



COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS

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CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

Staff spent much of their time in the incubation room shocking (the force on eggs that occurs during handling) and picking spring and summer Chinook eggs and spawning out the adult summer Chinook.

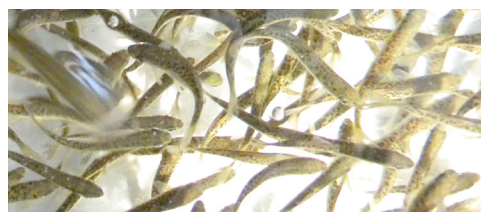
“When a female is ready to spawn, her eggs are removed from the belly cavity directly into a gallon zip-lock bag and oxygen is added and the bag of eggs is put in a cooler, ready for transport to the incubation room,” said Matt McDaniel, CJH Manager. “The milt from the male is placed into a quart zip-lock bag with oxygen added and put in a cooler, ready for transport to the incubation room.”

Once at incubation, the eggs are put into a bucket, and the milt is mixed with the eggs for fertilization. After about a minute, the eggs are gently poured into a colander, drained and lightly rinsed before being transported to the incubation stacks and placed in trays until they are eyed and ready to pick.

Staff also moved thousands of Chinook fry to three acclimation ponds along the Okanogan River in the last two months. “The fish were moved to acclimation ponds by using a fish pump that pumps fish from the race-

ways at CJH into a fish hauling truck,” said McDaniel. “Once at the acclimation ponds, they are cared for just as the fish are at CJH and are released into the Okanogan River in April.”

Staff monitor and pick out the dead fish, ponds are vacuumed regularly (weather permitting), and the fish are sampled for size until it's time to release them.



SUMMER CHINOOK FEMALES SPAWNED WERE:

- 189 - Segregated Program
- 243 - Integrated Program

CHINOOK TRANSFERRED TO ACCLIMATION PONDS IN OCTOBER:

- 211,949 Spring Chinook (10j program) - Riverside Pond
- 245,550 Integrated summer Chinook - Similkameen Pond
- 281,988 Integrated summer Chinook - Omak Pond



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:

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NORTHERN PIKE REWARDS PROGRAM

The Northern Pike Rewards Program is nearing the end of its second year and since January 1, 2018, the program has paid anglers for 567 pike heads. That number is down from the previous year of 1,095 pike heads. For the anglers who love catching those pesky pike, the program will continue into 2019.

“We need their help keeping the pike population in check,” said Holly McLellan, fisheries biologist for CTFW. “We will continue to offer \$10 per pike

head that is turned in and continue suppression efforts.”

The largest Northern pike that CTFW staff captured in Lake Roosevelt was 44 inches long and weighed 26 pounds, a mature female. (The pike pictured here had approximately 292,800 eggs)



“With the expansion of pike downstream, we will be working with the National Park Service to add pike drop off stations at Keller Ferry and Spring Canyon, and add a drop-off location in Keller, Wash.,” said McLellan.



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

The Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians and WDFW removed 2,737 pike this year, which brings the total to 8,761 pike removed since 2015.

CTFW will be combining funds from BPA (\$300,000), BIA (\$100,000), and Grant PUD (\$25,000) to suppress pike in Lake Roosevelt in 2019. “We are also submitting proposals to Chelan and Grant PUD for additional dollars,” said McLellan. The Spokane Tribe will be implementing gillnet suppression and WDFW will be conducting an abundance survey which will assist with determining if suppression efforts are having an effect on the pike population.

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



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Eric Krausz, wildlife biologist, has taken on added responsibilities such as oversight of multiple contracts and budgets that were lacking attention. He was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Wildlife Division. He supervises three new biologist positions and has shown positive leadership, timely mentorship, and hands-on teaching.

Gary Sumerlin, wildlife technician, has a great work ethic and positive attitude and as such was selected for “Employee of the Year.” His coworkers and supervisors have nothing but the best to say about him. He works hard and gets the job done to the best of his ability. His friendly demeanor is well appreciated, and his drive makes him one of our most dependable employees. Sumerlin is definitely a model employee.

Marcella Pierre, purchasing agent, was selected for “Employee of the Year” for the Administration Division. She came to us from the Gaming Division and has proven to be an excellent co-worker with wonderful skills. She takes it upon herself to provide exceptional support to all the divisions within CTFW. Pierre addresses what the staff needs and completes the task at hand.

LJ Stensgar, account manager, was awarded the “Supervisor of the Year” for the Administration Division due to his leadership and effectiveness during a year with considerable staff turnover. He is always a pleasure to work with despite the stresses of managing the challenging financial tasks of the Fish and Wildlife Department. Despite losing a number of employees, the accounting team maintained its productivity level and provided excellent support to project managers.

Vertis Campbell, fisheries technician, was awarded the Anadromous Fish Program “Employee of the Year.” His performance in 2018 was exceptional from exceeding day-to-day expectations to going the extra mile to complete tasks. He consistently displays a positive attitude that raises the spirits of the whole crew, which boosts morale and improves the work environment. He has a great mind for mechanics and design, and he uses it on the job. Campbell often comes up with solutions to problems that keep the field operations running smoothly.

John Arterburn, principle biologist, was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Anadromous Fish Program. He works with a diverse staff of technical and professional people who

research and monitor data that is used to evaluate salmon recovery efforts. These efforts focus on the preservation and enhancement of traditional ceremonial and subsistence fisheries. He has provided consistent supervision and excellence to the Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Program.

Michael Peoples, fisheries technician, was selected for “Employee of the Year” for the Resident Fish Division. He has been working on the Northern Pike and Kokanee Restoration projects since May 2017. He is a dependable employee that staff can count on to show up to work every day and he has a positive attitude. Peoples is easy to work with and he is respected by his co-workers. He is a quick learner, takes his job seriously and is always willing to put in the extra work to get the job done.

Ben Cross, principle biologist, has been an instrumental part of the Resident Fish Division for over five years and as such was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the division. He has guided his staff in achieving goals they thought were unachievable, providing direction and assistance whenever they need it. He is thorough and proficient and is able to speak to staff and the membership in a way they can understand.



PROGRAM SUCCESSFULLY DISTRIBUTES STURGEON

Over 1,000 packages of hatchery white sturgeon were distributed to Colville tribal members on Thursday, October 4, in Inchelium, Keller, Nespelem and Omak. The sturgeon fillets were vacuum sealed and kept frozen until distribution day.

“In September, our crews harvested 151 hatchery white sturgeon from the upper reaches of Lake Roosevelt,” said Jason McLellan, research scientist for CTFW. “Staff processed the catch, which resulted in approximately 983 pounds of fish fillets.”

A consumption advisory sticker was affixed to each package and every tribal member could pick up five packages. Another 52 packages were sent to the Omak Fish and Wildlife freezer and to the Nespelem Food Distribution Center for ceremonial use.

- 241 packages were distributed in Nespelem and Inchelium
- 231 packages were distributed in Omak and Keller

Although the legal size to catch a white sturgeon is much smaller, they are the largest freshwater fish in North America and can weigh over 1,500 pounds, be 20-feet in length, and live for over 100 years. Populations of white sturgeon exist throughout the Columbia River system. As of 2016, an estimated 20,500 hatchery white sturgeon needed to be removed from Lake Roosevelt.

Tribal members can go to www.colvilletribes.com for current rules and regulations.

For information on how to properly rig your sturgeon gear, go to: <https://youtu.be/gdeLQIS0sBI>