

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

March 2016

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Ray Lee	267-4176
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FEBRUARY DONATIONS

Dave & Sandy	Gonzales
Al & Sue	Harker
Doris & Samuel	Hillman
Lee	Hockema
Paul & Christine	Merz
Ervin	Sutton
Helen	Erickson
David	West
Dorrie	Enochs

NEW MEMBERS

Jim & Frances White
THANKS

All these donations and new members, along with all the volunteers are what keeps Coos River STEP raising salmon for the future.

HATCHERY NEWS

Here at the hatchery we will have a weekly job of keeping the tanks inside and Nora's pond cleaned. Plus all these fish need to be fed daily to keep them growing. We need these baby salmon to grow from about 500 per pound to 75 per pound by sometime in May.

All this time we need to be sure that we keep the dissolved oxygen in the water at a level that encourages their growth. We do have a very good meter to use, so we can check on how we are doing. We have an oxygen compressor that can be adjusted as needed. We can also pump more water along with our water gravity systems. As these salmon grow their combined need for oxygen and more room really increases.

Our experience over years has helped us to develop a really good system for raising these salmon to pre. Smolts.

THANKS to our Bio. And all the volunteers.

2016 TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE

COOS/COQUILLE/TENMILE WATERSHED DISTRICT

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/troutstockingschedules/2016/cooscoquilletenmile2016.pdf>

Feb.29-mar.4	Empire Lake Lower	3,000
	Empire Lake Upper	3,000
	Johnsons Mill Pond	3,000
	Powers Pond	3,000
Mar. 7-11	Bradley Lake	3,000
	Saunders Lake	3,000
Mar. 21-25	Bradley Lake	3,000
	Eel Lake	2,250
	Empire Lake Lower	3,000

If you are interested, check out ODFW web site. We do have some schedules printed for you here at the hatchery.



All of the fish food we need was delivered to Menasha. Monday morning, February 8th, four pickup trucks loaded and moved all of the food to Noble Creek. The office is now filled with the food.



Harold called for a February 12th work party to empty and clean out hatch boxes. A lot of the fish had swam out of the hatch boxes into Nora's Pond. It's now time to force the rest of the fish out so we can remove and clean all of the bio-rings. Clyde is pouring a bucket of fish into Nora's Pond.



This is the worst mess of bio-rings of any of the hatch boxes. Each bio-ring has to be picked up and the crap sprayed out with the hose nozzle. This year we are also giving the bio-rings a bath in a Clorox solution then rinsing them again before bagging them. We hope this will keep all of the flies out of the bags.



Nora's Pond has about 500,000 fish in it. Some of the food sinks to the bottom and is un-eaten. The food that is eaten by the fish creates a lot of crap that ends up on the bottom of the pond. Here Vickie is using our back pack pump to vacuum out the bottom of the pond. This needs to be done weekly. It's an easy but tedious job but has to be done for best fish survival.

SURFPERCH FISHING IN OREGON

Surf fishing is one of Oregon's most underutilized fisheries. There are hundreds of places to fish along Oregon's sandy beaches, and there are plenty of fish within an easy cast from shore. The most popular and abundant target for the angler is surfperch—slim saucer shaped fish that can reach up to 2 pounds. Perhaps their most unusual feature is that the females bear live young that look like minnows of the adults.

There are nine different species of surfperch found off the Oregon coast, but the most often caught are red-tail surfperch. Schools of surfperch often congregate within 30 feet of the shoreline, darting in and out of the surging surf in search of food, and presenting an accessible target for anglers.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A general Oregon Angling License is all that's required to fish for surfperch.

WHEN AND WHERE TO FISH

Although surfperch are available year round, the most productive time to fish for them is in the spring and early summer when they school up along sandy shorelines for spawning. The best fishing often occurs on an incoming tide, especially an hour or two before high tide. Take advantage of low tides to scout out good surfperch water. Look for places where there's a deep hole or depression that could hold surfperch. These places include steeply sloped beaches where the waves break hard, rocky areas in the sand or sandy areas near jetties, or places where the shore cuts inward.

EQUIPMENT FOR SURFPERCH FISHING

Rod and Reel Surfperch fishing requires heavy tackle—not to land a two pound fish, but to handle the heavy surf these fish live in. Surf fishing is one of Oregon's most underutilized fisheries. There are hundreds of places to fish along sandy beaches, and there are plenty of fish an easy cast from shore. When it comes to fishing tackle, a good starter outfit for surfperch could include a long (9 to 11-foot) rod capable of handling a 2 to 6 ounce weight, and a spinning reel large enough to hold 200-300 yards of 15 to 30 pound monofilament line. If you'd like to try surfperch fishing before you invest in new tackle, some sporting goods stores on the coast allow you to rent rods and reels by the day.

A popular setup for surfperch includes two #4 or #2 hooks, some swivels and a pyramid sinker. Three sided pyramid sinkers are common, easy to cast and tend to roll less in the surf. The size and weight will vary with surf conditions, and the size of your rod—use whatever it takes (usually 2 to 6 ounces) to keep your rigging in one spot in the surf. About 12 inches above the sinker attach a 3-way swivel. On one loop tie on the first hook with 6 to 8 inches of monofilament. You want just enough monofilament to keep your bait away from the mainline. About 16 inches above the first hook attach a second hook in the same way.

If you like to fish this sounds like a good thing to try, if you do be sure to take something to sit on. GOOD LUCK.

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. MARCH 8.
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

WEB SITE
Noblecreekfish.net

E-MAIL
cehaga@charter.net

Coos River S.T.E.P.

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