



Quinault

National Fish Hatchery

Station Facts

- Annual operation and maintenance budget is \$798,000
- Employs up to six full time staff, including Quinault Tribal members
- Founded in 1968, at the request of coastal Native American tribes
- Produces over 3 million chum, coho, and steelhead released into Cook Creek, a Quinault River tributary
- Located on 80 acres of the Quinault Indian Nation
- Maintains an agreement offering Quinault Indian Nation members hatchery employment opportunities

Contact Information

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Directions:

To visit the hatchery, from Hwy 101, turn onto the Moclips Hwy at milepost 120. The hatchery is located five miles down the Moclips highway on the right.



Who We Are

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) is comprised of a network of 71 National Fish Hatcheries which propagate imperiled species for restoration and recovery programs, provide emergency refugia for species whose habitat is threatened, provide fish to benefit Tribes, and mitigate for federal water projects.

How We Help

The Quinault National Fish Hatchery (NFH) exists as a joint venture with the Quinault, Quileute and Hoh Indian Nations for the continued enhancement of Pacific salmon along Washington State's northwest coast. This program grew out of the need to restore and enhance fish runs on the Quinault Indian Reservation and adjacent federal lands due to surface water degradation and habitat loss created by timber harvest and human population growth and development.

Tribal Trust Responsibilities

The hatchery's primary role and responsibility lies in the relationship between the United States and federally recognized Pacific Northwest Native American Tribes. We also provide tribal youth opportunities for employment and to connect with nature.



40 year hatchery veteran with Quinault chum salmon

Quinault NFH Seasons

Spawning (October - January): Returning coho, chum and winter steelhead adults are sorted and spawned. Fertilized eggs are incubated and spawned carcasses are surplus to the Quinault Tribe.

Incubation (October - March): Eggs are sorted, enumerated, and incubated for hatching. When the yolk sac is absorbed, the fish are moved into tanks and feeding begins.

Release (March - May): As the water warms and the photo period increases, the yearling fish begin to transform from fry into smolts. The chum are the first to be released followed by the coho and the steelhead.

Maintenance (May - September): The fry remain and are fed throughout the summer. Infrastructure improvements and facility maintenance prep the facility for another year of fish production.



Quinault NFH's remodeled visitor center.

Credit: Bill Edwards/USFWS