



CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

In the past few months, Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) staff cared for thousands of salmon eggs and ponded hundreds of trays of fish fry. One tray can hold as many as 5,000 fish eggs from a single female.

When the fish eggs start hatching, they begin flopping around in their trays. Hatchery staff carefully remove the trays from the incubation room and release them into blue starter tanks where they will remain for 2 to 4 weeks. During this time, they are fed and monitored.

After a few weeks, the fish are transferred to outside raceways and are held there until they grow to about fingerling size, then it's time to mark and tag them. During the marking process, the fish are run through an automated system that sorts and tags them and the adipose fin is removed.

The process of marking and tagging juvenile salmon this way helps fisheries managers and fishermen identify the fish as being a hatchery fish.

"After they are marked and/or tagged, they are released into the hatchery ponds or they are transferred to one of our acclimation ponds," said CJH Manager Matt McDaniel. "They are cared for in the same way except that the fish are acclimating near the waters they will be released in."

The fish that are reared at the hatchery and ponds are usually released at the same time in April of each year.

Also this year, Ricardo Angel, senior fish culturist for CJH, set up fish tanks in several local area schools for the "Salmon in the Classroom" program. In the first week of January, Angel brought fish eggs to classrooms and helped set up tanks. It will take about 6 to 7 weeks for the fish to absorb their yolk sac, and by mid-to-late March, they will be fry swimming in the tanks, ready for fish food. Paschal Sherman Indian School, North Omak El-

ementary, Tonasket Elementary, and the Hearts Gathered Waterfall School will release their fish in April and May. Each school received about 100 eggs.

Number of trays of fish fry ponded out since the beginning of January:

- 72 trays of Integrated Summer Chinook
- 43 trays of Segregated Summer Chinook
- 281 trays of CJH Spring Chinook
- 46 trays of MetComp Spring Chinook

Total alevins on station:

- Integrated Summer Chinook: 411,397
- Segregated Summer Chinook: 493,412

Number of fish at the acclimation ponds:

- Riverside;** all fish were released January 13, 2023 due to pump failure.
- Brooks Tract;** about 50k integrated summer chinook yearlings remain.
- Similkameen;** about 255k integrated summer chinook yearlings.

Number of fish currently at CJH:

- BY21 Segregated Summer Chinook (yearlings) - 416,830, release April 2023
- BY21 CJH Spring Chinook - 907,463, release April 2023
- BY22 Integrated Summer Chinook (yearlings) - 197,137, release April 2024
- BY22 Segregated Summer Chinook (sub-yearlings) - 116,670, release May 2023
- BY22 CJH Spring Chinook - 880,894, release April 2024
- BY22 MetComp Spring Chinook - 214,521, release April 2024

Estimated number of fish fry that will be released this year:

- BY21 Segregated Summer Chinook (yearlings) - 416,700
- BY21 CJH Spring Chinook - 907,200
- BY21 Integrated Summer Chinook - approx. 25,000 to 40,000 - released from Brooks Tract
- BY21 Integrated Summer Chinook - approx. 250,000 - released from Similkameen

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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PROGRAM PAYS ANGLERS FOR CATCHING NORTHERN PIKE IN LAKE ROOSEVELT



If you are an angler that enjoys catching those feisty northern pike in Lake Roosevelt, you can participate in the Northern Pike Reward Program and turn in your pike heads at a designated location and get paid!

"We want to remind anglers to kill all northern pike captured and to turn in their heads for a reward," said Holly McLellan, fish biologist for Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife (CTFW). "It doesn't matter what size they are even the small pike count towards the reward."

In 2022, anglers turned in 125 heads and were paid \$1,250 but co-managers still need your help to reduce the number of pike in Lake Roosevelt.

And to make it even easier, CTFW offers a map that shows the pike hot spots and freezer locations.

Anglers can drop off their pike heads at Noisy Waters Gas Station, Kettle Falls boat launch, Hunters boat launch, Fort Spokane boat launch, or at the Inchelium Fish and Wildlife office.

"We appreciate the anglers help with protecting the Lake Roosevelt fishery," said McLellan.

Northern pike can exceed 50 inches and weigh as much as 45 pounds. A female adult can produce up to 250,000 eggs. And with their duck-bill mouth and large teeth, they can easily eat frogs, birds, trout, salmon and steelhead.

