

Epilogue

When I first started working on this project back in 2001, I didn't think that I had much of a background on the biology of redband trout. Then I realized that my student Chuck Osborn and I had worked on the fish back in the 1960s. We thought the fish in Elder Creek, in the Chewaucan drainage, were just rainbow trout (I do remember that they looked quite different from rainbows I was used to seeing). Little did I know.

Which brings me to someone who did know. I would like to dedicate my effort on this project to Carl Bond, whose lifelong study of Oregon fishes has been an inspiration to generations of students and colleagues alike. Among other things, Carl has left us with a challenge regarding redband trout. From his extensive work on Klamath Lake he is quite familiar with the relationship of the redband trout and the tui chub, and with the importance of the chub as a forage fish for many populations of redbands. He tells a story that ought to be investigated. It is his view that tui chubs contain thiaminase, a powerful enzyme that results in thiamine deficiency and consequent mortality in many species of fishes. This phenomenon may well be behind the failure of some coastal strains of rainbow trout stocked in Diamond Lake during the period when the chub was abundant. In contrast, hatchery redbands of the Williamson River strain stocked in the lake during that period were more successful.

Thiaminase is known to be present in the alewife, among other species, and has been a problem in the restoration of lake trout in the Great Lakes. The enzyme affects early embryonic development and may significantly reduce early survival. It seems that those populations of redband trout that evolved in association with the tui chub, usually in a lacustrine environment, developed resistance to this enzyme. Further investigation of the adaptation that allows some redband trout to survive a diet of tui chubs would be a real contribution to understanding their biology.

This book has taken a long time to produce. There were many reasons, but one substantial one was my halting familiarity with the complexity of page layout in the form of Pagemaker®. More than once I was tempted to throw in the towel. Thanks to the good works of Judy Radovsky in the Printing Department at OSU, I was brought back from the brink. And Judy rescued our project again at the 11th hour, just as we were going to press. This book would not exist without her gracious assistance.

Finally, for those of you who revel in finding typos or editorial inconsistencies, we plead guilty, but leave you with the epigram that heads the Style Manual of the American Fisheries Society:

“A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

JIM HALL