

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

December 2012

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NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year it's at the Hatchery, Dec. 11. Our Dec. meeting will be a Christmas dinner with ham and all the fixings. We will do the **Christmas exchange**, not to exceed **\$15**.

STEP DONATIONS

Harold & Marge Brown have made a donation in memory of Glenn McCready. Jim Davison donated a new electric heater for the old office. (THANKS)

HATCHERY NEWS

We have all the Chinook eggs to meet our release numbers for this year 2013, (600,000).

There is some more eggs taken to support the Blossom Gulch school release. Also there needs to be eggs for the Fourth Creek release, for the Coquille Indians.

The first spawning is eyed, cleaned up and ready to be brought back to Noble Creek, at the Bandon ODFW hatchery. We have our hatchbox's ready for them, about (111,000). This is a nice start for this year.

The flood waters have caused Harold plus some others to do a lot of clean up of mud and derbies. Harold has been a very busy volunteer. He has built a table to put the coho egg incubator on, It is raised above the floor about 30 inches in case of more high water. This incubator is to be at Englund Marine on Thursday Dec. 6. They are bringing it down from Portland for us as a donation. Tod Jones is letting us use this new improved designed incubator. It will be our first experience with this kind of incubator.

NOBLE CREEK / COOS RIVER WILD COHO COLLECTION

The maximum number of fish to be spawned for this project is 12 pairs, the project goal is the eggs of 10 females fertilized with 10 males. Adult coho captured at Noble Creek trap and not used for this project are to be passed up stream above the facility. Adult coho from Morgan Creek STEP facility may be captured and transferred to Noble Creek to fulfill this project goal. Adult coho captured at Morgan Creek trap and not used for this project are to be released.

The dates for collection of adult coho for this project start now and end Jan. 15, 2013.

Questions regarding this project may be directed to Mike Gray or Gary Vonderohe of Charleston Field Office, (541-888-5515)



The schedule was set for us to spawn Chinook on November 20th. I got a call from Harold at 8:00 AM saying the creek was up a foot over the raceway. This is what 3" of rain looked like at 3:00 PM. Hundreds of Chinook swam on up Noble Creek.



Dead fish (morts) die and the current washes them down against the gate. Clyde is using a gaff hook to remove them. They will be dumped a half mile upstream and likely consumed by bears.



Paul and Dan are pushing the gate along the raceway to squeeze the fish to the top where they can use nets to capture brood stock. A lot of the fish escaped with the high water on the 20th. Only 40 fish were in the trap today.



This scaled down operation didn't need very many people. All of the fish in the trap were killed as we have all of the Chinook eggs we need for this year's production. We did save Coho to spawn in the future—Males—5, Females—5 and Jacks—2.

Over the Thanksgiving week my wife Michaela, my daughter Alayna, and I traveled back to Iowa to see my family. This was Alayna's first trip to Iowa and the first time most of my family got to see her. We did have to make some last second flight changes. Due to fog in Chicago our flight from Portland was late and we were going to miss our connecting flight. So we begged one of my sisters to drive 4 hours to Chicago to pick us up at midnight and then drive back to their house for a couple hours of sleep. Other than the mishaps with the flights it was a great trip and enjoyed seeing my family especially since I had not seen many of my siblings for over a year.

Now back to issues about work. The first group of eyed Chinook eggs (about 111,000) will be delivered to Noble Creek Hatchery later this week. It won't be long and all the deep-matrix hatch boxes will be full with Chinook eggs.

On Tuesday after the water levels dropped just enough we went netted all the salmon left in the hatchery raceway and trap. There were only four Chinook in the raceway/trap but we did have 22 coho. We will be spawning 10 pairs of coho this year and the eyed eggs will be injected into the gravels in the upper Catching Creek basin. The eyed eggs will have their otoliths (it's kind of like a fish's ear bone) thermally marked. This can be accomplished by heating or cooling the water temperature by 7 degrees or more for of over 8 hours. This will put distinct marks on the otolith. This is a six year experiment with three years of egg plantings and six years of spawning surveys. These first three years of spawning surveys are to document adult coho use of these streams and to mark existing redds each year. The following three years of spawning surveys are to collect carcasses and determine by looking at otoliths if the fish came from the egg planting. All the coho were placed into Nora's pond so we won't have to worry about fish escaping during high flows and we can spawn these fish no matter what the stream levels are.

Finally, a few steelhead have been caught already on the West Fork Millicoma, East Fork Millicoma, and South Fork Coos rivers. The peak of the steelhead fisheries are usually in January. But it's always fun to get out early in the season to catch a few chrome bright steelhead. Starting on January 1, 2013 there will be change in the steelhead regulations for the Coos, Coquille, and Tenmile basins. In these three basins steelhead anglers will be able to keep an additional fin clipped steelhead per day, meaning you can have three fin clipped steelhead per day. This permanent regulation will not take effect until January 1, 2013.

As always stop by our office in Charleston or give us a call at (541)-888-5515 if you have any questions.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 MEETING 7:00 TUE. DEC. 11th
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 _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

JOIN STEP!

You can **SUPPORT** Coos River STEP Association and receive this news letter for only \$15.00 per Family! (Tax deductible!)

See order form at left E-mail news items or questions about Coos River STEP to

clyde@noblecreekfish.net
www.noblecreekfish.net

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**P.O.Box 5907
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