

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

August 2014

Directors

PRESIDENT

Clyde Haga 267-3563

VICE PRESIDENT

Harold Brown 756-6958

SECRETARY

Ray Lee 267-4176

TREASURER

Mickey McCreedy 888-5906

S.T.E.P. BIOLOGIST

Gary Vonderohe 888-5515

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN O'NEILL 267-7874

MARJORIE BROWN 756-6958

MARLA O'NEILL 267-7874

JAMES DAVISON 756-3142

Shorty Burcher 888-5369

Charlie Gross 267-7979

Paul Merz 888-4425

Dorothy Haga 267-3563

NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

Clyde Haga 267-3563

JULY DONATIONS

SCOTT & JUDY
CALLAWAY

CHARLIE GROSS

Special **THANKS** for these
DONATIONS to Coos River
STEP.

All members and their
guests are welcome to attend
our monthly potluck and meet-
ing. (second Tue. Each month)
Potluck at 6:00, meeting at
7:00. The meeting is held here
at the Noble Creek Hatchery.

HATCHERY NEWS

All the baby Chinook are gone out of the hatchery, on their way to the ocean. This year's release seemed to be very successful, with good survival for the fish.

The fin marking went very well, probably the best it ever has, and we marked all of the Chinook that we could catch.

The next big job that we have here at the hatchery is going to be done by the Coos Watershed. They are going to replace the Noble Creek culvert, right up stream from the hatchery, (200 ft.) with a bridge. This in stream work has until September 15 to be completed, this job hasn't been started yet.

The Watershed did have an Engineer come out and design how the creek should be rip rapped to keep it from washing out. It also shows the bridge to have a 16 foot surface for driving across. We will need to build a fence on each side of this bridge to prevent any livestock from falling into the creek.

LOGS IN NOBLE CREEK

The Coos Watershed has had Mark Villers Logging Company place about 95 logs into Noble Creek. This work started about 1/2 mile above the STEP hatchery. From there, there is added logs in the creek for about one mile on up the creek. The Watershed also has put some straw on all the exposed soil to help stabilize it when we get our winter rains. Some of these logs you can see from the road, and some you would need to walk out to see. This whole job is quite impressive to most everyone who has seen it. This work should really improve the fish habitat here in Noble Creek.

CHINA PHEASANT ROOSTER

We are hoping that some one reading this will have seen a china ring neck pheasant that lived here a couple months. We left for 4 days, haven't seem him since. He has a bad limp, likes to eat the bird feed, and seeing himself in the mirror. If seen call 267-3563, we like to know he is OK.



Brush along creek



Some grass cleared



Spring across road to pond



Clyde prepares culvert bed for spring



Culvert for spring almost covered



Clyde finishes covering culvert

COOS RIVER BASIN: Dungeness crab, bay clams, trout, salmon

Trout season is open in the Coos Basin rivers. Anglers should fish the smaller streams which should have cooler water temperatures. Small spinners, small jigs, and flies all work well to catch trout. In streams and rivers above the head of tide, anglers are restricted to use artificial flies and lures until Sept. 1. The daily limit of trout in streams is 2 fish over 8 inches.

Salmon fishing was a little slow over the weekend for anglers trolling cut plug herring on the Coos Bay bar with a couple chinook salmon caught. Remember only chinook and fin clipped coho can be kept right now inside Coos Bay.

Crabbing in Coos Bay has been good with boat crabbers picking up limits. The best crabbing has been near the jetties but crabbers are getting legal size crab all the way up to the BLM Boat Ramp.

In a cooperative effort including ODFW and OSU researchers, hundreds of red rock crabs have been tagged with a small blue "floy tag" in Charleston to gain an understanding of their growth, age, movement, population size, and fishery. Red rock crabs are native to Oregon and are found in only a few Oregon estuaries. If you catch a tagged red rock crab please contact the ODFW Charleston office at 541-888-5515.

Clamming is excellent during low tides near Charleston, off Cape Arago Highway, and Clam Island. There are also good places to dig clams even on positive low tides in Coos Bay. For more information on shellfish in Coos Bay click on the following link: Shellfish Assessment of Coastal Oregon. Before any shellfish harvest trip, make sure to check the [Oregon Department of Agriculture](#) website for any updates.

COQUILLE RIVER BASIN: trout, smallmouth bass, salmon, crabbing

Trout season is open in the Coquille Basin rivers. Anglers are having good success fishing the large to medium-size streams for cutthroat trout. Small spinners, small jigs and flies all work well to catch trout. In streams and rivers above the head of tide, anglers are restricted to use artificial flies and lures until Sept. 1. The daily limit of trout in streams is 2 fish over 8 inches.

A few salmon have been caught in the lower Coquille River by anglers trolling cut plug herring. This is the start of the salmon run and fishing will improve in the next couple of months.

Anglers are catching a few smallmouth bass in the main stem and South Fork Coquille rivers. Small spinners or jigs have been working well to catch smallmouth bass. There is no size limit or bag limit on the number of smallmouth bass you can keep in the Coquille River Basin.

Crabbing has been good in the lower Coquille estuary. Dock crabbers are picking up a few legal-sized Dungeness crab at Weber's Pier along the waterfront in Bandon.