

Powell River Salmon Society

December 2010

Quick Fish Update-

Mill Hatchery Rearing –

2009 Brood-80 000 Coho at approximately 10 grams in average size

2010 Brood-769 769 Chinook at approximately .5 grams in average size

Incubation

Chinook	271 648	93% Survival
Chum	787, 133	92% Survival
Coho	352, 286	94% Survival

*previous reports showed original eggs taken. The above numbers reflect what is left on hand after transfers and mortality. The percent survival number remains relevant.

Coho eggtakes wrapped up in December with production targets being met.

Primary hatchery operations continued to focus on incubation. Shocking and initial picking of Coho began in December. Re-picking on all Chinook at the Mill Hatchery and Chum at the Duck Lake Hatchery was carried out. The transfer of some Coho eggs to secondary incubation in the Mill began.

Chinook that hatched in November are now ponded and rearing rearing at the Mill Hatchery. Chum have hatched in secondary incubation at Duck Lake Hatchery and are being repicked periodically and closely monitored.

A burst water line that caused flooding of the dry room and office at the Lang Creek site has been disabled. The flooded areas have been dried out and the insulation was replaced. Most of the paneling was reused with only a few pieces being replaced.. The electrical service also had minor repairs made to it. There are still some panels to put back into position.

Fish food prices have gone up 8%. This is a serious area of concern for our organization. Our federal funding does not compensate for these annual cost increases. Our feed representative was able to offer this explanation for the rising cost of feed :

As the demand for aquaculture products worldwide has increased, Asian and particularly Chinese farmers have increased production to meet that growing demand and subsequently the demand for fish meal has also increased. By January of 2010, demand was out pacing supply and fishmeal prices topped \$1,000 per ton, up from \$800 and \$900 in June 2009.

After Chile experienced a magnitude 8.8 earthquake in late February 20 to 30 percent of the country's fish meal production capability was destroyed and U.S. fish meal prices jumped to \$1,200 to \$1,500 a ton by mid-March. Then a deep water oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico exploded and crude oil began spewing into the one of the world's most productive Menhaden fisheries. The Gulf of Mexico accounts for 10 to 15 percent of the world's fish meal production. While the largest Menhaden processor in the Gulf of Mexico claims it is within its five-year averages for catch and the fishery remains open, buyers panicked and sent fish meal prices soaring. Fear that fish meal won't be available pushed prices higher. One can attribute half the price increase to the earthquake in Chile and the oil spill in the Gulf, and the rest to increased demand from China.

Bio-Oregon diets that are fishmeal and fish oil based are more heavily impacted by the above. BioVita is premium all fishmeal and fish oil diet. We had the choice to reformulate BioVita or increase its price to reflect current raw material costs. BioVita was developed several years ago in response to DFO request for a premium diet and in particular with respect to Chinook and 1st feeding. Since its inception we have had nothing but tremendous success with this diet, with good FCRs, low mortality and superior growth. Starter diets do not make up a large part of the entire volume of hatchery feed budgets so we decided to maintain the traditional BioVita formula. For those wishing a less expensive starter we offer BioClark's - all fish oil, but with some land based protein. Bio-Olympic is an excellent performance diet, BioClark's is fed by many for Chum or when target size can be reached without the requirement for a performance diet.

DFO is pleased that we maintained the original successful BioVita formula. They realize that premium ingredients are expensive and are continuing to feed it this year because they have confidence in it.

I appreciate our representative's knowledge of the market influences impacting feed costs. Most Hatchery facilities have had to make changes to the fish production numbers as well as size of fish released to compensate for the unfunded cost increase. It remains to be seen if this adjustment in production will have a negative impact on the overall survival of the hatchery produced fish.

Water Quality data collection continued with biweekly sampling of the Lang Creek Watershed). Routine sampling includes a test for color, ph, turbidity, temperature, salinity flow, and general weather conditions. The information is collected and used to compile an annual report. Last year's report can be found on our website at <http://www.prsalmon.org/about-the-fish/lang-water-monitoring-program/>

Donation-Robin Cromie donated much of his services this past summer to cut the grass at the Lang Creek site. A thank you letter was issued.

