, MN, to view their operation raising Chinook salmon in net-pens in abandoned iron-ore pits. Some valuable information and suggestions were given regarding salmon culture there, though hatching and early grow-out for this farm takes place at a facility in southern Minnesota.

An urgent priority mentioned in the last report is the construction of fry ponds to receive 3-4 inch fish leaving the hatchery, a necessity unforeseen in the initial proposal. Though not included in the initial budget, this project has proceeded full-tilt in the last month, even as Coho Salmon growth has begun to accelerate.

Another most significant event that took place during this period is the award of grant funds for a second year of our project. As Phase I ends and Phase II begins, a certain amount of overlap blends the two phases together. The fry-pond construction typifies this overlap, as faster than expected growth in late Phase I caused earlier construction, on the Phase II budget.

In summation, Freshwater Salmon Culture, Phase I, proceeded through the year largely as anticipated in the proposal. Consulting tours and applications of information gleaned both have been completed with the exception of the fry-pond development included in Phase II. Acquisition of Atlantic and Coho Salmon eggs, hatching, swim-up and early fry grow-out also went without a hitch. Public information became a top-shelf concern with numerous responses to a notice and lengthy article in *The Country Journal*.