



# 2007 Satsop Salmon Rodeo



Written & edited by: Ellie McMillan

*Joe Durham and Hal Carlstad pictured last season lending a hand to capture what they refer to as "bowsers" and "kings" to assist the Satsop Springs Hatchery with the Chum & Chinook egg take.*

With the arrival of the rains each year, volunteers of the Satsop Springs Hatchery come together on the banks of the East Fork Satsop River to capture returning Chinook & Chum Salmon through a process called broodstocking. For 19 years, local volunteers have been implementing this salmon project in our region. Volunteers capture the returning salmon and transfer them to holding areas at the hatchery facility where they remain until they are "ripe" or ready to spawn. Each Fall, 600,000 eggs are taken for Chinook and 225,000 eggs are taken for Chum.

For this project, the broodstock salmon are sexually mature individuals that are kept separate for breeding purposes. Broodstocks are maintained for several reasons, but the reason for broodstocking of Chum and Chinook on the Satsop River is to provide eggs and fry in a controlled environment so as not to have to rely on wild catches of fry for raising a generation of the cultured species. The process of broodstocking greatly increases the survival rate of spawned eggs. When left to nature only about 20 percent of eggs spawned will survive and hatch. With broodstocking assistance up to 80 percent of spawned eggs survive. After hatching the young fry have a brief stay at the hatchery until they are large enough for release into their native rivers.



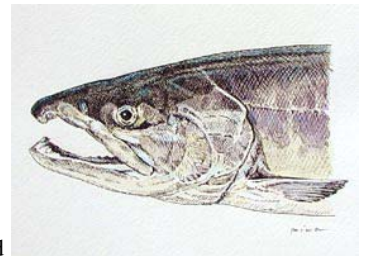
*Above: Adult returning Chum Salmon, commonly referred to as "dog salmon" or "bowsers" by local Satsop Springs Hatchery volunteers.*

## CBFTF Members

Big R Manufacturing  
Bob Balcombe  
Boat Seafoods  
Steve Berggren  
Carlisle Environmental Ed.  
Lloyd Case  
Chehalis Tribe  
Elma Game Club  
Friends of the Chehalis  
George M. Duncan  
Grays Harbor Council of Governments  
Grays Harbor College  
Grays Harbor County  
Grays Harbor Gillnetters  
Grays Harbor Poggie Club  
Grays Harbor Trout Unlimited  
Dave Hamilton  
Heemett Environmental Foundation  
Montesano Moose Lodge  
Port of Grays Harbor  
TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC  
Washington Trollers  
Westport Charterboat  
Weyerhaeuser

## It starts with...

**Me**mbership is vital to the ongoing work of the Task Force. Invite a friend to join you with our efforts for producing salmon for sport and commercial fisheries; enhancing Steelhead and Cutthroat trout resources; and restoring, enhancing and protecting stream habitat critical to these anadromous species. Please pass this monthly newsletter on to someone who may be interested...



### Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

- Silver Membership..... \$20
- King Membership..... \$30
- Associate Enhancer..... \$60
- Patron Enhancer..... \$100
- Golden Enhancer..... \$500
- Business Membership..... \$200
- Corporate Membership..... \$500

Membership is:  Individual  Organizational

Please make checks payable to: **Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force,**

115 S Wooding Street, Aberdeen, WA 98520, Phone: 360-533-1766, E-mail: cbftf@reachone.com

## 2007 Satsop Salmon Rodeo (continued)

The objective of this intensive volunteer effort is to dramatically increase the number of native fish returning to spawn in the coming years. 198,300 Chinook and 43,300 Chum were produced for release this year from last years broodstock. These numbers were significantly reduced due to poor weather restrictions causing returning fish to naturally spawn out low in the river. A typical production amount from the Satsop Springs broodstock normally yields 540,000 Chinook and 200,000 Chum.

**SOME FACTS ABOUT THE "DOGS":** The Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) commonly called a "dog salmon" is known for the enormous canine-like fangs and striking body color (a calico pattern, with the anterior two thirds of the flank marked by a bold, jagged, reddish line and the posterior third by a jagged black line) of spawning males.

**SOME FACTS ABOUT THE "KINGS":** The Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), also commonly referred to as "king salmon" because of their large size and because many consider them to be the best tasting among the salmon species. The Chinook salmon is blue-green on the back and top of the head with silvery sides and white markings on the belly surfaces.

**FOR VOLUNTEERS:** The CBFTF welcomes new volunteers for its sponsored projects. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office at 360-533-1766 or cbftf@reachone.com and someone will assist you with a project that matches your interests & skills. For our veteran and fish club volunteers, we look forward to seeing you again throughout this up coming fishing season, and you will be contacted to be included in the Fall schedule.



An adult returning Chinook salmon pictured above, also known as "king salmon".