

Inch Creek Hatchery Summary - 2009

Stave River

Chum - Escapement estimate, based on helicopter enumeration, was 150,000. The last year of hatchery enhanced escapement was 2002. Chum angling opportunities continue to attract a crowd.

Chinook - Escapement, based on broodstock netting efforts & helicopter recon, estimated at 500. The hatchery is no longer taking Chinook eggs. The last eggtake for Stave chinook was brood year 2007.

Coho - Escapement, based on broodstock netting efforts, helicopter recon, angler participation, and comparison to Inch Creek survivals estimated at 2500 fish. Coho egg target of 275K was achieved.

Steelhead – Escapement, using coho rates of survival, could be 300 fish. Hatchery returns started in spring 2001. Juveniles reared at Inch Creek are from adult brood captured from Stave River (preferred), or hatchery stock from Chilliwack River.

Nicomen - Inch

Chum – Escapement was very poor to Inch Creek at 5844. About 20% of hatchery production is released to upper Nicomen Slough in an attempt to introduce returns over a greater area of the Slough; no assessment of this program is taking place. Chum egg target of 1.2 million was achieved.

Coho - Escapement was 1494. Coho egg target of 185K was met.

Nicomen – Norrish

Coho - Escapement, based on broodstock netting, angler pressure, helicopter recon, and comparison to Inch Creek survivals estimated at 1000 fish. Egg target of 200K was met.

Nicomekl

Coho – Egg target of 90K met. Conversations with volunteer group suggested that returns were good, but group struggled with brood stock collection.

Serpentine

Coho – Egg target of 90K met. Brood stock was easily collected this year.

Maria Slough

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Chinook – Escapement estimated at 1000. Egg target was reduced, in season, to 126K eggs due to better incubation and rearing survivals in recent years (release target is 100K smolts, 0+).

General Comments:

All 2009 egg targets were met for the hatchery.
All release targets for 2010 will be met.

Prepared by Stu Barnetson, Hatchery Manager for March 31 UFV SFAC meeting