



OVER 40,000 RAINBOW TROUT RELEASED INTO RUFUS WOODS

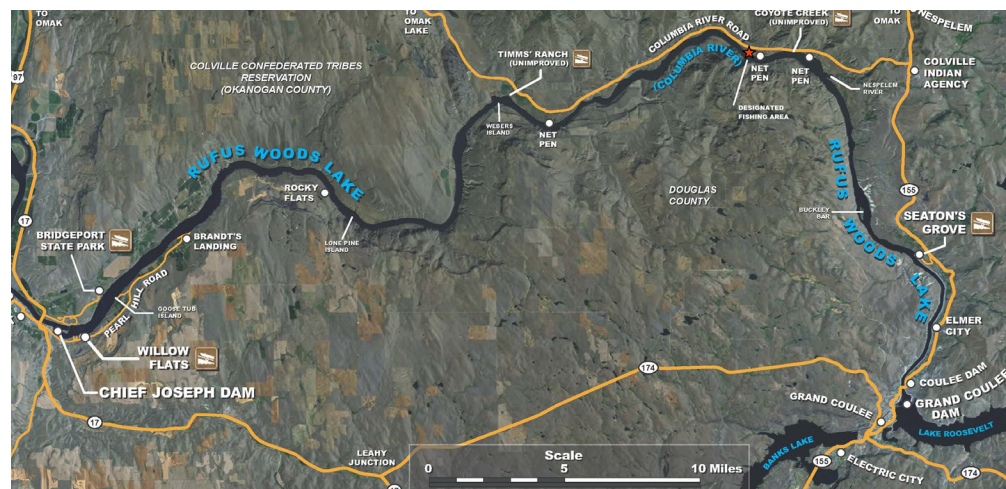
It's definitely a good time to go fishing as staff from the Colville Tribes' trout hatchery released thousands of triploid rainbow trout into one of the most popular fishing lakes in the state. These fish can be identified by the absence of an adipose fin.

- Over 11,100 trout were released on May 20 and averaged 2.75 pounds.
- Approximately 15,600 trout were released on May 1 and about 20% of this group was implanted with a grey plastic anchor tag. These fish averaged 2.5 pounds.
- Over 5,000 trout were released into Rufus Woods Lake on April 26.
- Approximately 2,000 trout were released on March 19 and averaged 1.5 pounds.
- Another 10,300 trout were released on March 26 and averaged 2 pounds. About 20% of this group was implanted with a grey plastic anchor tag.

Anglers that retain tagged fish are encouraged to contact the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department and provide tag number and information

related to the catch (i.e. date, location, length, and the approximate size) or login into www.cctfwfishtags.com/report-a-tag to report a tagged fish electronically. This information assists biologists in managing annual fish releases into Rufus Woods Lake.

CTFW would like to remind anglers that all non-members who are fishing by boat on the boundary waters of the reservation or from the shore of Rufus Woods Lake at the Designated Fishing Area (DFA) must have either a valid Colville Indian Reservation Fishing Permit or a valid fishing license issued by the State of Washington. Non-members fishing from the reservation shoreline outside of the DFA must have a tribal permit. At this time, there is only one DFA on Rufus Woods which is located downstream of the Pacific Aquaculture Fish Farm net pens. Colville tribal members must possess a Colville tribal identification card that serves as a permit to fish. Anglers can purchase a fishing permit online by going to: <https://www.cct-fnw.com/regulations-permits/>.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

Randy Friedlander,
Director of Fish and Wildlife
1 Colville Street PO Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155
randall.friedlander@colvilletribes.com

or

Michelle Campobasso,
Public Relations Specialist
1 Colville Street PO Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155
michelle.campobasso@colvilletribes.com

FIRST SALMON CEREMONY

The 14th annual First Salmon Ceremony was held at Chief Joseph Hatchery in Bridgeport, Wash. on Thursday, May 23. At sunrise people gathered near the river to watch tribal members catch the first salmon. There were prayers, song, and elders shared stories. It was a day for people to come together to celebrate the return of spring chinook and pray for more salmon to return to the Columbia River.

It was a beautiful sunny morning to catch salmon for the ceremony feast. People watched attentively as the salmon were captured near the CJH fish ladder. Many attendees observed the filleting of salmon and how the fish were carefully placed on racks around the fire pit. Richard Whitney, wildlife manager for CTFW, prepared several salmon to be smoked. The first salmon was shared with everyone.

Cody Desautel, Natural Resource director, welcomed guests to this year's celebration. "It's an exciting time with lots of things happening, a lot of progress being made on fish passage and we may have fish above the dams this August."



There were several presentations given from transporting salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, to goals and activities surrounding the Okanagan Nation Alliance's sockeye hatchery and the Chief Joseph Chinook Hatchery.

