

2009 Adult Returns

Chehalis River:

Chinook

Summer Chinook returns were average, estimated to be around 1500-2000 fish. Only 300 entered the hatchery due to low water levels. The Chehalis River does not flow past the hatchery outlet even during high water periods. There are no plans to change the flow.

Most Fall Chinooks produced by the hatchery normally stay in the Harrison. Hatchery production of Harrison Chinook has been reduced to 200,000 smolts for assessment purposes, subject to funding. This is the amount required for stock assessment purposes. It should be noted that the wild population is doing fairly well as well.

Chum

Chum returns were very low. Total escapement to the river was an estimated 5500 (2200 were handled at the hatchery). Carcasses (950) were thrown off the Chehalis/ Statlu Creek Bridge in an attempt to fertilize the system for increased wild steelhead and coho production. The chum sport opening is from November 1- 30th to allow for harvest of hatchery fish and protect the wild early run (Sept- Oct).

Coho

Low escapement. Estimated to be 5,000 the same as than last year).

Pink

Return was about 3000 to the river, 1450 return to the hatchery.

Steelhead

Winter steelhead returns appeared to be fair to good. Summer steelhead returns were average to good with several fish taken.

Cutthroat (sea-run)

Returns in the spring of 2009 were poor. Spring 2010 returns appear to be good so far.

Weaver Creek:

Sockeye - Return was low, better than 2008 (1500). Total adults handled was 28,000.

Chum- return was fair, around 11,700.

Pink- return was good, 25,000 fish.

Coho- escapement was not estimated.

Harrison River:

For Harrison River returns contact Stock assessment

2009 Egg targets and 2010 releases (estimates):

System	Species	2009 egg targets	2010 releases
Chehalis River	Chinook	Summer 600 K eggs Fall (Harrison) – 300K eggs	Summer 550 K smolts Fall (Harrison) 225 K smolts
	Chum	6.5 M eggs	2 M fry**
	Coho	1.030 M eggs	900 K smolts (all adipose clip no CWT)
	Pink	1.2 M eggs	750 K fry
	Steelhead	winter 23 K fry (40 K smolts) summer 14.3 K fry (25K smolts)	Winter 21 K smolts (adipose clip) Summer 13.5 K smolts (adipose and right maxillary clip)
	Cutthroat (sea-run)	20.8 K fry (25 K) smolts for Chehalis, Weaver and Harrison	3 K smolts
Weaver Creek	Sockeye	44M eggs = 75% capacity	26 M fry
	Chum	5.6 M eggs	3 M fry
	Pink	8.1 M eggs ***	3 M fry ****
	Cutthroat (sea-run)		2 K smolts
Harrison / Fraser	Cutthroat (sea-run)		13 K smolts

** due to very low adult returns egg target was not met

*** an additional 2.1 M eggs were taken to Chehalis Hatchery for eventual transplant in to several north Fraser streams for pink salmon restoration.

**** 1.8 M fry to north Fraser streams

2010 expected adult returns and egg targets:

System	Species	Estimated Adults returning	2008 Egg targets #'s
Chehalis River	Chinook	Summer 1.5 K Fall – forecast available mid-April	Summer – 600 K eggs Fall (Harrison) – 300 K eggs
	Chum	60 K	6.4 M eggs
	Coho	10 K	1 M eggs
	Pink	None, even year	
	Steelhead	Winter 300 Summer 500	Winter, 45 K fry Summer, 30 K fry
	Cutthroat (sea-run)	300	30 K fry
	Weaver Creek	Sockeye	50 K
	Chum	15 K	6 M eggs
	Pink	None, even year	
	Cutthroat (sea-run)	200	
Harrison	Cutthroat (sea-run)	1000	

Other items:

- Chehalis Hatchery has partnered with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. to produce 110,000 catchable rainbow trout annually for stocking in 20 lower mainland lakes.
- Chehalis River diversion- there is no plan to divert the river back past the hatchery.
- Hatchery is currently at ~ 80% capacity for production. This is mainly due to funding issues.

Reid Schrul, March 2010