

## Hatcheries

### **Al Grist Memorial Hatchery**

Al Grist Memorial Hatchery is operated by the Port Coquitlam & District Hunting & Fishing Club (PCDHFC), the oldest and largest conservation and stewardship organization in the Coquitlam River Watershed. PCDHFC member volunteers worked with the City of Coquitlam and DFO to establish the initial hatchery operations in 1980 and later with the Pacific Salmon Foundation and others to expand its capacity. The volunteers, supported by DFO, SEP Community Advisers, have operated this facility every day since 1980. It is located on the Coquitlam River on Pipeline Road near the Metro Vancouver gate to the upper watershed.

This hatchery has been a major contributor to the recovery of Coquitlam River salmon runs from the 1970s lows -- approximately 4,000 Coho and Chinook returned in each of the past two years. Initial production was only Chum salmon, from Coquitlam River stocks, to increase that run size and build in-stream nutrient levels to increase availability of food for all salmon species. With this accomplished, production was switched to Coho and Steelhead. Chinook and Pink production commenced after BC cancelled the Steelhead permit in 2002. The present federal license permits annual production of 100,000 Coho fry and 25,000 Chinook smolts. Over 2,500,000 young fish have been raised and released since 1981.

Coho eggs are taken from broodstock that the volunteers and DFO personnel net from the Coquitlam River. Coho eggs from this hatchery have been provided to Hoy/Scott Creek Hatchery and River Springs Hatchery. Eyed Chinook eggs are imported from DFO's Chilliwack Hatchery. Up to 23,000 Coho fry are retained each year for clipping of adipose fins and rearing for the year that is required for them to become large smolts that are ready to go to sea and grow to support the sports fishery. All of the fish raised at this hatchery to date have been released to the Coquitlam River and its tributary systems. The Coho fry production has been released into most, if not all, of the stream and habitat projects in the Coquitlam River System.

PCDHFC welcomes opportunities to involve the community in its hatchery activities. The volunteers conduct tours of the hatchery and work with school and community groups and families on all operations, from taking brood stock to releases, in order to encourage interest in the Coquitlam River Watershed environment and increase awareness of the importance of preserving and enhancing salmon stocks.

### **Hoy / Scott Creek Hatchery, Rearing Ponds and Habitat**

Hoy / Scott Creek Hatchery is operated by Hoy/Scott Creek Watershed Society. It was constructed circa 1997 using grant money from The Pacific Salmon Foundation, Coquitlam Parks and Leisure Services, the Hoy/Scott Watershed Society, the North Fraser Salmon Assistance Project, retired architect Ron Simpson and DFO. The hatchery has been operated by the Hoy/Scott Creek Watershed Society with support from DFO advisers since 1997. It is located between Hoy Creek and a large town house complex near Coquitlam Aquatic Centre. This property is owned by the City and was developed as part of an urban linear park corridor. The construction done for this hatchery included upgrading the old trout rearing ponds with new concrete, a new intake and a rearing pond enclosure. Bank stabilization work and storm water management efforts have improved the salmon habitat productivity in this watershed.

The use of this Hatchery is primarily for Coho enhancement. Annual production is licensed for up to 50,000 Coho that may be harvested from escapement, 5,000 smolts will be raised in the Optimist Rearing pond for release to Hoy creek, and 40,000 fed fry may be distributed in Scott Creek Watershed if needed. There may be up to 10,000 Coho hatched from eggs provided from Al Grist Memorial Hatchery. Secondly Pinks are also enhanced through a possible 250,000 unfed Pink salmon fry being distributed in Scott Creek Watershed from Chehalis River Hatchery using Harrison Watershed stock.

This organization has sponsored the annual Salmon Come Home Festival in the City of Coquitlam since 1992. Attendance for this fun and educational event was between 800 and 1000 people in 2011.

### **River Springs Hatchery, Rearing Ponds and Habitat**

River Springs Hatchery has been operated by the River Springs Community with support from DFO advisers since the early 1990's. It is located just downstream of Oxbow Lake just past Lodge Street along the Coquitlam River.

Annual production is licensed for 50,000 Coho hatched from eggs provided from the Coquitlam River and Al Grist Memorial Hatchery for release as fed-fry throughout the River-Springs Habitat Complex in Coquitlam.

The stream beside the hatchery was constructed through portions of the River Springs residential development in Port Coquitlam. This stream and the nearby connecting, large rearing and habitat ponds were constructed by DFO in 4 phases

that now support spawning populations of Chum and Coho salmon and Cutthroat Trout and provide valuable rearing areas for Steelhead. The large pond habitats have been stocked with Coho fry from Al Grist Memorial Hatchery from time to time.

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