



MORE LAMPREY RELEASED IN SIMILKAMEEN AND OKANOGAN RIVERS



In an effort to re-establish Pacific lamprey numbers in the Okanogan sub-basin, CTFW staff have translocated adult lamprey to several tributaries within or surrounding the Colville Indian Reservation. The lamprey were trapped at mainstem Columbia River dams, PIT tagged, and transported to the release sites.

- 61 Pacific lamprey were released in the Similkameen River below Coyote Falls on August 17
- 15 lamprey were released in Omak Creek and 15 were released in Salmon Creek on August 24
- 25 lamprey were released in Omak Creek and 25 were released in Salmon Creek on September 7
- The first release of lamprey happened in August 2017, when 178 lamprey were released (128 below the mouth of the Okanogan and 50 at Coyote Falls).

• Pacific lamprey abundance above Wells Dam has seen a swift decline in the last decade and has been highly variable in the Columbia River Basin.

It is thought to be influenced by many of the same factors affecting Pacific salmon.

- Pacific lamprey, once present in the Okanogan sub-basin, have not been observed in smolt trapping operations or electrofishing efforts since 2010, suggesting that this species may have been extirpated from the sub-basin

- Future sampling (smolt traps and electro-fishing) for juvenile salmon and steelhead over the next five to seven years will provide data on juvenile lamprey that are caught. The data collected will provide indications of spawning and rearing success from these efforts. Their migration behavior can be detected at PIT tag interrogation sites throughout the Okanogan Basin.

- Recovery of Pacific lamprey populations throughout the Columbia Basin is an ongoing cooperative effort between fisheries agencies, tribes, as well as hydroelectric operators and managers.

- Pacific lamprey are an anadromous parasitic fish from the Pacific Coast of North America and Asia. Adult lamprey spawn in rivers and then die. The young larvae spend several years in the rivers, where they live burrowed in fine sediment, filter feeding on micro-organisms. They undergo metamorphosis and migrate to the ocean where they rear to adulthood before returning to freshwater to spawn.



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



CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY

In the past few months, hatchery staff have been collecting Chinook salmon (broodstock), removing surplus fish, marking and tagging juvenile Chinook, spawning spring Chinook, caring for fish eggs, and feeding and monitoring fish.

Since the beginning of July, a total of 1,158 adult summer Chinook have been collected for the CJH program. Salmon are being collected from the boat, fish ladder and from the fish weir in the Okanogan River. Current fish counts are:

- 599 integrated wild summer Chinook (staff are still collecting)
- 559 segregated hatchery summer Chinook
- 696 hatchery spring Chinook (collected in June)

A total of 2,535 summer Chinook (2,226 adults and 309 jacks) and nine spring Chinook adults were distributed to tribal members as they

were surplus fish caught at the CJH ladder.

All spring Chinook brood were trapped at the ladder and there were 147 integrated summer Chinook collected there as well. Broodstock collection is still ongoing for the integrated summer Chinook program, but the segregated summer Chinook and spring Chinook programs met their collection goals.

Below shows the number of fish that have been tagged and marked this summer:

- Spring Chinook (10j) – 212,645
- Spring Chinook (CJH) – 280,536
- Summer Chinook (Segregated) – 399,918
- Summer Chinook (Integrated) – 153,279 to date as we're still marking them.

In the next few months, staff will be shocking, picking and enumerating

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Chief Joseph Hatchery
- 2 Selective Harvest Season
- 3 Fish Weir in the Okanogan River
- 3 Northern Pike Program
- 4 More Lamprey Released

spring Chinook eggs, feeding fish and monitoring fish health and spawning summer Chinook.

Chief Joseph Hatchery 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 Chinook fry annually and will provide salmon for tribal ceremonies, subsistence needs for tribal members, and increase recreational fishing opportunities for all. The \$50 million hatchery is located in Bridgeport, Wash. and was completed in May 2013.



SELECTIVE HARVEST SEASON

A low number of adult Chinook were harvested from the boat this season. The selective harvest crew did manage to catch a good number of sockeye. The crew began fishing on July 2, and fished for salmon until August 20.

“The preseason expectations for fishing were low and forecasts were weak for both sockeye and Chinook,” said Mike Rayton, CTFW senior biologist. “The outcome was better than expected due to a greater number of returning sockeye than earlier anticipated. Chinook returned at about 50 percent of the 10-year average. We were well short on the number of wild fish collected for broodstock.”

Selective harvest goals are to:

- Support Chief Joseph Hatchery broodstock collection efforts
- Secure the Colville tribal harvest allocation and protect resources
- Release natural-origin fish unharmed to create healthier salmon runs
- Recover listed species (spring Chinook and summer steelhead)
- Prevent future listings (summer/fall Chinook and sockeye salmon)
- Create harvest opportunities for individuals, while serving the communal effort to protect our resources for present and future generations
- Re-establish subsistence and ceremonial harvest for tribal members while increasing fishing opportunities in the Columbia and Okanogan Rivers



LOW RUN SIZE SEEN IN THE OKANOGAN RIVER

A fish weir (the length of 360 feet) was set up in the Okanogan River on August 21, to trap adult Chinook salmon for the Chief Joseph Hatchery program. It was set up near Malott, Wash. and staff will continue trapping efforts until September 21.

“So far we have collected 19 adult Chinook for the hatchery program,” said Andrea Pearl, CJH fisheries biologist. “Our target goal is 84 adults and it doesn’t look like we will meet our goal by the end of the season.”

CTFW staff did not set up their fish transport system known as the “Whooshh” due to lack of personnel to effectively operate the system and the fact that staff have trapped very few fish.

“With a low run size this year, we knew that we would likely encounter fewer fish at the weir,” said Pearl. “Initially after the installation of the weir, we had trapped Chinook consistently for about two weeks but trapping has since slowed down in September.”



NORTHERN PIKE PROGRAM PAYS OUT THOUSANDS TO ANGLERS



downstream, more stations will be set up at major boat launches and other high access locations.

Lake Roosevelt co-managers (Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians and WDFW) have removed 1600 Northern pike from the reservoir so far this year.

The Colville Tribes have also been collaborating with the Okanogan Noxious Weed Board to spray for noxious weeds at the mouth of the Okanogan River. “Northern pike like to spawn on these types of weeds and these weeds hinder juvenile salmon and lamprey migrations through the area,” said McLellan. “This is another way we are working with agencies in the region to combat Northern pike expansion and protect native species.”

Anglers you still have time to get out there and participate in the Northern Pike Rewards program and get paid for every pike head you turn in. That’s right, get paid to go fishing and at the same time help co-managers reduce the number of pike in Lake Roosevelt. It’s a win, win for everyone.

At the end of August, 435 pike heads were turned in for a payout of \$4,350 by the program. Participants receive \$10 for every Northern pike head that is deposited into a designated location.

“We added more drop off stations this year,” said Holly McLellan, fisheries biologist for CTFW. “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.”

Northern pike have been captured as far downstream as Hawk Creek and the Spokane Arm of Lake Roosevelt. McLellan said if pike move further

The Colville Tribes recently received a \$100,000 grant from BIA to help combat Northern pike in Lake Roosevelt.

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

