

Decoding the Otolith: Otolith Workshop 2011

Feedback

Number of respondents: 9

Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is low, 5 is high) how well the workshop	Average response
Increased general knowledge of otolith thermal marking techniques:	4.4
Increased general knowledge of otolith laboratory specific processes:	3.7
Increased general knowledge of research on alternative marking methods:	4.2

I anticipate consulting or collaborating with other participants more because of this workshop

Yes: 9

No: 0

I anticipate using the workshop activity results

Yes: 7

No: 2

What specific technology or technique did you find most interesting, why?

The decision tree process used to identify sockeye origins, which incorporated otolith, scale, egg diameter, & other information. It reflects our need for combining different, new & old, evolving technologies in our complicated world.

The ability to gauge ring width with temperature to decrease heating times depending on ambient temperature. This could save significant funds on heating fuel.

Very intrigued with the DIPAC's use of alternating 12 hr thermal marking treatments to create very narrow rings. Will definitely be test driving that process in WA. Also made a call to our Leica Rep to get quote on Leica DMD 108 as demonstrated at the TSMRI Lab.

I found it very intriguing to discover how Thermal Marks are achieved and the different techniques each hatchery uses. It has also given me great appreciation for the hours of dedication

and effort involved in creating clear and precise Marks.

I thought the alternate ways of marking otoliths was most interesting because it was new.

Management applications of thermal marks.

Suggestions for future workshops

Have a techniques workshop maybe? Actually go over the process of reading an otolith and review how to age them. As someone who hasn't had a ton of experience with this I was looking forward to having someone show me what I was doing right and or wrong.

Alternating the workshop location so that more people from around the state can participate, learn, & contribute. For example, hold it in Cordova sometimes.

Any alternative marking topics that could help lower costs of marking full production.

Invite hatchery managers/staff to discuss ways to prevent or at least minimize errant patterns

In some ways an even finer breakdown of subtopics (see further comments) might be useful, but it would be really difficult for me to justify coming to a "how to pull otoliths" workshop, and I'm not sure that a longer workshop (to cover it all!) would work either. It is a really tough problem!

To possibly have more hands on work teaching how to read otoliths or using new techniques.

Hands on stations showing otolith preparation steps with an opportunity to provide comments on each step.

Further comments

It was very informative and I enjoyed being able to meet other people that are in the same line of work. I now have others in the field that I can talk to when I have questions or concerns. Thanks for putting the conference together!

Great job to all who put it together and gave presentations. The talks were informative and it was a great focused networking venue. Larger venues with more topics can be excellent but felt the focus of just the otolith was very beneficial.

Thank you for hosting! It was extremely useful for me to put faces to names, observe your lab operations, and discuss progress with NPAFC reporting.

ADFG is fortunate to have in-house IT support and expertise. That resource should be shared with all Otolith Labs. :-)

Venue, snack, and beverages were adequate except for setting up the bingo tables after the workshop.

Even the supposedly "limited" field of otolith marking is incredibly multi-faceted, and this workshop really brought that home to me. So while it was great to get exposed to a bit of

everything, maybe there should have been more depth (of course it was pretty easy to grab someone for a one-on-one). For going into greater depth the topic would have to be split somehow: One somewhat easy split might be between research/experimental methods and methods that are actually being used in production (but at what level?). For production methods it might be useful to break up the path that the otolith travels into (say) marking, extraction, storage, preparation, reading and focus in detail on each part. I didn't talk to anyone about how to pull otoliths from fish (and I don't do it much), but I'll bet there are several ways folks do it. It also occurs to me that it might be useful to have a "how do you train someone to do xxx" in the otolith game.

Outstanding presentations, all were very interesting and informative. I look forward to attending the next workshop.

Great experience. I'm glad I took part in it.