



January 2010 Issue

Fish First NEWS

Member Meetings Now at Woodland Grange.

In this issue:

<i>Stream Team addition</i>	<i>page 1</i>
<i>Dan on Net Pens</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Nutrients and Egg Boxes</i>	
<i>Potential New FF Projects</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Hatchery Upgrades</i>	<i>page 3,4</i>

MEETING DATES 2009-2010

Jan. 21, 2010

Feb. 18th, 2010

March 18th, 2010

April 15th, 2010

May 20th, 2010

NET PENS, NUTRIENTS & EGG BOXES
DAN BALCH
Net Pen Chairman



NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Thurs. Jan 21, 7 p.m. at the
Woodland Grange. 3rd and
Davidson in downtown**

On the Internet: www.fishfirst.org

Jerry Sauer, Membership Chairman, 360-607-1646
Harry Bresnahan, Membership meetings 360-225-9836
Jerry F. Brown, Newsletter Editor 360-600-8559
Cindy Moss, Banquet Chair, 360-225-8476

Volunteers Needed: If you would like to work on Net Pens, Nutrients or even Egg Boxes You can contact me, Dan Balch, at 360-225-7388

ECHO NET PENS

We finally put 75,000 Spring Chinook in Echo Net Pens after a week's delay because of cold weather. Members contributing their time and labor were Don Kinsey, Dennis Frantz, Bob Schneider, Alan Fulcer, Tom Golik, Dan Brown, Greg Glass, Philip Small, Dan Balch and Eric Shoblom of WDFW. Eric works at the Lewis River Hatchery.

Eric brought the set-up pipe and stands. I had the flush pump, ladder Rope, Wire and other tools (cont. p.2)

(Net Pens con't from page 1) Plus my boat. Fish First received several truck loads of fish which worked out to be one load for every pen at the Echo site. We started at 7:30 a.m. and every body was home by 3:30 p.m.



Net pens being loaded with fish (2009 photo)

The first feeding was December 21st at Echo. No dead fish were observed at Echo at the last feeding before this report on Jan. 6th. The last feeding will be January 20th. We are feeding three days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. DFW will start feeding January 8th at Speelyai and Echo pens. The last day I fed Speelyai was January 4th. Andrew Brown started work January 6th at Speelyai and will feed the Echo pens January 8th. We have lost only 24 of the first 75,000 put in the pens.

We will be turning loose the first batch from the Echo pens at 9 a.m. on January 23rd and refilling the pens January 25th at 7:30 a.m. with another 75,000 Spring Chinook.

HELP, THE FF FREEZERS ARE HURTING

Fish First really needs some volunteer help to keep the big freezers we use for nutrient carcasses running. These freezers were well used before we got them and have several seasons on them. FF could use a couple of HVAC mechanics or an HVAC company that could volunteer their time to keep things frozen.

We have had several near disasters as a result of the freezers malfunctioning. This is serious stuff when you think about a couple of thousand salmon carcasses thawing and smelling before they can be distributed into streams as nutrients for the next generation of salmon and steelhead. It is vital we don't have spoilage and get the carcasses to the streams because we

have been getting fewer and fewer carcasses from WDFW every year as more organizations want what FF used to get.

If you are an HVAC mechanic or contractor and can help keep our vintage freezer going until we can replace it later this year, FF really needs your help. With service calls from commercial HVAC outfits over \$100 just to show up, it really eats into the budget. Please help. The need will be ongoing as the newer Freezer we will get will need maintenance as well. The guy to call to volunteer is Dan Balch, head of Net Pens. His phone no. is 360-225-7388.

WHO KNEW? NEWEST BOARD MEMBER IS ALSO A PROLIFIC WRITER AND TOP GUIDE



Jerry A Brown, JBKingfisher Guide Service

Editors Note: In December the FF Board elected Jerry A Brown to the Board of Fish First. Jerry brings enthusiasm and knowledge to the Board. His dedication to restoring the salmon and steelhead are well known as is his guiding ability. What we didn't realize is that he is also willing to share his knowledge via regular contributions to the newsletter. He had an inaugural article several months back, had an article last issue and here he is again. (See below)

GUIDES CORNER

By Jerry A Brown, JBKingfisher Guide Service

Fishing for native winter steelhead.

