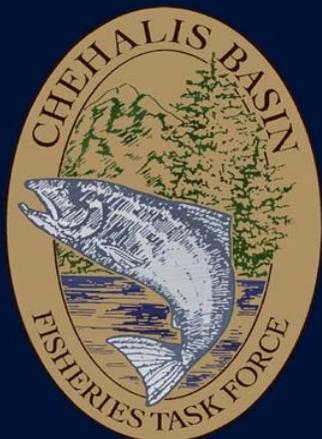


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CHEHALIS BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE

CBFTF NEWS REEL

*Cooperative Project Spotlight:*

## The Westport Net Pens



The Westport Net Pens Project (WNPP) is located in the Westport Marina between the boat slips of float number four. Melding into the scenery of the marina, if you've visited Westport, you may have walked by it on the board walk and not even known it was there. A true collaboration among various entities, this project would not be possible without the hard work and partnerships voluntarily offered by the Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force (CBFTF), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Port of Grays Harbor, Kiwanis Club and Ocosta High School. The project is focused on enhancing Coho populations for harvest, providing fishing opportunities for all user groups, and contributing to the local community by engaging students through an education and outreach program.

Many factors contribute to the production of 200,000 catchable Coho for sport and commercial fisheries. To begin with, each February the net pens are unpacked from the dry storage container donated to the project by SSA Pacific through the coordination of Port of Grays Harbor Commissioner Stan Pinnick. Through arrangements and man power provided by local WDFW hatchery and Port staff the pens are loaded onto a flat bed truck and delivered to the project site. A seven man team consisting of volunteers from the CBFTF and local WDFW hatchery staff untangle the nets, string cables, and work with a boom truck to lower them into the water (all the while the curious eye of resident harbor seals observe the revels of project activities).

After the nets are secured they are protected with bird and predator netting. This is a necessary step to keep birds and other opportunistic mammals from dining on the projects Coho production.

WDFW staff provide technical assistance by incubating the eggs, and fin clipping them before they are delivered to the Westport Marina.



February 2008 net pen installation crew from left: Steve Franks, Satsop Springs Hatchery (CBFTF); Joe Durham, Project Team Leader (CBFTF); Jason Pflughaupt, WDFW; Keith Burns (back), WDFW; Ken Isaksson, WDFW; Dan Evans, WDFW; and Jeremy Parker, WDFW.

## CBFTF Members

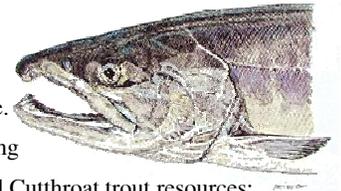
Big R Manufacturing  
Bob Balcombe  
Kenny Betts  
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Boat Seafoods  
R.J. Bond  
Bill Brown  
Carlisle Environmental Ed.  
Kelly Case  
Lloyd Case  
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Elma Game Club  
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GHCOG  
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Grays Harbor County  
Grays Harbor Gillnetters  
Grays Harbor Poggie Club  
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Dave Hamilton  
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Brian Johnson  
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TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC  
Ken Wall  
Washington Trollers  
Westport Charterboat  
Weyerhaeuser  
Whitney's

## 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**

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

## Westport Net Pens (Continued)

Formerly supplied by Humptulips Coho stocks, the CBFTF worked with regional WDFW staff during the previous year to change the brood source supply to Satsop Coho, reared by Bingham Creek Hatchery. As a result, any strays from the 200,000 Coho this project yields annually will pass through every fishing user group from the marina, to the bay, through the Chehalis and Satsop Rivers, where eventually any surplus fish that escape to the system will be utilized for nutrient enhancement by the Satsop Nutrient Enhancement Project.

After the fish are delivered to the pens, two students from the Ocosta High School feed the fish three to four days a week for a period over two months, releasing them when they reach approximately 12 fish per pound. One of the most enriching benefits is the reward to the students who get involved in their community. The project teaches students to take pride and personal ownership in the boat basin fishery they make use of. It also provides more meaning to classroom discussions in biology and natural resource when the students can apply real world experience.

Additionally, the benefits of the harvestable Coho produced from the WNPP span several other genera's. The overall population of fish accessible to fishers is enhanced, no matter the user group. This provides a draw for these groups to fish for salmon in the ocean as well as in the boat basin. Many travel from far away, which provides economical enrichment to the surrounding community. Moreover, the intended Coho allow for higher quotas, in turn yielding longer seasons, which leads to additional monies spent by different user groups for a longer period of time (whether it be state permits, resale, lodging or other local amenities).