COLVILLE TRIBES
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were also collected near China Bend using plankton nets set on the river's bottom.

"Over 10 nights in July we collected approximately 38,000 sturgeon larvae at China Bend," said Matt Howell, fish biologist for the Colville Tribe. "Currently we're conducting a two-week study testing experimental small-hook setline gear to target small juvenile sturgeon (yearlings, primarily) in the area between French Rocks and Marcus Island." He said, "In September, we'll be targeting older juvenile and adult sturgeon in the area between Gifford and the Little Dalles. In October, we'll be conducting two weeks of gillnetting and trawling to see if any natural recruitment to the age-0 juvenile stage occurred in Lake Roosevelt this year."

Population monitoring, recruitment monitoring, and larvae collection for research and hatchery production is a collaborative effort between the Colville Tribe and the Spokane Tribe (a BPA funded Lake Roosevelt White Sturgeon Recovery Project) as well as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"We have divided lead responsibilities to eliminate duplication, but we pool resources to be efficient due to the size of the upper Columbia River," said McLellan.

Collaborating with our partners:

- Other activities include population assessments (adult and juvenile) on Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs (funded by Grant County PUD from 2012-2014).
- Collecting wild white sturgeon larvae for the Wells Reservoir stocking program (funded by Douglas County PUD from 2013- present).
- Working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, particularly with regard to the hatchery production and the fishery for hatchery white sturgeon in Lake Roosevelt.
- The Colville Tribes' Resident Fish Hatchery regularly provides support by holding fish for the Lake Roosevelt program.
- Collaborating with our Canadian counterparts and colleagues through the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative.
- The Colville Tribes' Environmental Trust Department and the Upper Columbia Trustees Council provided substantial assistance in getting the larvae translocation work funded and implemented.
- The larvae translocation study received substantial funding support from the U.S. Department of Interior (National Park Service), which was facilitated by the Colville Tribes' Environmental Trust Department and Upper Columbia River Trustees Council.

Fisheries biologists would like to remind anglers to report your sturgeon catch by calling 509.634.2110.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS

For Additional Information Contact:

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CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH), located in Bridgeport, Washington, is a facility that was built seven years ago to increase spring, summer and fall chinook numbers in the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers. The goal is to produce up to 2.9 million chinook fry each year while providing salmon for ceremonies and subsistence for tribal members. In order to reach this goal, it takes a number of dedicated people.

The selective harvest crew began collecting chinook salmon for the hatchery in the beginning of July. "We currently have 1,157 sockeye, 140 chinook and 135 chinook fillets in the freezer," said Byron Sam, fish tech and processing supervisor for CJH. "We have distributed 2,325 fresh sockeye off the boat and 2,538 chinook from surplus at Wells, Entiat and Chief Joseph dams and what was caught off of the boat was distributed to the four districts from July 15 to August 19."

CJH staff also began collecting chinook salmon in early July and all goals were met for the program. "Spring chinook broodstock were collected at the ladder while there were no summer chinook broodstock collected at the ladder this year," said Matt McDaniel, manager for CJH. "A total of 1,053 hatchery adults and 88 hatchery jacks were removed from our ladder and distributed to tribal members."

- Spring chinook broodstock were collected, none currently on station as spawning has concluded for the season: 333 females, 228 males and 2 jacks.
- Wild summer chinook collected for integrated program: 330 females, 324 males and 22 jacks.
- Hatchery summer chinook collected to date for segregated program: 277 females, 270 males and 64 jacks.

Hatchery staff also cared for juvenile salmon on station and prepped for spring chinook spawning. In the beginning of August, summer chinook broodstock collection continued before focusing on spring chinook spawning which began on August 12 and was completed on September 9. In September, staff took care of spring chinook eggs, juvenile salmon and began prepping for summer chinook spawning.

At the fish weir site on the Okanogan River near Malott, Washington, fisheries staff began trapping salmon on August 27. They collected 850 chinook at the weir. Staff will stop trapping fish on September 24.

"We also removed 151 hatchery fish from the trap but did not distribute any to the membership due to poor quality of the meat," said Andrea Pearl, fish biologist for CJH. "The program was successful as we were able to reach the brood collection goal for the hatchery."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CO-MANAGERS WORK TO CONTROL SPREAD OF NORTHERN PIKE

If you are out fishing on Lake Roosevelt you may see a few more boats than usual as fisheries staff are busy catching as many northern pike as possible to reduce their impacts to native fish like salmon and steelhead.

The Lake Roosevelt co-managers (Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) will have multiple fishing crews out on the lake until this fall.

"The field crews started suppression four months late due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Holly McLellan, fish biologist for CTFW. "We began limited sampling in June and catch rates have been low this year with only 265 northern pike removed. However, we have had a positive angler response with 390 heads turned in for the $10 reward so far this year. We will continue suppression work through November."

