

Chilliwack River Hatchery Update - 2009

Adult Returns 2009/ 2010

Winter Steelhead

Returns were quite respectable and steelhead are holding their own. Volunteer anglers collect the brood stock. Egg targets were met and juveniles are currently rearing with release of smolts the first week in May. Adult returns to the trap are few because the smolts are released in the lower river, which seems to help stall the returning progeny making them more available to the sport angler. No creel or river swims done.

(2010 Brood adult targets have been met for returning Steelhead thanks to the volunteer Steelhead angling program. Spawning started the first week in March.)

Spring Run Chilliwack Chinook (indigenous)

No attempt was made to look for Chinook as we have tried before during the Pink years. The timing of the Pink adults returns (odd year timing) overlaps with indigenous Chinook and would make it near impossible to locate the very few Chinook, which tend to hold and spawn in generally the same areas as the large schools of Pinks. The timing is late September to Early October.

Summer Red Chinook (upper Fraser transplants)

Summer Chinook were lower than normal. We did not see significant numbers below our diversion fence by late July and were concerned enough to request for a temporary closure in the limits hole for August through to September. This was to protect what the brood stock that were holding there which would eventually find their way to the hatchery trap.

Coho

The run this year was respectable similar adult returns of last year, but the jack returns were substantial, which were half the returns of the adult total. It is therefore expected that there will be an increase in Coho adult returns for the fall of 2010 over an above what we saw in 2009. Select streams in the mid to upper reaches were surveyed (dead pitched) which correlated well with increased trap returns. Some lower tribs below Vedder crossing are showing none to very low coho numbers. E.g. Salwein Creek low returns and Street Creek no returns.

Fall Chinook

These are from Harrison white transplants of 20 + years ago. They have been showing up in the hatchery trap in consistent numbers for the past 10 years. We have not needed to go after them in the lower river like years past. We had a very high return of jacks, again this year which could possibly mean more adults to the river and trap this fall.

Chum

Low returns of Chum were reported throughout Lower Fraser tributaries consistent with what we observed at the hatchery trap. Egg targets were not met. The mid to upper reaches of the river also experienced very low returns. The Vedder side channels had relatively fewer Chum as well. This continues to be a Pacific Region wide trend.

Prepared by R.W. Stanton, Hatchery Manager

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SPECIES -->	INDIGENOUS SPRING CHINOOK	SUMMER RED CHINOOK	FALL COHO	FALL CHINOOK	FALL CHUM	WINTER STEELHEAD
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2009 Adult Returns (♂ & ♀ & jacks)	n/a	142 & 161 & 6	6,430 & 7,895 & 6,272	490 & 582 & 5,075	1450 & 584	200000 / 190,676
2009 Egg Requirements (Targets / Achieve = Nos. ♀)	n/a	500,000 / 548,269 = 106♀	1,600,000 / 1,583,696 = 523♀	1,900,000/1,921,066 =416♀	2,000,000 / 1,184,788 =500♀	= 33♀
2010 smolt/fry releases	n/a	500,000	1,200,000	1,000,000 (+450,000 offsite)	1,500,000	135,000
2010 Adult Returns expected to trap	?	<500	<15,000	<2,000	<5,000	n/a
2010 Egg Requirements/target	50,000	550,000	1,600,000	1,900,000	2,000,000	200,000