



NEWS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DEC. 18TH AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2008

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ENCOURAGING NEWS ON NUTRIENTS



Gary Loomis

I continue to be encouraged by the dialogue between Fish First, WDFW and private parties involved in salmon carcass disposal. There have been more meetings since the last column on this subject.

For the first time we have at least some overt recognition of the importance of nutrients by the key players. Remember it was only 1995 that we had to sneak nutrients to the streams in the dead of night because it was against the law to plant nutrients. Now, WDFW seems to be moving in the direction of recognizing the importance of adequate nutrients via carcasses and analogs. They are talking about including escapement in the harvest plan. The idea would be that a certain percent of the fish would be allowed to spawn, die and provide nutrients in addition to what was planted. Of course the difficulty is making sure the escapement fish actually get to do that and don't wind up at the hatchery and in a fish buyer's truck.

The biggest fish buyer in the State is talking about the possibility of establishing an analog plant or plants in Washington State. Fish First can give itself a pat on the back because it was the first organization to recognize the importance of nutrients and the first to plant them and we intend to stay at the head of this effort and applaud those who join us or help the effort.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday December 18th at Middle School in Woodland. 755 Park St.

Other Fish First Meeting Dates

January 15, 2009
February 19, 2009
March 19, 2009
April 16, 2009
May 21, 2009

**On the Internet: www.fishfirst.org
New videos of Fish First work on the
East Fork of the Lewis are now up
and available for viewing.**

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

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Analogs have some advantages in staying where they are placed and not moving as carcasses tend to do and they are easier to handle in transport and planning. It should be noted as well there is no such thing as too many nutrients. Tests we have participated in demonstrate no significant oxygen depletion in the stream below a jam-up of fish carcasses. There was a ½% difference above and below the mass of fish carcasses. It would take about 15% difference to be significant. The benefits of adequate nutrients are demonstrable in Cedar Creek where Fish First has increased the egg-to-smolt ratio from 2% to 7% to 9% to 11% and to 17%. This is the highest of any stream in Washington and possibly the highest of any stream in the lower 48 States. This means a significantly greater number of fish go down to the ocean and have a chance of coming back.

Finally the importance of adequate nutrients to bringing back the fish is being recognized at higher levels where there is the authority and resources to push the nutrients to even higher levels. Fish First ought to be proud of its work. We were pioneers.

GUIDE'S CORNER

By Jerry A Brown, Kingfisher Adventures

Winter Steelhead are here and these are a few methods that can produce fish for the hardy angler. This time of year we are dealing with weather that creates fluctuating river levels leading to tougher catch rates. Look for current that is about walking speed. The fish use these slower current seams to travel up river due to cool water temperatures and higher water flows of winter. The higher the water the closer the fish will travel to the banks.

When fishing from shore it is best to use a float with jigs or bait. Using this method you can present your rig more naturally and cover water more effectively. When the water is higher and off color use bigger and ¼ oz. Jigs, when the water is low and clear go to small baits and 1/8 oz jigs. Be sure to match your float to the weight of your rig. Best jig colors are cerise, red rocket, pink/white, and peach/white. Best baits are cured eggs, sand shrimp and prawns.

When fishing from a boat I use two methods for these sluggish steelies. Back trolling hot shots and bait/diver or using floats with jigs or bait. Again, you want to target seams, tail outs and boulder flats. When using bait be sure to let the fish take the bait for a few seconds before setting the hook. When using hot shots

or jigs, set the hook as soon as the fish strikes. Also use shrimp or krill scent on your rigs. Good colors for plugs are blue pirate, pink/cerise, white/black and red rocket. Have patience, warm clothes and put in your time with these proven techniques and you might be rewarded with a chrome silver bullet!

If you would like to learn some of these techniques first hand contact me for a day on the East or North Fork Lewis Rivers.

Look for more tips and techniques in future Newsletters. Happy Holidays to all.

