



Volunteers Raising Salmon

Curry Anadromous Fishermen

Gold Beach, Oregon

THE RIFFLE

A Monthly Publication of Curry Anadromous Fishermen

P.O. Box 903

Gold Beach, Oregon 97444

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INDIAN CREEK HATCHERY IS RUN BY
CURRY ANADROMOUS FISHERMEN,
AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION.

www.rogueriversalmon.org

**Next GENERAL MEETING Thursday,
Aug. 11, 2011 – 10:00 AM
JOT'S Resort (West Conf. Rm.)
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Upcoming Events

Aug. 1st - First salmon release (tentative)
Sept. 6-10 – Salmon Derby

"News and Events" - Keep up to date on the
latest happenings at the hatchery. Go to
www.rogueriversalmon.org

Hatchery Happenings

Submitted by:

Chris Underhill, Volunteer Coordinator
541-247-0396

We had an attendance of approximately 50 people visit the hatchery on July 4th, celebrating our open house. Gary Underhill and Gene Trinkler dominated the BBQ while Mike Kopec took charge of the picture board. Katie handled the CAF clothing sales. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success.

The fish are all currently between 35-40 fish per pound. Feeders on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays need to remember to call the RV Park between 9:30 & 10 AM to see if they have any tours. Thank you Dean for covering my evening feeding and measuring out food while we're on vacation. Thank you, Bo, for covering for Fetzer.

The fish releases are expected to begin in August.

Treasurer's Corner

By Hassie Taylor, CAF Treasurer

Treasurer's Report	May	June
Operating Capital	\$34,157	\$15,804
June Income	\$	1,625
June Expenses		19,978

President's Corner

David Sophusson

Another Independence Day has come and gone. The fireworks stand went well but not as well as last year. When Becky and I returned the leftover stock, there were five other vendors returning their remaining stock also. They had all said that sales were down by almost half from last year. Our open house went well also, but again, not as many attended as last year. From what I saw, the folks that came were very impressed with the hatchery, the grounds, and the great info from the volunteers. They were impressed with the entire operation of spawning and raising the fish and the amount of technology we have for being an all-volunteer hatchery. It's also nice to know that there are a lot of folks out there that really appreciate what we do. I received a very nice letter from David Snively from Orange, CA. who toured the hatchery. He has a couple of interesting ideas for improvements to the hatchery operations. David and his family are now our newest members.

I would also like to thank the members who volunteered their time to both the fireworks stand and the open house. Everything went very smoothly. I won't mention any names, but I also received a very nice card from ODF&W expressing their thanks for our help with the Libby Pond fishing derby. I will display it in the hatchery office for all to see. Thanks Joey.

Our fishing derby scheduled for September is still in the planning stages with most of the details all worked out. But with the fine leadership of the person at the helm, who also doesn't want to be named, the loose ends should all be taken care of shortly. From what I am seeing, in the future this could be a huge event, not just for the hatchery but also for the whole community. Thanks Jim for all your hard work on this to make it happen!

Bo Gemeinhardt is getting a small work party together to set up the oxygen system in the raceways. It's coming to that time of year when water flow is slowing and we need to add oxygen to the water to extend the time that we can keep the smolts. The longer we can keep and raise them to a larger size will greatly

increase their chance of survival and may increase the returns as adults. I have asked Bo to take a couple of pictures to be included in this issue of *The Riffle*.

If any of you would like to know more details on any of these subjects or on things that I don't have space to mention here, please come to our next general meeting on August 11th at 10:00 am in the West Meeting room at Jot's Resort.

Well, until next time, keep the slack out of your line!



Photo: indiancreekhatchery@shutterfly.com



Photo: submitted by Hassie Taylor



Photo: submitted by Jim Carey

General Meeting

July 14, 2011

President- David Sophusson called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's report- Hassie Taylor gave the June financial statement showing a balance of \$15,804; CAF showed an income of \$1,624.90 and expenses of \$19,978.21 resulting in a loss of \$18,353.31 for the month. The fish pump was our big expense item, over \$18K.

Hatchery - Fishing nets came in at a cost of around \$1,500 of which STEP paid \$1,300 for nets and a couple of bags.

Fireworks Fundraiser- Our profit was \$1,047.15, about half of what we raised last year.

Fishing Derby- Jeff Ferguson from the Promotions Committee will be giving us \$2,900 for advertisement and publication.

Jim Carey is putting forth a lot of time and energy helping organize the derby. He has set up sponsorship categories with specific monetary donations, rewards, and advertisement within each category. Jim has organized help from all aspects of the community.

Fishermen Direct will weigh in and fillet the fish. John Brudnicki will be in charge of the food court.

Miscellaneous- Approximately 50 people attended CAF's Open House held on July 4th. Gene Trinkler pitched in for food and propane and did a great job cooking those dogs.

The STEP BBQ is coming up in August. It is a meeting of all STEP Programs in Oregon and will have an informative speaker, someone from the fishing community discussing ocean

conditions and fishing.

Jeff Ferguson offered to supply a display in the Visitor's Center, and Mike has already taken the measurements for the picture board. CAF will have the largest display and our own table. Sweet! Jeff also shared an article written by Laurel Gerkman about Indian Creek Hatchery. It is published in this month's *Oregon Coast Magazine*.

The new brochures for the hatchery will soon be hot off the press. It was suggested that we also drop off a few brochures at Gold Beach motels. Hassie was soliciting members to write up a little bio on themselves for next year's Volunteer of the Month section. We'll need all active members to participate in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am
Submitted by Hassie Taylor

"Indian Creek Fish Hatchery"

Story by Laurel Gerkman

Robert Deniston Hume arrived on the Rogue River in 1877. He purchased an existing fishery at Gold Beach and thereafter began his life's work – artificial propagation of Pacific coast salmon. Hume's achievements earned him the moniker "Salmon King of Oregon," and the success he achieved at Indian Creek launched a national program that continues today.

