

Delph Creek Hatchery History

The Delph Creek Station property was acquired from the Oregon State Game Commission by the Bureau of Fisheries in April 1936 for the sum of one dollar and half the fish produced at the Delph Creek Station. Prior to the property being owned by the Oregon State Game Commission, the land belonged to the Garfield Country Club. After purchase by the Bureau of Fisheries, building improvements on the site were accomplished by the use of W.P.A. funds during 1938 and 1939. Prior to 1942, the Delph Creek Station was operated as a feeding substation of the Clackamas Oregon Fisheries Station located near the confluence of Clear Creek and the Clackamas River.

The Delph Creek Hatchery was located on Delph Creek, a tributary of Eagle Creek, near the town of Estacada, Oregon. The activities of this station were directed to the propagation of Pacific Coast salmon. Spring Chinook, coho and steelhead eggs were collected locally with tule fall Chinook eggs received annually from the Big White Salmon (Spring Creek) hatchery in Washington. Fish reared at the Delph Creek station were primarily released into Delph Creek from October through March as there was considerable industrial pollution in the Willamette River during low flow periods.

Following the closure of the Clackamas Oregon Fisheries Station, the Delph Creek Station was operated independently and finally received credit for the salmon eggs collected by Delph Creek. Salmon spawning operations were conducted locally with spring Chinook being trapped in lower Eagle Creek and a branch of the Clackamas River in July and August. Trapped spring Chinook were lost annually due to being susceptible to poaching and the flooding of Eagle Creek during September and October which would render the trap inoperable. Spawning operations for spring Chinook began in early September through October until 1953 when the facility began to close down. Fingerling spring Chinook were released during the late fall (40 fish per pound) of their first year. Coho salmon were trapped at the mouth of Stubbe Creek, where it empties into the Clackamas River, and spawned in January. Coho were collected from the trap and spawned only in 1947 and 1948 as there was insufficient water for the operation of the trap in ensuing years. Coho fingerlings were released in December at 65 fish per pound. Winter steelhead ascending Delph Creek were trapped and spawned during April and May, 1947. Progeny from the steelhead spawning were released the following March, 1948 at 165 fish per pound. No further spawning of steelhead is reported in the annual reports.

Annually, up to 650,000 green (newly fertilized) tule fall Chinook eggs were received from the Big White Salmon (Spring Creek) hatchery in Washington. Fingerling fall Chinook were released during either the early spring (300 fish per pound) or late fall (40 fish per pound) of their first year.

Annual egg collections and eggs received for the Delph Creek station, beginning in 1942:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Spring Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Steelhead</u>
<u>Fall Chinook rec'd</u>			

1942	141,800		
1943	152,800		
1944	32,876		
200,000			
1945	126,500		
500,000			
1946	494,500		
500,000			
1947	10,000	40,500	12,200
397,005			
1948	60,000	48,500	
519,000			
1949	13,000		
632,700			
1950	157,500		
297,600			
1951	57,300		
436,970			
1952	34,300		
418,080			
1953	22,000		
201,600			
1954			
201,000			

* Information from Delph Creek Station Annual Reports 1948 through 1954