

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

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September 2012

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NEWSLETTER

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STEP DONATIONS

Red Zone (Todd Jones)

Marge Brown won the 50-50 at our August potluck and donated her winnings back to STEP.

THANKS

GOOD FISHING REPORTS

The fishing has been excellent on the Rogue River for the early run of half pounders.

There has been reports of some Chinook being landed near the board walk in Coos Bay in the last few days. One was a 30 pounder, and in very bright condition.

Paul Merz has got the Joanne back in the water and has got to try everything out by going Tuna fishing for 2 or 3 days. He did have a friend with him on this first trip out, and I think they landed about 2000 pounds of Tuna. There was some things that needed to be fixed, which was no surprise after the major over haul that he has done on his vessel that took about three years, he'll probably find other things the next trip out.

We're all wishing Paul the best fishing ever.

HATCHERY NEWS

The new roof is all on, and has the ridge in place, plus a lot of flashing to keep out the rain. The rain gutters are all back in place, all except the ones on the old office, which is an easy job.

We have been having a lot of painting parties this past month, with good volunteer help trying to get the hatchery buildings covered with a coat of new paint. We have a real nice light brown that we're using, plus some off white we mixed together so it's all the same that we painted on some outside walls that were never painted.

We also got a plywood wall by where the females are spawned, and painted it with some of the white that we already had on hand. We took out one of the windows over by where we spawn the males, and painted that wall both inside and out, also painted the block wall on the inside. The tables that we work on were also painted.

We got some new paint on the spawning rack where we spawn the females, both where we hold the females and where we take their eggs. We hope to get even more of the blocks painted soon.



This wall used to be just open 2” by 4”s on the hatchery side. Harold decided it would look much nicer if enclosed with plywood and painted to match the rest of the new color for the hatchery buildings. I think it’s a big improvement!



Harold talked his son-in-law Jim into coming out to help with the painting. He’s doing a nice job on the wall next to Nora’s Pond. I’d say we are over 90% finished with this little project.



This piece of fascia being painted by Ray Tuesday afternoon is nearing the end of the items left to paint. You can see that we are painting items that have been left un-painted for years. It’s about time!



Clyde said “ You guys work on the paint. I’ll get the carcass elevator back where it belongs. It won’t be long and we’ll be spawning fish.” The hatchery buildings sure looks nice with their new coat of paint. Now it’s time to go fishing!!

Well the Coos Bay salmon fishery is under way. So far this year the fishing has been red hot one day and then the next day you can't buy a bite. We have been running an angler creel survey since the middle of August. The sampler gets a count of the amount of angler effort on the bay each day and samples about 25% of the anglers each day to see what they caught and how long they have been fishing that day. With this information we can get an estimate of the how many fish have been harvested. For the past three weeks we have estimated that 730 adult Chinook and 344 jack Chinook have been harvested in Coos Bay.

The other salmon news I have is that the in-river wild coho fisheries have been approved for this fall. The fisheries will start on September 15 and will go until November 30 or until the harvest quota has been reached. For Coos Bay the wild coho quota is 1,200 adults and for the Coquille the quota is 1,500 adults. We have heard a report that a few coho might already be in the lower Coquille River.

It won't be long and Chinook will start making their way back to Noble Creek Hatchery. This year we will be giving the fish that come back early and are in decent condition to donate to food banks to the Oregon Coast Community Action. The Oregon Coast Community Action will clean/process the fish and then distribute to the food banks in Coos County. This should be a good way to get salmon to those that need the food throughout the county.

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