Jerry A. Brown, Kingfisher Adventures Guide Service
www.jbkingfisher.com on the web
phone 360-518-1803

(Editors note: Jerry is an active FF member and frequently puts in time volunteering on various projects.)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18TH MEMBERS MEETING

The December 18th membership meeting will be at the Woodland Middle School at 755 Park in "Old Woodland". This is a change from the usual Oak Tree Restaurant location and is made necessary because of the Oak Tree's busy schedule of Holiday Parties. The Oak Tree is generous in providing space for FF at no cost except that of refreshments so FF gladly cooperates in making room available for them.

Dick Dyrland FF Member and principle designer of the habitat improvement projects will present a program. Dick is a retired professional hydrologist and donates literally thousands of hours of his time to designing projects, seeking funding, overseeing the projects and following up with testing results.

Be sure to bring a few bucks with you as the raffle tickets will be sold now instead of given away. This is to raise more funds for FF. Also if you bring an item for the May Banquet auction you will get a free raffle ticket. A bottle of decent wine would be a great item but anything that can be auctioned, raffled etc. will be accepted.



FOR FISH FIRST IT'S THE BUSY SEASON

By Dan Balch, Chairman of Net Pens

Echo Net Pens

November 23rd: I put out boom logs anchor on the east end of the boom at Echo Then on Nov. 26th Chance Balch and I hauled 46 anchors to the Echo pens in two loads by boat. November 27th, I took my boat to Gary Loomis' and Brad, Gary and I loaded five nets on Gary's boat and bird covers and two more nets in my boat. December 2nd. We put nets in pens at Echo. Vern Dollar and Rosie Smith brought Gary's boat and I brought mine. From 9 a.m. to 12:30 Bob Schneider, Roy Pickner, Alan Fulcer and Dennis Frantz put in the nets and the anchors I had hauled earlier as well as the bird nets. We also put the food box there.

On December 8th Steve Harrison, Greg Glass, Alan Fulcer, Dennis Frantz, Tom Golick, Bob Schneider, Roy Pickner and myself along with Dwayne Fossen a WDFW employee put 78,030 Spring Chinook in seven net pens. We started putting the pipe together at 7:30 a.m. The last load of 14,210 fish for pen seven came at 1:30 p.m. and we were cleaned up and out of there by 2:30 p.m. This bunch of fish will be turned loose around January 24th. Then the second bunch of Spring Chinook will be put in the pens about January 27th. The fish pen feeders will have started by December 10th.

Speelyai Net Pens

On November 19th Bob Schneider, Roy Pickner, Greg Glass and Dan Balch repaired five nets at Speelyai Hatchery. It took about 2.5 hours to have them ready for putting in net pens December 5th at Speelyai Boat Launch. On December 4th I took my boat to Speelyai for Luke Miller and myself to push the net pens to the Boat Launch to put fish in the pens the next day. December 5th, Allen Estes, John Barnes, Greg Glass, Bob Schneider, Roy Pickner and myself started at 7:30 a.m. setting out the fish transfer pipe and put nets, anchors, bird covers and strings on five net pens at Speelyai. Luke Miller and two other DFW employees were there and hauled net and anchors to the pens. We filled the net pens with 62,736 summer steelhead.

These fish will be fed until March 15th when we will transfer them to the Echo pen for six weeks before turning them loose. Then they will be on their way to the ocean.

Nutrient Enhancement

As of December 8th we have 2,245 fish frozen in the two freezers at Lewis River Hatchery. They won't be put into Cedar Creek until after February 1st so that we don't have to cut off the tails.

The Forest Service got 2,730 Silvers for Pine Creek and Muddy River streams. We have already put 2,864 in Cedar Creek with tails cut off for identification. Ed Wickersham and his crew have put 3,725 in the East Fork of Lewis River and he has 300 more in one of the Freezers.

Alan Fulcer, Dennis Frantz, Tom Golick, Bob Schneider, Roy Pickner, Steve Harrison, Greg Glass, Richard Potenski and I have been working on putting these fish in Cedar Creek and doing freezer work. Chairmen of the Nutrient Enhancement are Dennis Frantz 225-5116 and Alan Fulcer 225-5690. Call Alan or Dennis if you are interested in helping. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the usual work days.



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