



## ANGLERS ARE GETTING PAID TO FISH

Anglers are having all the fun, at least the ones who have been participating in the Northern Pike Reward program. As of November, anglers have been paid \$3,500 for pike heads they turned in. There are no size restrictions on northern pike, but participants must be 17 years or older to receive the reward.

The Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department would like to remind anglers that the Northern Pike Reward program is paying participants \$10 for every pike head turned in at a designated drop off location. Those locations are: Noisy Waters Gas Station, Kettle Falls boat launch, Hunters boat launch, Fort Spokane boat launch, and the Inchelium Fish and Wildlife office.

Three new pike drop-off stations will be added along Lake Roosevelt waters in 2020 due to funding from the Upper Columbia United Tribes.

Northern pike are a significant threat to native fish populations in Lake Roosevelt and the co-managers (Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) continue to do their part in combating this predatory fish.

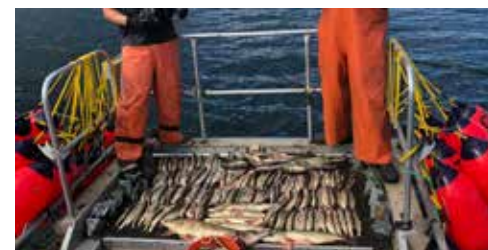
"The co-managers of Lake Roosevelt conducted two reservoir wide gillnet surveys from October 28 to November 8," said Holly McLellan, fisheries biologist for CTFW. "Collectively we set 400 nets and were able to capture 390 adult northern pike. The surveys are conducted as a way to index the distribution and abundance of northern pike in Lake Roosevelt.

This information will be used by the co-managers to adapt the suppression program to ensure we are meeting our goals."

CTFW staff removed approximately 2,000 northern pike so far this year. Anglers have removed 358. The co-managers removed a total of 13,000 pike since 2015.

Northern pike can be found in streams, lakes and reservoirs. They are an ambush predator and attack prey with remarkable speed. They eat frogs, birds, trout, steelhead, and salmon. The largest pike pulled out of Lake Roosevelt was 28 pounds and 47 inches in length.

For more information on the Northern Pike Reward program and a detailed map of where the pike are, go to <https://www.cct-fnw.com/news/>



## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:

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## COLVILLE TRIBAL HATCHERY PROVIDES WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Anglers have a great opportunity to do some winter fishing as several lakes across the Colville Indian Reservation were stocked with trout, some as large as seven pounds.

Staff who work at the Colville Tribes' Resident Fish (CTRF) Hatchery stocked Summit, Buffalo, Duley, McGinnis, North and South Twin Lakes and Owhi Lake giving anglers plenty of options to choose from. Here is some great information provided by Jill Phillips, manager of the hatchery.

**Summit Lake** has some of the most reliable ice-fishing on the reservation. The lake is located on the south side of Highway 155 just before you get to Disautel Pass when coming from Omak, Washington. There's a gravel road you follow for about a half mile. It's plowed throughout the entire winter and the ice is usually good from the middle of December through the middle of March. The lake has great fishing for brook trout and rainbow trout, the only two species in the lake. You can basically use anything you'd use for perch fishing (generally tipping the hooks with maggots or pieces of worm), and fish along the shore between 10 and 20 feet deep. The fish can be suspended and swim right be-

low the ice, which is different from most perch fishing. Hatchery staff stocked 400 brook trout weighing 1.5 pounds each and 40 large rainbow trout weighing 7 pounds each in the summer. Another 34 rainbow averaging 3.5 pounds were released in October.

**Buffalo Lake** has a good number of rainbow trout pushing 2 pounds and some as large as 6 pounds. Other species in the lake include kokanee, largemouth bass (few but nice sizes), pumpkinseed (lots of small ones), bridgelip sucker, and black crappie (not many but some nice ones). There's also a lot of northern crayfish. This lake was stocked with over 7,400 rainbow in the spring averaging



2.4 pounds. Another 249 large rainbow trout weighing 7 pounds each were stocked in late spring. Usually ice-fishing is not optimum until February, call beforehand to check on ice conditions.

At **Duley Lake** there is a good population of lahontan cutthroat trout (14-18 inches in length) and the lake usually has thick enough ice in February to go ice-fishing. I would still call to double check before making the trip though. There are no other fish species in the lake. I would try jigging a smaller kastmaster tipped with some bait.

