



ALARES HELPS FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESTORE WILD ATLANTIC SALMON

In 2007, officials of the US Fish and Wildlife Service had to destroy over 700,000 salmon eggs from the Cronin National Salmon Station in Sunderland, Massachusetts to prevent the possible spread of infectious pancreatic necrosis virus or IPNV. The eggs were collected from wild salmon, known as “sea-run” salmon, where IPNV was discovered. IPNV is a deadly disease that could wipe out the entire wild Atlantic salmon population. IPNV is difficult to detect in salmon and is highly contagious. This disease has never been detected in Atlantic salmon returning to natal rivers along the northeast coastal United States.

According to Mickey Novak, the hatchery manager for the Cronin station, “had we missed those eggs, once they hatched they could have contaminated the entire Connecticut River watershed with IPNV – and other susceptible species like bass and trout could easily have been wiped out.” Humans, notes Novak, are not susceptible.

In order to control the spread of the disease, an egg hatching program will be initiated this year to selectively mate genetically tested wild Atlantic salmon. The eggs will be segregated in egg trays or jars and will be periodically tested for IPNV. If certain trays or jars test positive for the disease, then only those eggs will be destroyed. The other eggs will not be affected.



Also in an effort to control egg hatching, a 50-ton chiller system was designed to control water temperature of the constantly flowing water into the trays and jars. The water temperature must be lowered so the egg growing cycle can be controlled.

Alares was contracted to help install the chiller system including associated equipment and piping. Alares provided value engineering services to help the client meet their budget requirements. Alares also provided water testing services to verify metal concentrations of the aluminum troughs.

The contractor officer said of Alares, “this contractor’s capabilities exceeded our expectations. The majority of work needing to be completed was not in our technical specification... Alares was very cooperative in working with the Government to design/build the plumbing system at the Richard Cronin National Salmon Station. Their expertise enabled project completion within the required time frame.”



Alares is proud to have helped the government in its efforts to restore Atlantic wild salmon to American rivers.