

Cowlitz River Advisory Group (CRAG) Update --

Reduction of attractant water released from the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery!

Working with WDFW, the advisory group (which includes members from CCA, Friends of the Cowlitz, CPR-Fish, Washington State Guides Association, and other members) recommended the volume of attractant water being released from the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery be substantially reduced.

The high volume of attractant water released from the collection facility into the fish ladder was drawing fish up river at such an abnormal high rate of speed it was almost impossible for sportsmen to catch fish moving up river. By reducing the outflow of attractant water, the fish are spread though out the river system, and they travel upriver at a more normal pace, giving fishermen a better opportunity to harvest the returning hatchery fish.

We thank WDFW and Tacoma Power for acting on our recommendation. It is making a difference. We look forward to working with them on additional Cowlitz River issues.

Cowlitz Watershed Nutrient Enhancement:

Shannon Wills, a member of CRAG and a biologist for the Cowlitz Tribe, has sent a letter to CCA, Friends of the Cowlitz, Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, CPR Fish, Fish First, and the Cowlitz Tribe, asking for volunteers. Volunteers are needed for the fall of 2011 nutrient enhancement on the Cowlitz River. All dark and dying salmon coming into the separator should be put back into the Cowlitz River for nutrient enhancement. To accomplish this, volunteers are needed in Oct., Nov., and Dec. I am compiling a list of CCA volunteers and will forward it to Shannon. It is very critical that CCA has a large presence for this project. If you are able to volunteer time, please let me know as soon as possible. I will be coordinating CCA volunteers, and keeping you informed as we prepare for this fall project. Please contact me:

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