

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

February 2014

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Membership dues that cover the cost of mailing and paper were due in January 2014, if you have already paid,
(THANKS }

HATCHERY NEWS

Most of the Chinook eggs that we have in our hatchboxes, either have already hatched or are hatching now. The mortality of these eggs has been very low this year. We are taking care for them a little different than last year. Also we have reinforced the egg plates so they can't bag down in the middle anymore. If this year is any indication these changes are really helping more eggs to hatch into alvins.

We're excited about the news that the unit that marks the baby salmon, is scheduled to come to Noble Creek Hatchery this year. If it all goes well we'll have a 100% fin mark, and count of all the Chinook babies that we release from this hatchery.

If every Chinook that is hatchery raised and released in Coos River is marked and counted, then we may be able to increase the anglers bag limit by at least one fin marked salmon per day, more than it is now. This is a proposal for the years to come.

COHO EGG INJECTION EXPERIMENT

This work project that Coos River STEP is doing is in the second year of a six year experiment. If it works as it does in Alaska, we should be able to find an increased number of adult COHO in the five small creeks that we are putting these eyed eggs in. We are marking these salmon while they are still in the egg stage, by changing the temp. of the water for a controlled period of time. Doing this will let us know for sure which COHO adults that we find in these creeks, are naturals or some we put there. Next fall will be the first return of these salmon and it will be Jacks if any come from our work.

It will 2015 when there should be some spawning adults returning from our egg injection project.



On January 10th we had a work party to check the Coho we had in Nora's Pond. One of the female Coho had died but the rest seemed okay so we will wait for more fish to arrive before spawning.



We then netted the trap to see how many additional Coho had arrived. We got one female, one male and a jack to add to Nora's Pond. We then set January 13th as our deadline day to spawn the fish that we have. We need more rain and fish!



Wow! February 13th and we've had some rain and we have Coho. We started netting the trap and kept coming up with females. We live spawned all twelve males we had then killed a total of eleven females. The females were larger than last year so there were more eggs per female. We had enough eggs so we released two big females to go join the males.



These are part of the Coho eggs going into our hatchbox. They've been fertilized and soaked in an iodine solution and are ready for the next stage. Paul Merz will periodically run a salt water solution through the hatchbox to help keep the eggs healthy. They'll be ready to inject into the gravel within a few months.

In mid-January we finally received enough rain to get a group of coho to move into Noble Creek Hatchery. We ended up spawning 11 pairs of coho to be used in the (thermally marked otolith) eyed egg injection study being conducted in the Catching Slough sub-basin. We live spawned all the males and released them upstream into Noble Creek and we even released another 3 females that were not needed for the study. Back in November we released a couple coho females upstream of the hatchery so through mid-January there were at least 5 coho females to spawn upstream of the hatchery.

Since we pulled the blocking weirs and the trap in mid-January we did not have any idea of how many other coho have moved upstream of the hatchery to spawn. So today I took a walk above the hatchery to look for fish and redds on the mainstem Noble Creek. I found 10 redds in about a mile and a half stretch of stream. All but two of the redds looked to be made within the last couple of weeks. And I'm sure there will be a couple more fish trickling in with the next rain.

Almost all of our Chinook eggs have hatched into sac fry and are hiding in the bio-rings in the bottom of the deep matrix hatchboxes. The eggs from our very last spawning day have just started to hatch and they should be completely done hatching by the time of the monthly meeting next week. We will be ordering fish food soon since we are probably a month or less away from having swim-up fry.

Last week I attended the North Bend ODFW public meetings for the Coastal Multi-species Conservation Plan and the next morning read the article in the local newspaper. There still might be a little confusion that a few people think there will be some cut backs in existing hatchery releases in the Coos Basin. The draft Conservation plan does not have any cuts in any of the hatchery production in the Coos Basin but instead there could be a shift of releasing the fall Chinook presmolts from the West Fork Millicoma River and move the release site somewhere downstream into tidewater. There has been some discussion on where to release these fish from but nothing has been finalized yet.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. FEB. 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

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E-mail news items or questions about Coos River STEP to

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