



NEWS

December 2007

Remote Streamside Incubation

(This is the second in a series of Fish First Fact Sheets published in the FF Newsletter.)

Improving habitat can only go so far toward restoring salmon stocks. Habitat can be rebuilt, nutrients put into the water, and stream crossings can be improved to open streams, but without fish these projects are pointless. Raising fish in a hatchery is one solution.

But increasing the population of native fish through remote streamside incubators, or egg boxes, is a proven method of improving regional salmon returns in future years once a healthy habitat has been re-established. And unlike hatchery-raised fish, salmon raised in streamside incubators are wild, healthier and better able to survive at sea.

What You'll Need

Much of the appeal of egg boxes is that they are simple, affordable and portable, and highly successful. However, no incubation project should be undertaken alone. A hydrologist familiar with the target stream and an experienced fisheries biologist should supervise the project to ensure it is both

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Gary's Column

1.7 Million dollars Ain't Hay

1.7 Million Dollars Invested in North Fork of Lewis Projects through FF efforts since 1995



An astounding figure but 36 hours of pouring over our records brought us to this conclusion. That sum includes the reasonable value of labor contributed by FF members on net pens, nutrient enhancement, streambed enhancement, repair of riparian areas and installation of egg boxes.

It also includes the capital costs of things like culvert replacements and expenses like mileage and various supplies like fencing and lumber. The total is as of the end of the year in 2006. Sources of funding include the value of FF volunteers and out of pocket expenses of members and FF as well as donations to projects by organizations including the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Clark County, various state agencies including WDFW and DOE Columbia Storage Inc, Davis Landscaping, National Fish Wildlife Foundation, Pacific Rock Products and Wesco.

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appropriate and successful. You'll also need the following:

- Egg boxes
- PVC piping
- Fertilized eggs
- Landowner permission
- Permits, where applicable

Egg boxes can be purchased from a number of manufacturers. A local hatchery can give you more information, as well as supervising the setup and installation and providing fertilized eggs. Check with your local Fish and Game department to determine what local, state and/or federal permits may be required for incubation projects.

How it Works



Remote streamside incubators, or egg boxes, are controlled environments that mimic the natural spawning grounds, or redds, where salmon eggs are hatched and incubated. Egg boxes are essentially spawning grounds self-contained within a barrel or similar tank installed alongside a stream and fed with stream water. Streamwater enters through an intake at the bottom, and exits through an outtake at the top. The constant flow of new water provides for oxygenation, and percolates up through layers of natural gravel for filtering; artificial gravel, called substrate, in which the newly hatched salmon will settle; and a basket filled with fertilized eggs. When the eggs hatch, the newly hatched salmon with their egg sacs still attached—called alevin—filter through the egg basket and settle into the substrate. They'll remain there for the next month, feeding on the yolk. When they're ready, they'll come out from the gravel and get carried out the outtake into the river—at that point, they're called fry. Fry imprint on the water where they are born, which enables them to return to the same spot to spawn as adults.



Results

In its earliest remote incubation projects, Fish First put 10,000 fertilized Coho salmon eggs in eight different egg boxes. Three years later, seven to 15 fish returned to each box. A few years later, when incubation projects were just one part of a complete habitat restoration program including nutrient enhancement, 250 to 400 fish returned per box. While some of the increase can be attributable to a predictable cyclic swing in ocean conditions, a healthy part of the increase can be attributed to the effectiveness of the complete restoration program. Copies of this document are available through Fish First, and can be found on the Web at www.fishfirst.org.

Letters Needed on Columbia R. Allocation

Information from Walt McGovern.

The WA dept of fish and wildlife commissioners will meet in Olympia on Feb 1 and 2 to determine their recommendation for the Columbia river allocation of Spring and Summer Chinook for the next three years beginning in 2008 between thousands of sport anglers and about 160 mainly part time or retired gill netters. Results of the allocation have historically been lopsided in favor of the gillnetters. Typically the allocation has only been for one year so this three year allocation is unusual and important.

Numbers count and we have the numbers on the Sportsmen's side and we have paid many times more fees for sport fishing licenses and tags than the commercial fishermen have paid.

Take Action!

It is important that you plan to testify in favor of the fish and for a fair allocation for sportsmen who pay in ten times more in fees than do the commercial netters.

In addition, please write to:

Jerry Gutzwiler, Chairman

Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife

600 Capitol Way, N. Olympia WA 98501-1091

Ask him to please think about wild fish recovery and a more selective harvest for the new allocation plan. Ask him to send a copy of your letter to the other commissioners.

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Calendar of Events

**DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING LOCATION
CHANGED TO WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
FOR DECEMBER 20TH MEETING ONLY.**

WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL 755 PARK

TIME 7:00 P.M.

Presentation by: fishing guide Eric Linde

**Meeting Dates and Contact
Information for Fish First**

**General Membership Meetings
2007-2008**

Always on 3rd Thursday 7 p.m.,

Oak Tree Restaurant, Woodland, WA

Oak Tree is at Exit 21 off I-5

North bound I-5 take Exit 21 and it's straight ahead
when you hit the stoplight

Southbound I-5 follow frontage road to stoplight, left
and under the overpass

Meeting Dates:

- January 17, 2008
- February 21, 2008
- March 20, 2008
- April 17, 2008
- May 15, 2008

On the Internet: www.fishfirst.org

Contacts: John DiVittorio, Executive Director 360-713-7460

Jerry Sauer, Membership Chairman, 360-607-1646
Harry Bresnahan, Membership meetings 360-225-9836
Jerry Brown, Newsletter Editor 360-600-8559 for
newsletter ideas

Gary's Column Continued

The main categories of expenses are:

- Net Pens
- Egg Boxes
- Habitat Improvement Projects

The largest single investment was the Bill Doty Cedar Creek project at \$300,839 followed by the railroad culvert replacement at Cedar Creek at \$217,310. Other large items include the Price Dairy improvement at \$104,265, the Swift Cedar Creek project at \$128,907, the Jackson Creek culvert replacement at \$109,403. For a complete record of what FF has done in Partnership with landowners see the projects section of www.fishfirst.org

Letters Needed...Continued

Background:

Commercial fishing is controlled by Columbia River Compact which is comprised of Oregon and Washington State fisheries representatives who give their recommendation to their respective State Fish and Game Commissioners with each state formulating its recommendation for total take and the proportion of the take that goes to commercial and sports fishermen.

Normally this allocation is done yearly, however the coming allocation will be for 3 years most likely and could only be changed by statute. It is critical that Sportsmen carry the day on behalf of the fish.

For more information call Rick Anderson Chairman of Gov't Relations Committee at Washington State CCA.

**Annual Sportsman's Show at Portland Expo Center
February 6-10**

This year Fish First and the Coastal Conservation Association will have 1 hour a day in the Gloomis Theater to give a presentation. Anyone interested should schedule a time with Gary. Dick Dyrland's slide show from the last general meeting will be available.

What do you want to see at Membership Meetings?

The Board of Fish First and meeting Chairman Harry Bresnahan are actively seeking ideas for topics members

Would like to have covered at the general membership meetings every third Thursday. Harry can be contacted via email at bresnahanh@wcb.com or phone 360-225- 9836

Marketing Committee Gets Active on Behalf of FF

Fish First Marketing Committee held its first meeting on December 15. The committee discussed action items and has developed a list of volunteer positions which Daina McLean will present to the Board Members for approval. Available volunteer positions will be posted once approved by the Board.

If interested, please email info@fishfirst.org with FF Marketing Committee in the subject line. The committee meets monthly.