

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

FEBRUARY 2013

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MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE

DUE FOR 2013

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

CHINOOK EGGS TO FRY

The first group of Chinook eggs, about 100,000, for this year are being ponded in Nora's pond, all we had to do was pull the fry screen. We are starting to feed them with starter food that Gary brought out. It looked like a good number of them have already swam from the hatchbox out into Nora's pond the first day. We will pull the screen for the next group of fry in about 5 to 7 days, there is about 200,000 of them. We'll watch them to see when they look to be ready to start feeding, then we'll let them go out into Nora's pond. There is one more group that will be ready later to go into Nora's pond.

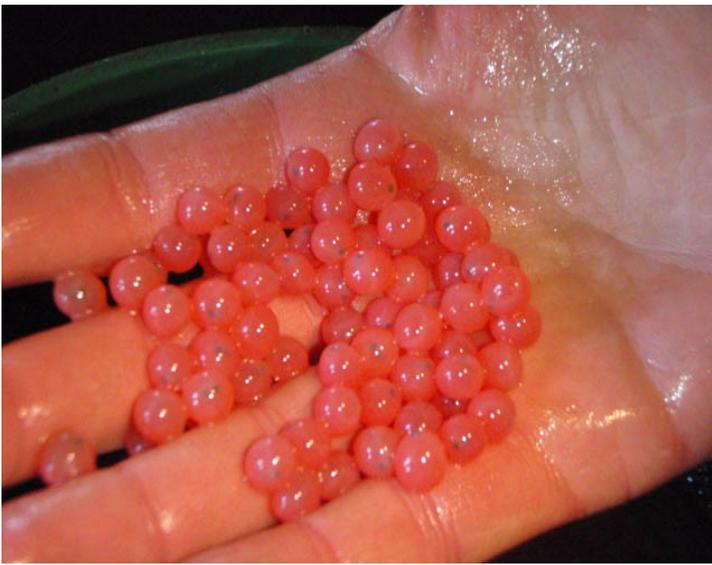
We have gained some more knowledge to help the eyed egg survival, to Alvin's. It seems like we are getting better at taking care of these eyed eggs each year.

HATCHERY NEWS

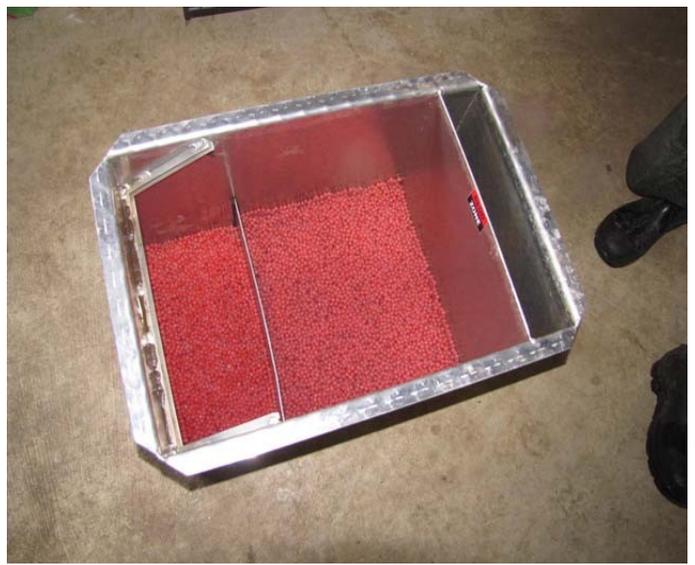
We have our little storage building that is across the creek from the meeting room all painted and trimmed. The rain gutters are also in place, with downspout. This gutter will help to keep the creek bank from eroding away. We need to **Thank** Harold for all the work of painting and installing this rain gutter and trim.

We took up the pipe and water pump, and put it away for the summer that we use to aerate the water for the adults that we hold in the spawning pond. Also we are using the flow of the creek water to help clean out the holding pond, by moving it from side to side. It seems right to let the creek help clean up the silt and debris that it put in the pond in the first place.

Ray is working on a display board of pictures that Harold and Clyde can take to the STEP Conference on April 6. He picked out and printed about twice as many of the best to use that he has. He then had Harold and Clyde pick out the 48 pictures that we wanted to use for the picture display.



This is Coho eggs that have been eyed on January 14th, 2013. They will be injected into clean gravel of tributaries of Catching Slough in early February.



These 25,000 eggs will go into the refrigerator for 24 hours to make a mark on the otolith (ear bone). We will do this three time so the fish can be identified using a microscope. In three years we will look for car-casses to prove the fish came back from the egg plants.



Here is the crew that is ready to walk up a mile of streambed to plant 6,000 eggs in thirteen locations on this creek. Several spots we tried had too much sand or had bedrock but we got all of the eggs planted.



The backpack water pump is used to push silt and sand up out of the gravel. Once the probe is at least one foot deep and all of the silt is flushed out a cup of eggs can be poured into the top of the probe pipe. The pipe is removed and the eggs stay in the gravel.

Typically this time of the year is when I am in the office catching up on data entry, report writing, and anything else that I had to put aside during the fall. But this year I have been a little busier helping Paul injecting coho eggs into the gravel. By the time you read this we should have all 30,000 coho eggs injected into unused gravels of the Catching Slough Basin, except for the 100 eggs we are keeping back at the hatchery for an otolith reference sample.

The juvenile Chinook from the first spawning are all very close to “button up” and are ready to start eating food. This group will be in placed into Nora’s Pond until they are big enough to be in the main raceway. In another week the second group should be ready to join them.

In other news, spawning surveys for Chinook and coho are almost all completed for the year. Our estimate of spawning Chinook above Dellwood Trap this year was 4,772 adult Chinook. This number is a little lower than what we have seen the past couple years for spawning Chinook above Dellwood Trap. We also received the preliminary estimates for coho. The estimate of spawning coho along the Oregon coast is just under 100,000 adults. This number is way lower than what was predicted at the beginning of the season. Coos Bay had an estimated 8,867 coho adults, Coquille had an estimated 6,593 adults, and Ten-mile Lakes had an estimated 9,302 adults.

Finally if anyone is interested, the 2013 STEP Conference will be held in Canyonville at Seven Feathers Convention Center on April 6th. If you are interested in attending you can contact Kevin Herkamp at 503-947-6232 or go to the website at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/STEP/2013step-conference.asp>

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

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