

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

April 2016

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NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee	267-4176
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DONATIONS

Coos River STEP would like to thank the Oregon Alliance for Sustainable Salmon Fisheries for their recent generous donation of \$1,480.53 to Coos River STEP.

This money will go towards Noble Creek Hatchery maintenance and operational expenses to help produce healthy salmon populations for public harvest in the ocean and in the Coos Basin.

Oregon Alliance for Sustainable Salmon Fisheries is a local non-profit group of commercial salmon fishermen dedicated to the proper management of the salmon resource and to maintaining the health, stability, and sustainability of salmon fisheries in Oregon's coastal waters.

HATCHERY NEWS

This last month we have decided to change our light bulbs for the LED bulbs.

We got a quote on the price from Ace's Hardware that seemed to be very good, so we ordered 24 of the 15W 100W Equivalent bulbs. We now have them in use.

Would also like to replace our lights that we have over the work space that we do the final measuring and tallying of all out salmon.

I have seen a shop LED light that I think would be very adequate to replace the 4- 300W strobe lights that we now have.

When we moved our salmon babies to the large holding and feeding pond things went better than I have ever seen it. Nora's pond was so clean that we got no fungus stuff that usually does plug up the screen in this pond, and it still has not caused any problem. **THANKS Vickie & Bob** for keeping it so clean..

This was no small job, they came out twice a week to clean and make sure everything was working right.

21 sets of Coho otoliths collected this winter during the Catching Slough spawning surveys were delivered to Jessica Miller at the Hatfield Center on Friday, March 25, for identification as to whether or not they originated from our first year of eyed egg plants. Results of the otolith reading will be found in a future newsletter. There will be two more years of spawning surveys and carcass/otolith collection on upper Catching Slough tributaries as part of the Coho eyed egg injection projection. Approximately 25,000 otolith marked eyed coho eggs were planted in tributaries to Catching slough each year for three years and this last spawning season was the year of adult return from our first year's egg plant.



March 9th was a work party day to clean out all of the hatch boxes. There is a lower screen that the bio rings sit on. The mud settles on the bottom under the screen. We removed the screws from one tank and took the screen out. We decided it wasn't worth the effort required to remove the screen.



Clyde hoses out mud from the top using a spray nozzle. We also insert the spray nozzle through the two inch pipe at the bottom of the hatch box. That gets most of the mud out.



This screen is from one of the inside fish tanks. All four fish tank screens need to be cleaned at least once per week. A spray nozzle does a fine job. You'll see that Bob is in most of my pictures. Thank you, Bob for all of your hard work.



The best method to clean Nora's Pond is to use the back pack pump as a vacuum. Once a week seems about enough to keep the bottom cleaned of un-eaten food and poop. Marge called about 10:30 AM and said the forecast was for high winds by 1:00 PM. We all packed up and headed for home. Two more hatch boxes remain to be cleaned some other day.

All the Chinook juveniles at Noble Creek are in the main raceway and looking well. Clyde has the broadcast automatic feeders up and running which do a great job distributing fish food across the majority of the raceway. The fish look to be growing well and should be on target for when the Auto Fin Marking trailer arrives in early May. The trailer is scheduled to be set up on May 9 and start fin clipping the next morning. It's scheduled to be on site through May 20 but we should be able to finish up clipping before then. The trailer has been upgraded since last year and now has a double sorter which will make things go faster than the past couple of years.

Over the past month or so I had time to enter the coded wire tag data from Noble Creek this past fall. We had 104 coded wire tags from the snouts we took this past spawning season. Seven of these were from jacks, 51 of the snouts were from 3 year olds, and 46 of the snouts were from 4 year olds. One of the tags from jacks was from a fish that was released at Lyons Ferry Hatchery, which is along the Snake River in Washington. This is the second or third time since I've worked here that we have recovered a tag from a fall Chinook that originated in Washington.

Last week I attended a meeting where we talked about pre-season forecasts for fall Chinook up and down the Oregon coast. Overall if the predictions are correct we should have a good fall Chinook fishing season in the rivers and bays. The forecast for wild Chinook returns look very similar to last fall's returns.

Over the past several years I have been tracking the hatchery fish returning to Noble and Morgan Creek hatcheries. I have looked at the number of jacks returning one year and then the number of adults returning the next year to come up with a way to calculate a pre-season estimate of returning hatchery fish to Noble and Morgan hatcheries. These pre-season estimates have tracked very well with actual returns over the past several years.

With very few returning hatchery jacks last year we are most likely going to see a less returning hatchery fish to the Coos Basin this coming fall. My preseason estimate will be for about 1,400 – 2,000 hatchery adults returning to Noble and Morgan Creek combined. The reason for the predicted drop in hatchery abundance is because in the Coos Basin over the past seven years, jacks and age 3 year olds make up on average about 75% of the hatchery returns.

Even though this would be a big drop in the number of returning adults to the facilities from last year there should still be enough fish returning to meet our egg production.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. April 12th
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

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Address _____ Phone _____

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

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