

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

January 2013

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DECEMBER DONATIONS

North West Natural Gas

Robert & Vickie Fleming

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Norm Lydy &
Kathy Jacobson

Jan & Ray Lee

John & Dianne Bender

NEW MEMBER

Erwin W. Sutton

HATCHERY NEWS

We have all of our hatchboxes in use now with over 600,000 Chinook eggs in them for hatching. Three of these hatchboxes have already hatched into alvins, and moved down into the bio-rings. One of the other two left has started to hatch too. We have one more hatchbox that is still in the eyed egg stage, that will start hatching soon.

We are still learning to use this style hatchbox, that is lots different than the old hatchboxes we used for years. The new hatchboxes require a lot less hours of work to use, and do produce a better looking swim-up fry.

We are hoping to acquire one more new hatchbox, which would make 6 in line for us here at Noble Creek Hatchery. This would ease any crowding of the eggs while hatching, and help get a higher percent survival rate. We're sure that we have plenty of water to run an additional hatchbox, with the supply lines that are in place now.

BANDON PACIFIC SEAFOOD

Bandon Pacific Seafood has donated the salt that we need to treat our COHO eggs to help stop the fungus that grows on them. We have all 30,000 eggs here that the ODFW will let us have for this experiment. They are in the incubator to develop to the eyed stage. When we have them eyed and marked in about 30 days from spawning them, we will use this new system, (new to us) to inject them into the gravel of designated streams for testing survival. The stream surveys are being done this year to count the COHO that are using these streams now. These surveys will be done on these streams for 6 years starting with this year. We need to know if this system if enhancing the salmon numbers will work as well as it has in Alaska. If it does then we hope to expand our work to include any stream that could support more salmon than it has now.



We've been keeping our Coho in Nora's Pond to avoid high water in the raceway and trap. This is spawning day on December 11th.



Most of the males and females are ready to spawn. We did release two small jacks to go on upstream. We will spawn nine males and nine females today. We also kept one male to spawn in a few weeks.



Gary wanted an actual count of eggs. He filled a small cup then counted the eggs. This Cool Whip container holds thirteen of the small cups for a total of 2,743 eggs. The average number of eggs per female is right at 2,500.



This small hatchbox is on loan from Tod Jones of Redd Zone in Astoria. Once the eggs are put in the hatchbox they can't be touched for at least 18 days. Clyde is recording the water temperature each day so we can calculate when the eggs will be eyed.

The majority of the fall Chinook eyed eggs have been delivered to Noble Creek Hatchery for the year. There might be one more group of eggs (about 10,000 - 15,000) coming later this month. The first two groups of eggs have hatched and the fry have dove to the deep, dark spaces of the deep-matrix hatchboxes. The latter two group of Chinook eggs are just starting to hatch.

Last month we spawned a total of 12 female coho on two different spawning days. This should be around 30,000 coho eggs that are being incubated right on site but we will have to wait until the eggs are eyed before we can get an accurate count. Earlier this week the coho eggs were at 320 Temperature Units (TUs) and coho eggs are typically eyed at 475 TUs. One temperature unit is equal to 1 degree over freezing. The water at Noble Creek has been running right around 47 degrees, so this means every day the coho eggs are gaining 15 temperature units. Once the eggs have been eyed and inventoried we will be thermally marking the otoliths. By the end of January we should be injecting thermally marked eyed coho eggs into unused spawning gravel.

Steelhead fishing has been decent on the West Fork Millicoma, East Fork Millicoma, and South Fork Coos rivers. With all the rain we had in December it made it a little difficult to pick when the river levels would be best for fishing. I was fortunate enough to get out for an afternoon of fishing this past weekend and caught a couple steelhead on the West Fork Millicoma. The water was low and clear but I managed to find a slot that was slightly deeper and holding a few fish. The month of January is usually the peak of the steelhead fishery in the Coos Basin. January 1 was also the start of the new 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.

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. JAN. 8th
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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