

OYSTER RIVER ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



2025 results are in and fish are moving to last stages of residency. Looking forward to a busy 2026, completing the camera box installation, fencing repair, bridge repair work, feeding fish, roof repair, the start of re-nourishment of gravel in channel 2. We started off with a fairly clean slate and have built up some accomplishments along the way. Thank you to all that have weathered the winter and come out rain or shine to enjoy some fellowship, contribute where able and make the mountain a little lower in height.

With Bob H looking after the coverage during Lyle's holiday and Karen W tending fish we survived a little bruised but standing firm.

By the end of May we will be "StarLinked up" and likely cabin and area will have Wi-Fi during selected hours which will improve safety and facilitate some digital operations.

Talks with DFO have been enlightening and worthwhile. The talks with Ministry of Environment on Steelhead are ongoing and it has been brought up are we interested in Cutthroat. Something else to think about.

Terry Lawrence, President ORES

AGM & Elections

ORES AGM was held on March 17th, 2026. Terry Lawrence is continuing as president, Steve Perrault as VP, Barrie Jose as Secretary, Ron Shymko as Treasurer & Director Water Quality, Michael Flynn - Director Projects; Michael Pratt - Director Park Relationship, Dave Davies - Director Hatchery Committee; James Loring - Director & Long-Term Historian; Charles Vaughan - Director Emeritus; Elan Downey - Director Membership.

We are also looking for someone to step into the VP role when Steve Perrault assumes the president's role next year and also a volunteer to replace Phil Bolin, Director Education & School Liaison. We would like to thank Cathy York for her service as past Secretary. Lyle Edmunds continues to guide all efforts as hatchery manager and keeps us volunteers pointed in the right direction.

Hatchery Manager's Report

ORES managed to get 22,422 chinook eggs from brood collected, 83,325 coho eggs, 75,185 chum eggs + 200,000 from Puntledge Hatchery and 328,861 Pink eggs. We have as of now released most of our Pink fry, we have ponded all but 1 tray of Coho fry and are feeding them every day. We are also starting to pond chum fry. The rest are still in incubation. In early March, volunteers clipped the adipose fins off our coho smolts for release at the end of April.

Lyle Edmunds, Hatchery Manager



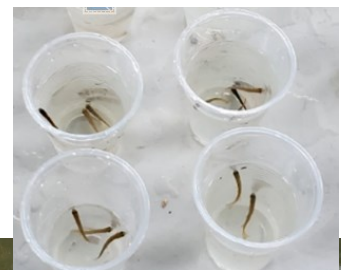
Fish Traps Photo: Tom Birss

School Aquarium Educational Programs

Four schools, Ocean Grove Elementary, Miracle Beach Elementary, Nides Elementary and Queneesh Elementary school raised coho fry in their classrooms which they released at the hatchery. Phil also led tours for other schools including Cottonwood Rose, and participated in River Never Sleeps Festival, Campbell River Oceans Day.

Phil Bolin has stepped down after over 10 years as Director Education & school program liaison and we are seeking a volunteer to take over Phil's important work.

Phil Bolin, Director Education & school program liaison



School Program students releasing their classroom fry

Photo: Barrie Jose

Youth and Ecological Restoration Program

Graham Hilliar, Coordinator

The Youth and Ecological Restoration program has been going to Oyster River Fish Hatchery for 20 years. A new youth goes every week to learn hands on what happens at the hatchery and later teaches the community what they learned.

Projects

The camera system installed last year has proved to be a great success (and back saver !).

This system facilitates counting of the four salmon species moving up the channel and saves manually netting and counting the salmon as they are removed from the fish traps. Further improvements to this camera system will be implemented.

The walls of Mel's Mess building and the R.I.B. incubator shacks were lined with coroplast to try to control the mold. And a solar panel and battery were installed to provide illumination for the incubation trays.

The area near the RIB Incubator building on spawning channel #2 will see the channel enhanced with additional gravel beds installed for spawning.

Quotes have been received for repairing the roof and re-installing the solar panel on the main hatchery cabin.

Throughout the summer, the predator fencing around ponds #1 & #2 will be repaired with fresh lumber.

A stream "monitoring" project is planned over the summer to use the small seine net on portions of the Oyster River to gauge numbers of junior Chinook. as you come down the steep hill adjacent to John's pool. CVRD plans to conduct major bridge repairs in July prior to spawning season.

Community Outreach

Our president, Terry Lawrence has been quite busy spreading the word about the hatchery's accomplishments. Presentations have been made to the CVRD and SRD Districts, and DFO's Salmon Enhancement Program. Terry initiated a special 2026 "ORES" edition Islander Reel limited edition TR3 reel which raised significant funds for our volunteer operations though both a PSF dinner auction and other sales of the limited edition 100 reel series.

The Ministry of The Environment will also made a "Steelhead" presentation to ORES members.

The Black Creek Community Hall has been booked for our ORES Xmas Party on December 5, 2026. It's early warning, but reserve the date !



Fin Clipping



Capturing Fry for Adipose Clipping Photo: Barrie Jose

www.OysterRiverEnhancement.org Find us on Facebook

Tax-deductible donations can be made via e-Transfer to orestreasurer@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I wish to apply / renew my Membership in the Oyster River Enhancement Society

Individual (\$20/yr) _____

Family (\$30/yr) _____

Corporate/Group (\$200/yr) _____

Life Membership

\$500

Yrs ____ x \$20 = _____

Yrs ____ x \$30 = _____

Yrs ____ x \$200 = _____

Donation Amount: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I am available for Volunteer Work _____

Please return or mail to: Oyster River Enhancement Society, PO Box 93, Black Creek, BC V9J 1K8