For 30 years, bearing all expense, the industrious entrepreneur placed several experimental hatcheries at tributaries along the Rogue. Frustration, failures, and politics often hindered progress, but Hume strived to prove his theories.

At one point, he had an epiphany. In Hume's booklet, *Salmon of the Pacific Coast*, (available at the Gold Beach Museum) self-published in 1893, he states:

...I began to reflect upon the proposition, and asked myself the question, under what conditions was the greatest success of this undertaking made? The recitals of conditions came in this order: a little pond, a little water, a great deal of mud, and so much brush and trees that the place never got any sun. "Eureka!" I cried, "I've got it!"

In 1906, Hume focused his attention on Indian Creek. He kept a large workforce busy that

winter reconstructing the hatchery building and holding ponds in order to fully implement his time-tested innovations. He touted it as the coast's most complete, effective hatchery, which drew nationwide recognition.

On January 2, 1908, the *Radium* ran this announcement: "The Hume Method is Finally Adopted – The plan of feeding salmon fry before liberating them, adopted long years ago by R.D. Hume, will be employed by the United States Bureau of Fisheries.

Hume's validation was timely, for several months afterwards he died unexpectedly. His wife, Mary D. Hume, maintained his hatchery pending the sale of her holdings in 1910. New owners, the Macleay Estate, bore the cost of its continued operation until the Oregon Fish Commission agreed to take over in 1926.

During the next decade, the hatchery floundered. State funds – derived from commercial fishing activities – were in jeopardy due to a lengthy campaign fueled by upriver sports fisherman to end greedy commercial practices on the lower Rogue. Author Zane Grey chronicled this dispute in his book, *Rogue River Feud*.

Meanwhile, Robert Knox purchased the Indian Creek ranch. As the county Agricultural Extension agent, he understood the hatchery's vital role to salmon conservation and the now booming local sports fishing economy. So, his family applied a variety of methods and partnerships to keep it active through the next 20-plus years.

Around 1980, the state legislature created the Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), a volunteer program within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. A few years later, a committed group of fishing enthusiasts organized themselves as Curry Anadromous Fishermen (CAF). Together these entities agreed to accept responsibility for the program.

On exchange, the Knox family generously signed a long-term, renewable agreement permitting members of CAF to operate and further develop the Indian Creek Hatchery under the auspices of STEP.

The hatchery's goals for its fall Chinook program are to:

- Provide fish for commercial (ocean) and sport fishing harvest, while minimizing any potential adverse impacts on native populations.
- Support economic and cultural values associated with historic salmon fisheries while reducing social pressures to increase fisheries directed at listed or candidate species.
- Educate students and increase public awareness about salmon biology, critical life stages, and special habitat requirements.

To carry out this mission, it takes approximately 75-150 volunteers, primarily members of CAF, providing an average of 3,500 hours annually to raise funds, collect broodstock, perform culture duties, and conduct educational events.

John Weber is the Indian Creek STEP biologist. He also credits CAF for helping put several significant upgrades in place, including a new water intake, a hatch-house filtration system, and an improved oxygen system. As a result, egg to "fry" mortality rates are down and smolts can grow larger, thus improving survival. "I believe R.D. Hume would be interested in how far science has come," says Weber.

Every October, the Indian Creek Hatchery crew harvests eggs from up to 60 broodstock pairs of adult fall Chinook. The fertilized eggs are incubated until they hatch and become fry – approximately 150,000. At this stage, half are transported and set free into designated streams along the Rogue.

The remaining 75,000 fry are raised at the hatchery until reaching 4-5 inches. A percentage of these smolts are fin-clipped for identification and then released in three batches from late July through September.

The CAF is a great group of folks, coming together from many walks of life for the restoration and conservation of our valuable fishery resources. It is truly a pleasure to work with them," says Weber.

Hume's legacy lives on at Indian Creek Hatchery, and after 134 years the Rogue River maintains one of the most robust fall Chinook runs on the Coast.

Reprint: courtesy of Laurel Gerkman
www.northwestmagazines.com

Fishing Quote of the Month

"It has been my ambition to stock the Rogue River to such an extent that a reasonable supply would always be maintained."

Quote by: R.D. Hume

Sponsor's Corner

Submitted by Chris Underhill

Whether you are traveling to Springfield to go to a game at the University of Oregon, to shop, to stay, or just passing through, the Outback Springfield is a great place to eat dinner. Easily accessible from I-5, at Beltway, go through the Gateway intersection and you will find the Outback Restaurant on your right at 3463 Hutton Street; 541-746-7700. The atmosphere is always friendly. They serve delicious food and the service is outstanding. There are a lot of a good motels as well as the Gateway Shopping Center within walking distance. And with the new Sacred Heart Medical Center just a few blocks beyond, the Outback Springfield is your best choice for a great meal. Say "hi" to Daryl and Mike Bigley and thank them for being a C.A.F. sponsor this year.

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Photo: submitted by Jim Carey
Recent Chinook fishing in Gold Beach

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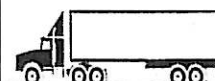
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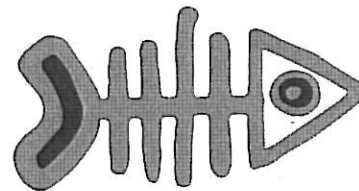
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