

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

April 2015

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DONATIONS

DORRIE ENOCHS

NEW MEMBER

MONICA ICHTERTZ

We would like to thank Bob & Vicky for their extra care of our baby salmon, and all the extra things that they do for the hatchery. **THANKS**

Noble Creek Hatchery hosts Bob & Vicky are moving to a home they bought on Daniels Creek. We wish them the best of everything.

HATCHERY NEWS

Nora's pond is all emptied out of water and fish. It's all washed out clean. The 4 inside tanks are all emptied out and cleaned and covered for the season.

The oxygen-ator that we have needs to be cleaned and put away for the season. We have waited to do this just in case Noble Creek didn't have enough water flow to support the 600,000 baby Chinook that we have in the big creek pond for feeding. So far this year Noble Creek has had lots more water flow than it usually does, so we probably won't need to add any oxygen to the water for the fish. We will hold them until they get fin clipped and grow to 75 fish per pound, usually about the end of May. Then we can let them go on down Noble Creek on their way to the ocean.

This looks to be a very good year for our baby Chinook salmon survival. We will know how many that we have when the fin clipping is over, as they are counted as they are clipped.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

The commercial season just started this month, most of the commercial fishing vessels didn't find very many salmon. They are still looking to find more salmon to catch, hoping the fishing gets better. The fishing usually gets better in July and August, which are the best months. This is when the California salmon are going south bt Oregon. There is more out off the Oregon coast to catch when this is happening.

The price is good this year to start the season off, but if you can't find the salmon to catch it doesn't help too much. Lets hope the price stays this good or better, so when the salmon do show upp the commercials can make up for this slow fishing in April and May. **GOOD LUCK**



March 17th was a work party to get everything ready to move fish into the raceway. There was still a lot of water even though the lower dam boards were removed. Bob and Ray tried to talk Harold into just leaving some mud in the bottom and some moss on the sides of the raceway — but no. Harold spent hours making it clean for the fish!



We won't use the battery powered feeders for a while but we still set up the brackets to hang the feeders. The small feed we're using for the next few weeks doesn't feed well through the rotary feeders. We have belt feeders set up and Clyde feeds by hand until we get to the larger feed size.



The out flow from Nora's Pond usually goes directly into Noble Creek below the Hatchery. This pipe arrangement below the raceway re-routes the outflow from the pond back into the raceway. This moves the fish from the pond directly into the raceway. That's a lot easier than using nets and buckets to move the salmon.



Ray's son Todd came out from Wisconsin to visit for a few days. He joined the regulars for breakfast on Monday morning at Kozy Kitchen then toured the Hatchery later. 600,000 Chinook in the raceway and inner tanks are amazing to anybody. Todd was especially impressed by all of the volunteer effort involved to raise so many fish for sportsmen to catch.

All the Chinook at Noble Creek are now in the main raceway and growing quickly. There is some slight difference in sizes of the juvenile Chinook in the raceways but overall they look healthy. Last week I weighed the juvenile Chinook and they were right about 200 fish per pound. The schedule for the Auto-marking trailer to come to Noble Creek has moved up a week. Now the Auto-marking trailer is scheduled to be at the hatchery from May 11 – 22. On Monday May 11, they will not be clipping any fish but instead will be hooking up all the water pipes and electricity to make sure everything is running smoothly. On Tuesday the trailer will start clipping the adipose fins and will run double shifts every day except for Fridays (morning shift only) and Mondays (afternoon shift only) until all the fish are fin clipped.

Before the end of April I will begin seining in the estuary to sample for juvenile Chinook salmon. I typically focus on sampling in the upper estuary in May and early June. Then by mid-June switch to sampling several sites in the lower estuary from Charleston up to Pony Slough. I also keep track of other fish species that we capture in the seine, sometimes which can be thousands of other fish like sand lance, or surf smelt.

Steelhead fishing in the Coos, Coquille, and Tenmile basins is still open through the end of April, although fishing has been slow. All of the steelhead smolts have been delivered to their acclimation sites over the past couple of weeks. The smolts will be acclimated for 2-3 weeks before being released to go to the ocean and return in 2-3 years for anglers to catch.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Ph. 541-888-5515

We have an old chest deep freeze (about 15 ft.) that has been working good, we have replaced with an up-right. We will give away to anyone that wants it, willing to come out to Noble Creek and pick it up.

Phone #541-267-3563

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. April 14th
NOBLE CREEK HATCHERY**



Coos River S.T.E.P. Association

Coos River S.T.E.P. needs your help to insure that there will be rivers to fish and salmon and steelhead to fish for into the future. Sign up today as a SUPPORTER & volunteer! Oregon's fish need your help!

MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 Family

Name _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: Coos River STEP P.O. BOX 5907 CHARLESTON, Oregon 97420

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