

HISCOX

(916) 355-7020

APR 01 1987

Mr. Fred R. Platt
Vice President
LOFEC
186 Lemon Hill Drive
Oroville, CA 95966

Dear Fred:

I am responding to three letters dated February 16, 1987.

- 1) Your suggestion about reducing squawfish in Lake Oroville is theoretically a good one. They feed primarily on fish and have no practical value to sportsmen. The problem, of course, is that there is no way to really control them. Rotenone is effective in smaller lakes and in streams but out of the question in Oroville because of its size.

The thought of having a fish out would be a fun event that might capture the public interest. We encourage you to proceed with it. As you pointed out the effort would be a drop in the bucket but a start. However, I would like to emphasize that in the end, there would be no impact on the squawfish population.

- 2) Planting of cage-reared cohos will begin as soon as we receive special dip nets to extend to the bottom of the cages. Richard Flint has this as his highest priority. He plans to tag appropriate numbers of each group released. We have strong reservations about the need to barge fish anywhere. In our judgement, release at Bidwell will minimize handling injury and stress. Because these fish have been in Oroville several months imprinting for specific areas isn't likely.

Chinook eggs may be available from Minnesota and Michigan as well as our usual source Wisconsin. We just learned about these other states last week. Disease requirements will remain tight, but we are hopeful that eggs will be available this year.

- 3) A permit for LOPEC to capture crappie at East Park, Stony Gorge, or Black Butte will be approved one last time. The acquisition program, unless carefully carried out, causes problems in donor areas. You should determine where and when you want to get fish and we will issue the permit when you have the details worked out.

We will again make available some Florida largemouth bass adults in April and keep you informed about timing when this is arranged. The numbers will probably be lower than you requested depending upon what we find in our Spenceville ponds.

Sincerely,

COPY Original Signed By
Patrick O'Brien

Patrick O'Brien
Fisheries Management Supervisor

bc: ✓ J. Hiscox -- Arrange to procure Florida bass and inform me of the details.

JHR:ds