See below pictures

Ponding Chinook



Lang Flood Insulation Removal



Reinsulating



Reinstall Roof Paneling



The below link will take you to the recent article in the Powell River Peak newspaper.

<http://www.prpeak.com/articles/2010/12/01/news/doc4cf5a7c410600751191178.txt>

Report from Desolation Sound Salmon Enhancement Society- re Coho eggs supplied by PRSS

Written by John Dixon for the Desolation Sound Salmon Enhancement Society

The Coho eggs supplied to the Desolation Sound Enhancement Society (DSEES) group by the PRSS in January of this year (from fall, 2009 Lang Brood stock) have become a very successful crop of smolts.

The eggs were incubated at Rob Smeal's facility in Doctor Bay, and there has been very limited mortality. They will be released into Refuge Lagoon in stages, with the first batch going in by helicopter this March. (See Coho smolt picture) (See Helicopter at Doctor Bay)

The general state of the Coho side of the DSEES enhancement efforts is good, with this year's Fall returns of mature fish the largest ever observed for a decade. Scot Rempel reports that, for several weeks running, he daily observed batches of six to a dozen fish staged at the old dam site, waiting to run into the Lagoon at the tide change. (See pic of Coho at entrance to Refuge Lagoon)

Similarly, the cohort of smolts emerging this spring was, in the words of Delia Becker - Scot's wife and partner in the fish work - "a virtual cascade".

All of this suggests that the years of habitat reclamation in the Lagoon are finally paying off. A number of streams have been worked through, and there are now several kilometers of productive spawning water for the fish. When the first Lang Creek Coho smolts are flown in in a few months, they should find a good home.

The Desolation Sound group is most grateful for the generous supply of Lang Coho eggs provided by PRSS. We have been successfully using eggs from Rob Smeal's brood stock at Doctor Bay, but the Lang fish come from a watershed that is very similar to the Refuge Cove situation. Beyond their possibly providing a better "fit", we feel that the greater degree of genetic diversity is an additional benefit. Thank you PRSS!!

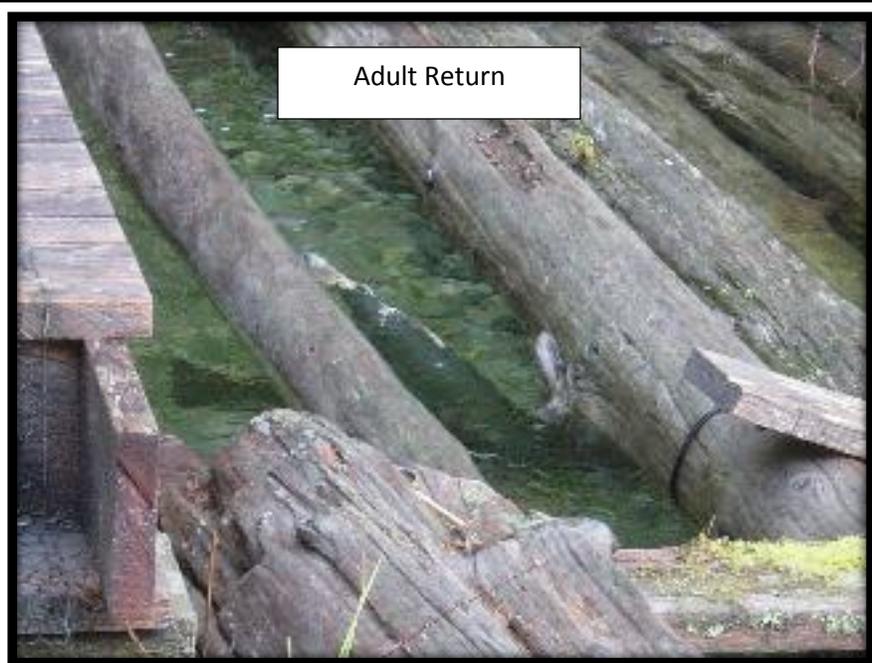
See below pictures

Coho Loaded for Helicopter Transport



Helicopter and Tank





[Thank You for your support!](#)

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