**McGinnis Lake** has a lot of nice-sized brook trout; most are 13-18 inches in length! Again, plan on February  
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for ice-fishing and call beforehand to check the ice conditions. There are no other fish species in this lake. Hatchery staff stocked 3,500 brook trout in the spring that will be well over a pound during the winter ice fishing season.

**North and South Twin Lakes** has rainbow trout from 10-18 inches in length with a few fish over 7 pounds. There are a few brook trout in the lake, but not in numbers worth targeting. Also, there's a lot of smaller largemouth bass in the lake that can be great to catch as if they were pan fish, and there is a good size range of bass with some averaging 7 pounds. Other fish in the lake consist of an abundance of large golden shiners, and a few smallmouth bass (which we ask that you keep, as these were a recent unwelcome introduction). Hatchery stocking for both lakes is similar. Each lake was stocked in the spring with approximately 7,500

rainbows averaging 2.2 pounds. Late spring stocking consisted of 550 large rainbows averaging 7.1 pounds, and approximately 10,000 rainbow trout were stocked in the fall and they were half pounders. Generally, ice-fishing for rainbow trout is a bit slower in the winter, especially compared to the spring time when it's really good!

**Owhi Lake** offers Colville tribal members a great opportunity to go fishing as this lake was stocked with 1,900 brook trout in October and these fish averaged 1.5 pounds.

Colville tribal members fishing on the reservation must possess a Colville tribal identification card which is a legal permit to fish. All non-members who are fishing on select Interior Waters of the reservation must have a valid Colville Indian Reservation fishing permit in their possession.

For more information, contact Bret Nine, Resident Fisheries manager at



509.209.2419. To buy a fishing permit, go online to <https://www.cct-fnw.com/regulations-permits/>. For current ice conditions on the lakes mentioned, please contact the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department at 509.634.2110 or the CTRF Hatchery at 509.686.9330.



### CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

October was filled with spawning summer chinook twice a week in addition to shocking (the force on eggs during handling) and picking spring chinook eggs from the last two spring chinook spawns. In November, hatchery workers were shocking and picking eggs from the first couple of summer chinook spawns, which continues into December.

There were a total of 314 integrated summer chinook females spawned and 268 segregated summer chinook females spawned, all in October. Approximately 1.2 million green eggs from the integrated summer chinook and a little over one million green eggs from the segregated program were laid down in incubators. They will remain there until they eye up anywhere between 3 to 5 months.

"Once they come out of the incubators into our starter troughs, they are fed up to eight times per day," said Matt McDaniel, CJH manager. "They are kept there from 2 to 4 weeks before being transferred to the outside raceways



where they will stay until they are big enough for marking and tagging."

### Number of fish transferred to the acclimation ponds at the end of October:

- Riverside Pond – 23,545 spring chinook fry
- Similkameen Pond – 120,387 summer chinook fry
- Omak Pond – 133,940 summer chinook fry

In January and February, staff will be focusing on ponding and caring for fry as they come out of incubators as well as basic culturist duties of vacuuming ponds, feeding, and sampling fish.

October Employees of the Month were: Zach Wilson-Arthur and Chanel Somday.

(The picture below is of the Chief Joseph Hatchery crew. Left to Right: Virgil Michel, Dusty Poitras, Tony Cleveland, Leo Amundson, Zach Arthur, Jim Andrews, and Tyler Marcellay) Photo by: Matt McDaniel



### FISH PASSAGE PROJECT ALMOST COMPLETE

A million dollar project that will improve habitat and stream flow for rainbow trout in the Sanpoil River subbasin is scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2020. Four old culverts (two at Iron Creek and two at Louie Creek) are being replaced and new bridges are being installed at all four sites. The project also involves repairing fencing and planting new vegetation due to degradation by livestock.

"We set out to address four stream crossings which were fish passage

barriers," said Dennis Moore, CTFW fish habitat biologist. "These barriers consisted of culverts which were undersized and had design features which did not permit them to adequately accommodate hydrologic processes such as seasonal changes to the volume and velocity of flow of water and debris."

In addition to working on these fish passage projects, staff maintained just over 17 miles of existing fence to protect riparian habitat from livestock and constructed an additional one-

fourth mile of new fencing.

"They are also maintaining some of the riparian planting by suppressing invasive weeds and planting additional trees at Lost Creek, 23 Mile Creek, and South Nanamkin Creek," said Moore. "Healthy vegetation can shade streams and provide light and temperature conditions that are beneficial to plants, fish, and other organisms."

The project is being funded by Bonneville Power Administration.



2 Louie Creek #1 Dec 2019

Iron Creek #2 Dec 2019

Iron Creek #3 Nov 2019