Lake Roosevelt co-managers (Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) have been working diligently to remove northern pike from the reservoir and have removed 19,110 since 2015.

"The co-managers are particularly concerned with the negative im-

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pacts northern pike pose to tribal and state resources,” said McLellan. “The co-managers of Lake Roosevelt invest \$9 million annually into protecting and enhancing the fisheries of Lake Roosevelt through hatchery programs, native fish conservation programs for red-band trout, white sturgeon, and burbot, as well as habitat restoration projects. Northern pike compromise the conservation and restoration of the current fisheries on Lake Roosevelt.”

Important information about the Northern Pike Reward Program:

- All anglers must be 17 years of age or older to participate in the program.

- Anglers must completely fill out the tag information at the designated drop off area. Fish heads must be placed in a freezer bag with the label and dropped into the freezer or brought to the Inchelium Fish and Wildlife office.

- Fish heads must be in good condition and clearly identifiable. Unidentifiable heads will not be accepted or awarded.

- Fish must be caught in the main stem Columbia River from Wells Dam upstream to the Canadian border, the Spokane River upstream to Little Falls, the Kettle River, or the Okanogan River.

- There are no size restrictions on northern pike.

- Anglers must adhere to all applicable state/tribal fishing regulations for the area in which you fish. Contact your local state or tribal agency for license requirements and current fishing regulations.

- Please allow 2 to 3 weeks to receive your reward.

For more information on the Northern Pike Rewards Program, go to <https://www.cct-fnw.com/northern-pike>

BEARS WILL BE BEARS



Spring is here and you know what that means, bears will be coming out of hibernation soon and will be hungry in search of food. Bears are opportunistic feeders and can pick up smells miles away, so we humans need to keep our outdoor areas clean to avoid unexpected visits from our furry friends.

Last year alone, the Colville Tribes’ Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Department received 54 bear complaints reservation wide.

“Bears are attracted to smells, so the primary ways to prevent problem bears is to make sure garbage is picked up and contained where bears cannot gain access, fruit is picked up off of the ground, and pet food is contained,” said Elizabeth Odell, wildlife biologist for CTFW. “Additionally, electric or chain fencing around fruit trees, garbage areas, and gardens can be effective against bears. Remember bears are naturally curious so keeping a clean area will encourage a bear to move along if it doesn't find access to food.”

So, when do bears become a problem or threat to the public and what do you need to know? Well bears will be bears; they are always in search of food, and can eat as much as 20,000 calories in a day. Large black bears can weigh well over 400 pounds. Bears travel many miles a day in search of food and are resourceful foragers. They also have great memories, so if they find a food source, they may come back for another visit.

“Bears are often scavenging for food in urban interface areas, where they may pose a threat to people, children, pets, and property,” Odell said. “The most common attractants for bears can be garbage, fish cleaning stations, bee hives, and fruit trees. Areas known for attracting bears should be cleaned up and fenced, preventing bears from accessing food.”

“If all attempts at preventing problem bears has been exhausted, or the bear poses a threat to human safety, CTFW is available to attempt to trap and relocate the bear,” she said.



Here are some helpful tips to avoid bear and human interaction.

- Bears are drawn to the smell of food such as garbage, pet foods, bird feeders, compost piles, fruit trees, berry bushes, livestock feed, dirty barbecue grills, beehives and petroleum products
- Keep yards clean
- Pick fruit from trees as it ripens; do not leave fruit on the ground
- Do not leave pet food outside, especially overnight
- Keep outdoor grills clean; when not in use, store grills inside a garage or building
- Never store food or garbage outdoors for long periods of time
- If a bear doesn't find food it will move along
- Bears are naturally curious and opportunistic
- Please do not feed the bears - individuals who are feeding bears create a major problem and may cause harm to the bear and the general public - you will be cited with a fine of \$500 (code 4-1-261 harassment of wildlife)

If you encounter a bear:

- If a bear approaches, move your family indoors immediately
- Try to remain calm, don't panic
- Respect the bear's space, never approach a bear
- If you see a baby bear, don't try to pet them
- Don't scream or yell as this may provoke a bear
- Don't run as this may trigger a pursuit by a bear
- Make yourself as large as possible and speak in a calm voice to the bear and move away giving the bear some space and leave the area
- When out camping keep children close by
- If you spot a bear in a residential area call 509.722.7659 Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. After normal work hours, call 800.551.5800.