



## CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY



Hatchery staff released yearlings from brood year 2019 and sub-yearlings from brood year 2020 in April. They also began marking fish in April where fish are run through the marking trailer and each tiny fish has a coded wire tag inserted in their snout or their adipose fin clipped or both. They will continue the marking process until the end of July. Spring chinook broodstock collection began in May, and the staff have been monitoring and caring for fish fry and broodstock. The ponds were prepped for fish as well.



Spring chinook broodstock collection began May 17 and staff collected them from the CJH ladder. The goal is to collect 640 fish by the end of June. Some broodstock was obtained from the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and are included in the totals below.



### Total spring chinook broodstock as of June 14:

Females – 324 Males – 238 Jacks – 2

Summer chinook broodstock collection will begin the first part of July with the goal of 552 hatchery origin broodstock and 656 natural origin broodstock.

### Released from CJH:

- Segregated Spring Chinook BY19 Yearlings – 793,984
- Segregated Summer Chinook BY19 Yearlings – 568,625
- Segregated Summer Chinook BY20 Sub-Yearlings – 117,932

### Released from the ponds:

- Integrated Summer Chinook BY19 Yearlings from Omak – 298,988
- Integrated Summer Chinook BY20 Sub-Yearlings from Omak – 88,474
- Spring Chinook (10j) BY19 Yearlings from Riverside – 222,508

### Current fry on station:

- Segregated Spring Chinook BY20 Yearlings – 812,025
- Segregated Summer Chinook BY20 Yearlings – 479,953
- Integrated Summer Chinook BY20 Yearlings – 674,510
- Spring Chinook (10j) BY20 Yearlings – 233,176

May Employee of the Month: Virgil Michel

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:

### CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Facebook page @ CCT F&W

## SUB-YEARLING CHINOOK CAPTURED IN SANPOIL RIVER



In the past few weeks, a number of sub-yearling chinook salmon have been captured in a rotary screw trap located in the Sanpoil River which is upstream of Grand Coulee Dam. This is great news as adult salmon were reintroduced to this river in 2020.

The screw trap was set up by staff from the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department to monitor out-migrating redband trout. The trap is located near the mouth of the river, close to where the river meets the Lake Roosevelt reservoir.

"We operate the screw trap from May until November and we've captured sub-yearling chinook on their way to Lake Roosevelt," said Holly McLellan, principal biologist for CTFW. "The first fish we captured was 93 mm

long. We PIT tagged it and released it back into the river. The chinook will continue its migration downstream to the ocean. If it survives migrating past Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams, then we will be able to detect it as it migrates downstream. Both Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams do not have PIT tag arrays but all of the other major downstream dams do. We will continue to PIT tag all juvenile chinook greater than 65 mm in length that we capture."

Casey Baldwin, research scientist for CTFW said, "It is exciting to document successful salmon reproduction in the Sanpoil River after such a long absence. We knew that the adult salmon were effective at spawning last fall, but seeing the juveniles in this spring sampling really proves that the effort to reintroduce salmon has a lot of potential."

Last August, 100 adult chinook were trapped at Wells Fish Hatchery, tested for pathogens, then transported in a truck and released into the Sanpoil River. Each fish was PIT tagged to track their movements. In October, staff walked the stream and counted 36 redds or egg nests that were within about 6 miles of the release sites. The work last fall indicated that the majority of the salmon appeared to

have stayed in the area, survived and spawned.

"It is exciting that our fisheries department has identified 533 juveniles that were the result of our cultural releases of salmon in the Columbia and the Sanpoil Rivers," said Chairman of the Colville Business Council Rodney Cawston. "With the construction of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, our people were separated from tradition and loss of salmon populations had a large impact on our people. Our people feel they have never intentionally relinquished their rights to the resources and fishing practices that historically have been a significant part of our lives."

The Colville Confederated Tribes have been working closely with the Upper Columbia United Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to pursue a phased approach to reintroducing salmon in the blocked areas upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. Phase 1 is complete and included science and feasibility evaluations and Phase 2 is currently being worked on. This phase will include multiple studies to test feasibility and determine the best path forward to continue reintroduction efforts of moving salmon into the blocked areas.

