

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

October 2015

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NEWSLETTER

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NEW MEMBER

Richard Sebesta

Coos River STEP THANKS Richard for his support and interest in the Noble Creek Hatchery.

The baby salmon that Coos River raises are all out of the Hatchery, and in Isthmus slough, or already farther down in the Bay on their way to the ocean. There was about 540,000 of them this year that the counter counted, as they were marked. All of these fish had their adipose fin removed so they could be identified as hatchery fish.

HATCHERY NEWS

Here at the Hatchery this month there has been very little work that we were ready to do. It looks like things are going to get busy with the projects that are planned for this month. This last week we worked putting up the scaffolding to work off of so we could clean the moss off the roof. Harold fixed the rain gutters and down spouts too.

We will be getting the holding ponds ready soon, as we could have some salmon at the hatchery next month. There is some salmon at the tide gates early in September every year, and a few will swim on upstream to the hatchery if there is enough rain to increase the water flow in the creek. We'll just watch and put the blocking gates in place when it looks like it will be needed to hold any salmon that come. Some years we have had a few hundred salmon come to the hatchery in September. When this happens we try to get some of them donated to the food bank.

COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON

The water in this river, this year is so warm that it is estimated that up to 80% of the returning Sockeye Salmon could die from being stressed. Fish congregating in confined areas trying to find cool water makes them a target for pathogens. The fish become stressed at temperatures above 68 degrees and stop migrating at 74 degrees. Much of the Columbia river is at or over 70 degrees due to a combination of drought and record heat in June.

Thirteen species of salmon and steelhead are listed as endangered or threatened in the Columbia river basin. These salmon are going to be few that survive to spawn. Since the Columbia is Oregon's largest producer of salmon, fishing for them looks to be very minimal at best in 3 to 5 years.



We have little use for all of the things piled where we want to build the new boot storage room. There are two of these tanks that will now be stored outside. We have no use for them.



The framing for the walls are from 4"x6" posts on 4' centers. 3/4" plywood walls will be nailed to the posts and 2"x6" horizontal boards. We don't think an earthquake could take it down.



Bob brought his air compressor and nailer to install the 3/4" plywood walls. What a life saver. I'd hate to think how long it would have taken to do it all with a hammer or a screw gun.

Thanks, Bob.



The initial thought was to make the boot storage room 4' wide and hang the boots on one side. That left us wondering what to do with the raingear. OK, 6' wide it is. Boots on one side and hanging raingear on the other side. There'll be shelves above the raingear with a nice wide door for easy access.

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

The weather in the past month finally cleared up enough that I got to go out seining for juvenile Chinook a couple of times. We did not catch lots of Chinook but the ones we did capture looked very healthy. We have also netted lots of juvenile flat fish (English sole and speckled sand dabs) along with some large surf smelt and a few very large pile surfperch. I plan on seining at least a couple more times in Coos Bay before the end of the summer.

A few Chinook have already been caught in Coos Bay in late July. Most of the fish I heard of were caught in between the jetties. But a couple weekends ago I did witness a Chinook being landed near the chip pile while I was trolling for a salmon (and no I was not the fortunate person to catch the fish). It won't be long and the boat ramps will be full of anglers looking to catch a few salmon in Coos Bay.

For the first time in Oregon history ODFW has implemented a 2 p.m. fishing closure on most rivers and streams (excluding tidewater sections) for anglers fishing for trout, salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon. This is due to the extremely low flows and warm water temperatures we are seeing around the state. There are a few rivers or river sections that remained open to fishing for trout, salmon, and steelhead like normal because they have cooler flows from springs or from water releases from reservoirs. This closure doesn't affect anyone that still wants to fish for smallmouth bass in the Coquille or Umpqua basins.

This summer's low flows and hot water temperatures have been taking a toll on some salmon and steelhead around the state. I know several fishermen that spotted dead spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead floating downstream in the Umpqua River while they were fishing for smallmouth bass. I've also heard of dead salmon in the Willamette River tributaries and on the Middle Fork of the John Day. Hopefully we will get some significant rain soon.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Ph. 541-888-5515

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. AUG. 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!)

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