Following the hatchery winter steelhead the native winter fish come into most of our NW rivers. We need to take care not to stress or injure these fish when catching and handling these precious native steelies. A few of our local rivers close for a period and have no bait restrictions. These rules are there for good

reason, so play by the rules. The rivers that are open to bait, fisherman should think seriously to determine the chances of killing fish while using bait. There are other productive methods. One of the best methods for bank and boat fishing is to use a jig and bobber. When fish are hooked on a jig they are most always in the upper jaw. This method prevents the fish from getting hooks in their throat or gills. Take a pair of needle nose pliers and bend the hook in and to the side to get the angle of a bait hook. Doing this will help you land more of the fish that are hooked. You can also pinch the barb down to prevent damage to the fishes mouth. Spinners and steelies also work well. Switch the hooks to a single siwash and pinch the barb and bend the hook to the shape of a bait hook, it's (Guide's Corner Cont.) very hard for a fish to spit a hook bent in this manor, even with no barb.

Fish plugs, jigs, and spinners from a boat rather than bait and diver. Bait and diver set ups are usually taken deeply by these fish which results in bleeding fish. When using plugs either switch to single siwash hooks or use small #4 trebles and pinch two of the barbs on each treble hook. These small hooks have a smaller diameter which creates a much smaller hole in the jaw of the fish. Fish are usually hooked in the jaw when using plugs.

Use gear that is heavy enough to land these fish as quickly as possible to avoid stressing them out. When landing the fish try not to use a net, if you must use the net, keep the fish in the water and do not lift the net, keep the boat moving with the current to avoid pressure on the net and fish. Lift them gently out of the net with out damaging the fins or take the fish to the bank and land them on shore. Keep your hands wet to lift the fish and never touch their gills! Be sure to revive the fish by holding them behind the pectoral fins and belly faced into the current. This will give the fish water flow through the gills and gives them the urge to swim off. Take the time to make sure the fish swims away on it's own. I see too many fish netted and just thrown back in the water. The more we help these fish the more we will get to keep fishing!

Pack out the line and garbage you bring to your fishing spot, even pack out what others leave behind. Don't throw cigarettes in the water. All these things will help the fish, habitat, fisherman, and land owners to keep our awesome sport on track. Good luck and stay safe on the water. Next time I will give some tips on spring salmon catching. Thanks,

ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
This one is a lot of fun. FF will again have a booth at the Portland Sportsman's Show February 10-14, 2010. The show is at the Expo Center just on the South shore of the Columbia and right off I-5. Call Daina (pronounced Dinah) McLean who is coordinating the booth activities at 360-687-5306

AREN'T GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER?

If you are reading this because your friend printed it out for you from the Internet or loaned you his printed copy, or if you have a friend who complains he/she isn't getting the Newsletter despite being a member of Fish First, we need to talk.

FF sends the Newsletter two ways. Those members who have computers and Internet service with email (doesn't everybody?) get their monthly copy via an email with the Newsletter as an attachment. They get it in color and our delivery cost is zilch.

Those who do not have computers and Internet email service are mailed a copy. You get it in black and white print because of cost which is about a dollar an issue including printing and postage.

It is the latter group that is causing us fits. We have been getting returned mail from the Post Office of about a dozen copies a month. As Editor I hear about it every member meeting (see page one for those dates). Between me as the Editor and Jerry Sauer as the membership Chairman and John DiVittorio who does the emailing of the Newsletter, we do try hard to work the membership list and the post office mailing list to keep them current. When we try to find you after your newsletter has come back there often isn't a phone no. listed in the membership information so we have no way to reach you to get that correction. We remove you from the list rather than get another return and waste a dollar.

All of our information about reaching you comes from what you fill out when you sign up or renew your membership. Please, be sure to fill it out legibly, completely and accurately. If you want to restore the Newsletter call Jerry Brown at 360-600-8559 or Jerry Sauer 360-607-1646 or email him at gtsauer@comcast.net

CHARITY GOLF EVENT MAY BENEFIT FISH FIRST
By Karen Dodds



Any Fish First Member who is a golf fan and intends to purchase tickets to the Safeway Classic could have their total ticket price donated to Fish First. A Program through West Coast Bank would enable FF to sell the tickets and realize 100% of the proceeds. The Fish First Board is investigating this opportunity so please, golf fans, wait for further word from us before purchasing the tickets for the Safeway Classic LPGA tournament.

FF FUNDS LA CENTER HS OUTDOOR PROGRAM

The Board of Fish First is concerned about where future Fish First members will come from and is looking to the younger generation still in school as likely future members. We have had a relationship with the La Center High School Outdoor Program and teacher Rebecca Morris and have supported that effort. In December the Board voted to fund the Outdoor Study Class on a project by project basis with the school sending an invoice for funds as needed for the projects. Supplies and Fuel for field trips would be among the types of expenses FF would cover

Fish First Members who may know of other opportunities to involve young people in our work are encouraged to contact any Board member. We do have some liability insurance restrictions so be sure to provide enough details about your idea that we can make sure it's OK.

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