The CCT primarily uses gill nets to capture northern pike and the nets being used are specifically designed to catch these fish and reduce bycatch of non-targeted fish. The nets are set in shallow water (less than 25 feet) in areas with low gradient. These areas are typically not occupied by native salmonids.

The co-managers began northern pike suppression in Lake Roosevelt in 2015 and since then, about 13,000 of them have been removed from Lake Roosevelt waters, with the majority (90%) being captured upstream of Hunters, also referred to as the upper section.

"We focused our efforts in Lake Spokane, a reservoir of the Spokane River upstream of Lake Roosevelt," said Charles Lee, fish biologist for WDFW. "An emerging population of northern pike has been identified in Lake Spokane as a potential seed population to Lake Roosevelt and the Columbia River. We focused our efforts in the upper half of the reservoir where northern pike have been captured in previous surveys." He said, "We conducted five weeks of gill net effort with three boat crews and we set a total of 286 nets over the five weeks (May-June) and captured a total of 323 northern pike in various states of maturity, with many pre-spawn fish captured during the early weeks and more post-spawn fish towards the end of the sampling."

WDFW plans to conduct monitoring and suppression efforts with the other co-managers at Lake Roosevelt this fall. A reservoir-wide fall monitoring survey is scheduled for early November.

"Removing northern pike protects our current fisheries and ensures everyone continues to have fishing opportunities in Lake Roosevelt," said McLellan. "We are grateful for the publics support and continued participation in the Colville Tribes' Northern Pike Reward Program." For more information about this program, go to: https://www.cct-fnw.com/news/ and scroll to the bottom.

The pike suppression work is being funded by Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chelan County PUD, Grant County PUD and the National Park Service.

Northern Pike Facts:

- Northern pike can live more than 20 years, exceed 50 inches, and weigh up to 45 pounds. On average, they live six years and span 26 inches.
- Northern pike are known to be voracious predators that prefer soft finned fish such as rainbow trout, but will eat almost anything they can get in their mouth including sunfish, baby ducks and even bats.
- As an ambush predator that can consume 75% of their body length, they can devour juvenile and adult salmonids and other sport fish.
- They populate quickly, one adult female northern pike can produce up to 250,000 eggs.
- Given their size and ability to produce so rapidly, northern pike can quickly spread and alter environments.
- This is common with aggressive invasive species, as their population generally expands quicker as they get settled in new areas.
- Unaware of the negative consequences to native fisheries, people first introduced northern pike to the Columbia Basin in 1953, in Dry Fork Reservoir, Montana. Since the introduction, people have transported northern pike to six other upper Columbia Basin locations.
- Within the last several decades, northern pike have spread through the upper Columbia Basin through the Clark Fork River in Montana to Pend Oreille River, Idaho and Washington, and the Columbia River in Lake Roosevelt and the Columbia River in Canada, upstream to below Keenleyside Dam.
- Northern pike are only two dams (Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams) away (89 river miles) from critical Columbia River salmon spawning habitat, where Washington has invested billions of dollars in salmon and steelhead recovery.

Efforts to combat northern pike expansion include:

- Listing northern pike as a prohibited species.
- Encouraging maximum northern pike fishing harvest without a size or daily harvest limit.
- Prohibiting northern pike transport.
- Implementing suppression programs in the Pend Oreille and Lake Roosevelt watersheds.
- CCT is offering a $10 bounty for every northern pike head turned in.
- Upper Columbia United Tribes developed a resolution to support funding northern pike removal projects and labeling northern pike a prohibited species.

AGENCIES AND TRIBES WORK TO RESTORE POPULATIONS OF WHITE STURGEON

Why has there been a steady decline of white sturgeon juveniles in the upper Columbia River? Fisheries managers are working to find the answers and have been focused on recovery efforts.

"Our white sturgeon program consists of a variety of activities that we have been conducting since 2011," said Jason McLellan, fish biologist for the Colville Tribe. "The largest component of what we do is encompassed by the White Sturgeon Enhancement Project (WSEP), a BPA funded Accord project that began in 2011."

Work under the WSEP is focused on the upper Columbia white sturgeon population, which has experienced a failure of natural recruitment (production of juvenile fish) over the last 40 years.

"Our recruitment failure research has focused on drift rates of white sturgeon larvae," said McLellan. "We have done this by modeling drift with integrated flow and drift behavior models, as well as by capturing wild produced larvae, marking them, translocating them downstream in the river to simulate rapid drift, and then monitoring for them as older juveniles."

From 2017- 2019, fisheries staff marked and translocated just over 80,000 larvae and continue monitoring efforts of juveniles produced from these releases.

Other project activities include stock assessment (population monitoring of wild and hatchery sturgeon), recruitment monitoring, and investigations into the causes of recruitment failure, such as exposure to metal contamination from smelter slag in sediment and/or increased predation.

During stock assessment, larger juveniles and adults are collected with setlines, and are fished upstream of Inchelium, Washington. Recruitment monitoring consists of setline (small hooks) and gillnet sampling upstream of Barnaby Creek. Sturgeon larvae

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