Casey Baldwin, lead research scientist for CTFW, discussed fish passage, habitat and re-introducing salmon upstream of the dams, and technology like the Whooshh system. "There is enough habitat to support summer and fall chinook and sockeye above the dams and now we are ready to move to phase two and are looking at doing cultural and educational releases."

The ONA's hatchery has been in operation since 2014 and their goal is to increase sockeye numbers in the Okanagan and Skaha Lake and the Upper Columbia River. It's a 25,000 square foot facility that can rear 8 million eggs. "Since the hatchery opened

a few years ago we have seen escapement (returning adult salmon) in Osoyoos and now in Skaha," said Howie Wright, fisheries program manager for ONA.

Jobe Cate, CJH fish culturist, gave a presentation on CJH that showed video clips of staff rearing fish, caring for fish eggs and fry, and spawning of large chinook. Mary Davisson, fish biologist for CTFW, showed attendees a new video of CJH that will be used on tours. If you would like to see the video, go online to CCT F&W or <https://www.cct-fnw.com/chief-joseph-hatchery>.

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MULTIPLE AGENCIES
COMBINE EFFORTS TO
COMBAT PIKE

The battle was on when several agencies and Tribes joined forces in early May to remove as many northern pike as possible from Lake Roosevelt waters. Together the (Colville Tribe, Spokane Tribe, WDFW, Kalispel Tribe, National Park Service and Grant and Chelan PUDs) were able to remove 433 northern pike in a one week period.

“We set out 475 gillnets using 10 boats in the upper one third of Lake Roosevelt,” said Holly McLellan, fisheries biologist for CTFW. “This is the primary northern pike spawning location. Of the 433 northern pike that were removed, about half were pre-spawn females and each female holds approximately 10,000 eggs, so we stopped at least 2,160,000 eggs from being released into the water during the one week survey.”

CTFW staff are also surveying the Sanpoil Arm of Lake Roosevelt for northern pike. According to biologists, the pike are a threat to the San-



poil River’s largest native redband trout population.

“We captured two northern pike in the Sanpoil Arm on May 15, 2019, a 28 pound pre-spawn female and a large male,” said McLellan. “Luckily these fish were removed before spawning. We will continue to survey this area and remove all northern pike from the Sanpoil Arm.”

Pike are found in slow-moving streams and in shallow, weedy places in lakes and reservoirs. They are an ambush predator and can lie perfectly still for long periods and attack prey with remarkable speed. They eat

frogs, insects, birds, trout, steelhead, and salmon.

CTFW would like to remind anglers that the “**Northern Pike Rewards Program**” is in full swing and anglers will get paid \$10 for every northern pike head turned in at a designated drop off station. Those locations are: Noisy Waters Gas Station, Kettle Falls boat launch, Hunters boat launch, Fort Spokane boat launch, and the Inchelium Fish and Wildlife office. For more information on the Northern Pike Rewards Program, go to <https://www.cct-fnw.com/news/>



CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

In April and May, staff released smolts from the hatchery rearing ponds and from the acclimation ponds in Omak and Riverside. Spring chinook broodstock collection was completed by the end of May; there are currently 330 females, 317 males and 8 jacks on-site.

Number of fish released from CJH:

- Segregated Spring Chinook – 276,560
- Segregated Summer Chinook – 399,299

Number of fish released from the ponds:

- Integrated Summer Chinook from Omak – 280,055
- Spring Chinook (10j) from Riverside – 210,582

Number of fish currently at the hatchery:

- Segregated Spring Chinook – 117,700
- Segregated Summer Chinook – 196,750
- Integrated Summer Chinook – 229,375
- Spring Chinook (10j) – 26,220

Employees of the Month - March: Virgil Michel, April: Leo Amundson, May: Tyler Marcellay and Jobe Cate

Many students toured the facility for the Earth Day event held on April 18. Students from Chelan, Waterville, Brewster, and Bridgeport listened to presenters, watched videos, and grabbed materials to take home with them. A group from Lake Roosevelt toured the hatchery on May 14. CJH hosted the annual First Salmon Ceremony on May 23.

Moving forward this summer, staff will collect summer chinook broodstock and will be busy caring for fry on sta-



tion, which includes: feeding, sampling (measurements/weights), monitoring health, vacuuming ponds, drug administration, etc. Hatchery staff will start collecting summer chinook broodstock on July 8, with the goal of 552 hatchery origin broodstock and 656 natural origin broodstock.

CJH is a state-of-the art facility that was built to increase spring, summer, and fall chinook salmon in the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers. The hatchery will produce up to 2.9 million smolts annually and will provide salmon for tribal ceremonies, subsistence needs for tribal members, and increase recreational fishing opportunities for all. The \$50 million hatchery was completed in May 2013, and is located in Bridgeport, Wash. next to Chief Joseph Dam.

