

OYSTER RIVER ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025



We are to the point of the year that we are welcoming returning salmon released 3-5 years ago back into the Oyster River system. The 2024 results have been realized except for the 40,000 clipped coho smolts which will go next April.

With the efforts of the members of ORES who volunteered and our hatchery Manager "Lyle" we are hoping to note, through newly installed cameras and manual counting, some 10,000 to 15,000 fish consisting of the four species into our channels. This will be (fingers crossed) a small percentage of what is moving farther up the Oyster River system.

Thank you to those who through rain, snow, and wind kept the eggs incubating in safety. Those members along with community support are making a difference in stocks in the Salish Sea.

Terry Lawrence, President ORES



Oyster River in June. Photo: Cathy Bentley

Thanks to Maureen and Cathy

The ORES Board of Directors and ORES volunteers want to thank Maureen Ritter and Cathy Bentley for their hard work as President and Vice President of ORES during the last few years. They have now stepped aside from those duties but are still active volunteers in the running of the facility. At Maureen's suggestion, and in lieu of gifts, the volunteers contributed toward a generous donation to ORES in support of our ongoing activities.

Maureen's and Cathy's dedication is the foundation for volunteer work, making grassroots salmon enhancement important in 'bringing them back'. Thanks for the inspiration it brings to all of us and the ongoing time we all put in towards our goal of restoration of a heritage that is important to all of us out here in BC.

Hatchery Manager's Report Summer 2025

As of now all of the fish we were going to release are released. This summer we will be doing the normal maintenance in preparation for fall. Projects for the summer are:

1. Possible camera installation in #2 and #3 traps.
2. Line the walls of Mel's Mess building and the R.I.B. with coroplast to try to control the mold.
3. Install a solar panel and battery at Mel's Mess for lights in the building.
4. Build a platform in the new chum pond for ponding fry
5. Extend the lower bridge on the chute side to access the back side of the chum pond.

Thank you to all volunteers for your hard work and dedication. It is you as volunteers that makes this all possible.

Lyle Edmunds, Hatchery Manager

Ocean Day Festival

Ocean Week Campbell River concluded its festivities with a lively Ocean Day Festival on June 8, 2025. For the first time, ORES participated, making a splash with a highly popular display. Our fantastic volunteers were the heart of the booth, guiding visitors through an engaging exhibit featuring a dissected Coho, informative pamphlets, and even a Heath Tray showcasing 'eyed eggs'. We also gave away plenty of ORES merchandise and shared lots of information about our work, all while highlighting the incredible spirit and fun of our volunteers.

Elan Downey, Membership Coordinator



Cathy and Mike at Ocean Day Photo: Elan Downey

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.

#1. Elwood's presentation at his school.

"I got to visit the Oyster River Enhancement Society's fish hatchery. I was



Fin-clipping coho smolts

Photo: Karen Wade

helping the volunteers with clipping the coho smolts adipose fin, so people would know they are hatchery fish. The coho are located in a channel where the process begins as the 40,000 coho in groups are scooped up and put into buckets and then poured into a barrel. Then, they are scooped again into little bowls that have anesthetic that causes them to pass out and then are picked up and get the adipose fin snipped, then they sit in clean water until they regain consciousness and then will be released to the ocean in a couple weeks. It was nice here today, everyone was very welcoming and they knew I was new here

and they were very encouraging, like when I was taking way too many fish and they said that might be too many. I listened and got the hang of how many to bring."

#2: Marcos' presentation at a seniors care home

"It was a bright and early drive to Oyster River fish hatchery, where I met Charley who has been working at the hatchery for 40 years. He taught me all about the salmon life cycle and the population increase over the course of 30 to 40 years. He then took us to the incubation room where dozens of trays of salmon at different stages of the beginning of their life cycle. It was insane to see so many salmon in one tray, let alone how many are in the Capilano troughs which house the salmon before they are set free to the ocean. Some of which like chum even swim to Russia before they return to spawn. I also was taught about riffles which add oxygen to the water. The dissolved oxygen helps fish stay healthy and alive. After a morning at the hatchery, I left with more knowledge about salmon, and wet feet."



Jesse helps with Chinook fry. Photo: Graham Hilliar

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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

Membership form and payment available on Website; also payable by e-Transfer to orestreasurer@gmail.com

Privacy Policy: Oyster River Enhancement Society (ORES) recognizes the requirements for Disclosures of Information under the Privacy Information Protection and Electronics Act and the BC Personal Information Protection Act and adheres to the regulations under these acts. Your information is never disclosed outside of ORES without your consent.