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## RUFUS WOODS LAKE IS THE PLACE TO BE



The Colville Indian Reservation is open and now is the time to go fishing on Rufus Woods Lake.

Staff from the Colville Tribal Fish Hatchery (CTFH) released over 44,200 triploid rainbow trout into Rufus Woods Lake in early spring and released another 20,000 fish on Wednesday, May 26. These fish average about two pounds each and can be identified by the absence of an adipose fin. A floy

tag was affixed to approximately 4,000 fish from this release group.

Anglers that retain tagged fish are encouraged to contact Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife and provide the tag number and information related to the catch (date, location, length, and the approximate size) or login into [www.cctfwfishtags.com/report-a-tag](http://www.cctfwfishtags.com/report-a-tag) to report a tagged fish electronically. This information assists biologists in man-

aging annual fish releases into Rufus Woods Lake.

All non-members who are fishing by boat on the boundary waters of the reservation or from the shore of Rufus Woods 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 at Rufus Woods Lake 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.

If you would like to go online and purchase a fishing permit and review current regulations, please go to <https://www.cct-fnw.com/regulations-permits/>. Anglers who purchase tribal permits help support the continued success of this fishery. For information regarding purchasing a Reservation Use Pass, which must be purchased for each vehicle recreating on the reservation, please go to <https://www.colvilletribes.com/parks-recreation>.



## CATCH A TAGGED FISH IN OWHI LAKE AND YOU CAN WIN A PRIZE



The Owhi Lake Reward Program is in full gear and there are a large number of tagged fish that still need to be caught. Colville tribal members who catch a tagged fish can win a cash prize ranging from \$10 - \$100. There are about 250 tagged brook trout in the lake.

Anglers can turn in their tags at the locked box located near the boat ramp at the southwest end of the lake, or at the front desk of the Government Center in Nespelem, or

at the locked box in front of the Fish and Wildlife office in Inchelium. Anglers may also text or email a clear picture of the tag and completed form to 509.634.1705 or to [bryan.jones@colvilletribes.com](mailto:bryan.jones@colvilletribes.com). A visa gift card will be mailed to you within 4 -6 weeks of receiving the information.

- Anglers must completely fill out the catch form.
- Tags must be placed in a zip lock bag with the completed form.
- Participants will receive the dollar amount listed on each tag.
- All participants must be 17 years or older to receive the reward.
- Fish tags must be in good condition and clearly identifiable.
- Anglers must possess a Colville tribal identification card which is a legal permit to fish.

If you have any questions about the reward program, call Bryan Jones at 509.634.1705 or Cameron Eddy at 509.634.1438. If you would like to share pictures of your catch, send them to [bryan.jones@colvilletribes.com](mailto:bryan.jones@colvilletribes.com). Good luck to all the participating anglers!

## STURGEON HARVEST



Fishing crews harvested hatchery white sturgeon from Lake Roosevelt for several days in May. Out of 91 sturgeon that were captured, 45 of those fish were harvested for distribution purposes.

"Sturgeon were captured using set-lines and we used smaller hooks to limit capture of non-target large wild fish," said Jason McLellan, research scientist for CTFW. "The hooks were baited with squid. The lines were deployed on the bottom of the reservoir at locations where catch was high during previous stock assessment surveys. Hatchery fish from over-represented families were harvested and non-target fish (wild or hatchery) were

released unharmed near the capture location. Harvested fish were transferred from the capture boat to the processing boat."

"Each fish was filleted on the boat while we were out on the water," said Shay Wolvert, fish biologist for CTFW. "Each fillet was placed in a bag and put on ice until it could be further processed. They were cleaned up, cut into single portion steaks and vacuum sealed."

CTFW staff ended up with 327 packages of sturgeon. A label was placed on each package with the appropriate consumption guidelines, based on whether it came from a small or large fish.

Isaiah Martin, harvest biologist for CTFW said, "Fifty packages of sturgeon fillets were sent to each district, the ratio was about 10 large and 40 small. If a member wants a single portion or more they must contact their local community center."

Colville tribal members who catch

white sturgeon in Lake Roosevelt can call 509.209.2418 to report their catch. The information needed is date and general location of where it was caught. If you harvest a fish, it should have a PIT tag implanted in the flesh. Please remove it before consuming the fish and CTFW would appreciate getting the tag back.

