



### **Annual Rainbow Trout from the Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force Satsop Springs Rearing Facility**

The Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force Satsop Springs Rearing Facility raises Rainbow Trout to annually stock multiple lakes and ponds within Grays Harbor and Mason Counties. Each year approximately 6,000 Rainbow Trout are distributed to Lake Newatzel, Stump Lake, Vance Creek Juvenile Pond, Vance Creek Adult Pond, Lake Aberdeen, Duck Lake, and Failor Lake, starting in March and April of each year. Last year Satsop Springs supplied Rainbow Trout for the Chehalis Basin Watershed Festival for the children's fishing pond.

These fish average 4-5 pounds each for the early plants in March and April. As the season progresses we plant fish reaching nearly 8 to 10 pounds each. The late plants are provided to the Duck Lake Fishing Derby in May and the Lake Sylvia Fishing Derby in June.

Fish stocking is very labor intensive. First, fish are seined to corral them to one end of the pond. These ponds are spring fed so imagine how cold that water is in March and April for the brave volunteers in the pond! Remember these fish weigh about 5 pounds each and there could be hundreds of fish contained in the seining net at any given time. Now that's a heavy load to haul!



Next, fish are dip netted from the pond which entails getting back into that cold water with a long handled net and scooping up the fish. The fish put up a good fight so it is a real challenge to keep them in the net, lift the net out of the water, and pass the net full of fish to the next group of helpers. A net with ten plus fish in it will contain over fifty pounds of thrashing fins and tails.



The fish are loaded into large oxygenated tanks on the back of trucks and then hauled to the designated lake or pond and released from the tanks.



See what we mean about a labor intensive process? The dedicated volunteers who donate their time and energy make it possible for CBFTF Satsop Springs Rearing Facility to conduct the annual fish stocking. On trout plants alone last season, 39 volunteers donated 278 hours of effort in March and 27 volunteers donated 246 hours of effort in April. Without these wonderful people it would be impossible to accomplish the fish stocking every year, so a great big THANKS to all of you who volunteered your time for a job well done!

We do the fish plants every year and volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact CBFTF at 360 482 2347, Satsop Springs Rearing Facility at (360) 482-3364, or [cbftf@reachone.com](mailto:cbftf@reachone.com) or [satspringsfac@centurytel.net](mailto:satspringsfac@centurytel.net)

The Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force (CBFTF) operates the Satsop Springs Rearing Facility through a Cooperative Agreement with WA State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. In addition to raising Rainbow Trout, we raise and release 450,000 Coho Salmon, raise and release up to 600,000 Chinook Salmon and 450,000 Chum Salmon in conjunction with the Bingham Creek Hatchery.