

Hatchery Doings

by Marty Cherneff

Fish that are raised in a Federal Fish Hatchery are treated with great care. The environment they are in is as clean and germ free as possible. At the same time, they are conditioned to survive in lakes and streams they will be released into. One way of insuring their survival is to vaccinate them against bacteria and other prevalent diseases they may be exposed to in the wild.



In January, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), with help from members of the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation friends group vaccinated and identified some eight thousand Atlantic Salmon fingerlings (a young fish measuring 4 to 8 inches.) Each fish was injected with a vaccine in its underside and had its adipose fin clipped for future identification. The two year old Atlantic salmon will be released this spring as part of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration program.

The process began with transferring the salmon to a holding tank; the fish population swim in (12'x5') tanks containing approximately 4,000 Salmon fingerlings. The fingerlings were transferred to a smaller tank where they were anesthetized by introducing a small amount of anesthesia into the water. Three workers then clipped the adipose fin of each fish (a small fin on the dorsal side of the fish located behind the dorsal fin.) This fin clip will identify four year old adult returning salmon as being released from the hatchery. After clipping, the fish were brought to another small tank to await the final stage of the process... the vaccination. They didn't have long to wait. Another team of three workers injected each fish and place it into a bathtub size recovery tank with fresh running water from the hatchery's spring. The vaccine will help protect the salmon against bacterial infection for the remaining time at the hatchery and after release into the wild. After spending a few minutes in the recovery tank, the fish were then release back into their original tank.

The effort took 8-10 workers from the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation and Pittsford National Fish Hatchery approximately 10 hours to process the eight thousand salmon.

The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery is the only federal hatchery in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) operated completely by volunteers.

**Hatchery
Dream can
come true by:**

Volunteer

Or

Donation

Revisiting The Delay River

by John Doelman



John Doelman

20lb. Salmon

The memories of this salmon river are as green in my mind as spring time. The Delay is a broad shouldered bruising river with aggressive rapids, chutes, as well as places holding pools and in some areas over a quarter of a mile wide. Located in Arctic Quebec 200 miles south of Ungava Bay it is on parallel 57 degrees and close to 1000 miles north of Montreal. The Delay's waters flow northward and feed the mighty Koksoak River emptying into Ungava Bay at the Inuit village of Kuujuak.

We flew via charter out of Montreal to Caniapiscau and from there via Float plane to our destination camp Maricourt owned by Michael Threlfall and his family. Our mission on this trip was to do battle with probably the strongest and most exciting fish for it's size on this planet- salmo-salar (The Atlantic Salmon). Catch them we did our group of eight Fisherman caught and released in the area of 240 fish in a six day period. They ranged in size from 5 to 20 lbs. And were taken on both wet and dry flies, casting or drifting—it didn't seem to make any difference the Delay produced.

It was the writer's sixth time on this unforgettable and unsung river—home of the Caribou and Timber Wolf. Every trip there has made me glad to be alive and thankful for the good fortune of those priceless opportunities. As Lee Wulff, renowned Fly Fisherman, said in his article on this river written over 30 years ago—"The Delay may be the last great unspoiled salmon river of this continent and therefore of the world."