



After fifteen months of rearing at Skookum Hatchery these fish are being load into a thousand gallon tanker for the hour trip to Lummi Bay Hatchery, to be short-termed reared and released into Lummi Bay

The hatchery staff transfers one million Coho yearlings from Skookum Hatchery to Lummi Bay Hatchery each year; transferring 1,000 pounds a load, two – three loads per day it takes about two weeks to transfer all the fish.



After an hour in the tanker the young salmon are unloaded in to a pond at Lummi Bay that will be their home for a few months, where they will be fed and cared for until they are released from this site.



After eighteen months at sea the adult Coho salmon returns back to the hatchery that it was released from to spawn and die. Another generation of Coho Salmon is born to replenish the sea.



Hatchery staff selects broodstock to spawn and every fish that returns to the hatchery rack is run through the metal detector to find all the fish that have Coded Wire Tags in their snout.

The hatchery operates under the Lummi Natural Resources Department, the all Indian staff operates both sites. The hatcheries release two million yearling Coho and one million Fall Chinook fry annually into waters surrounding the Lummi Nation, in all fourteen user groups benefit from the from efforts of this program.

To tour the Lummi hatchery facilities or if you have any questions please call:

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Lummi Nation *Natural Resources* *Salmon Enhancement Program*

LHAQ'TEMISH *People Of the Sea*



We are Coast Salish people with a rich history, culture and traditions. We are fishers, hunters, gatherers, and harvesters of nature's abundance.

One of the 20 Northwest Indian Tribes granted Federal recognition by Treaties signed in 1855; the Lummi Nation is located on a peninsula surround by water and fishing for salmon always has been a major activity, the people have harvested salmon for subsistence, trade, and barter.

In 1969, the Lummi Nation constructed two salmon hatcheries to produce “pan size salmon”, which was less than successful; in 1975, after the 1974 Bolt Decision which stated the Tribes of the Point Elliott Treaty 1855, have a legal right to half the annual catch in Washington waters in U.S. v. Washington; the hatchery program shifted to a more typical program of releasing juvenile salmon to enhance waters surrounding the Lummi Nation. Today the Lummi Nation salmon hatchery program has established itself as one of the major producers of salmon in North Puget Sound.

The Lummi Salmon Enhancement Program centers around two main hatchery sites, Skookum Creek Fish Hatchery located near Acme, WA, on the S.F. Nooksack River and Lummi Bay Hatchery located on the Lummi Reservation. The main purpose is to establish and maintain stocks of salmon, which are compatible with management goals of the tribal fishery program.

Salmon Cycle



*Egg
Alevin
Fry
Yearling
Ocean Adult
Spawning Adults*

Lummi Bay Hatchery:

Constructed in 1970 – 1971 as a research pilot program. In the early 1970's the site was used as a lab for water quality and vaccine studies. Mid 1970's the site was utilized as a saltwater release and capture site for salmon.

Currently the site short-term rears and releases Coho and Fall Chinook. Coho yearling transferred from Skookum Hatchery in mid February reared at site until released in May and Fall Chinook fry transferred from a Washington State hatchery in March reared and released from this site and the Lower Nooksack River in May.

This unique site has water pumped from the Nooksack River and saltwater pumped from Lummi Bay allows the staff to start rearing the young salmon in freshwater and slowly convert to saltwater before releasing them into Lummi Bay to start their ocean journey.



Skookum Creek Fish Hatchery:

Constructed in 1970 at the mouth of Skookum Creek, below Arleco Creek near Acme, WA for the Lummi Nation.

The hatchery produces two million Coho yearlings a year, a process that takes eighteen months. Five months of the year the hatchery has two age groups of fish on site, the yearlings that are release each spring in to the waters of the S.F. Nooksack River and the fry, which will be rear to yearling size over the winter.

In the fall months thousands of Coho adults return back to their home to spawn and create a new generation to replenish the resource.

Each year the hatchery staff transfers one million yearling Coho by tanker truck for the hour-long trip to the Lummi Bay Hatchery site.



Hatchery staff spawns broodstock that return home from their ocean journey.

Before the hatchery staff spawns the female salmon the fish pathologist takes samples to insure no disease is transferred into hatchery site. It takes a month before the results from the samples come back. These eggs are incubated at the Sandy Point Hatchery site until the egg has eyes, and if they are certified as disease free they are transferred to Skookum Creek Hatchery where they are reared to yearling size.



These salmon fry are ready to be ponded. They will be transferred to a pond fed and cared for by hatchery staff until they are released.



All fish released from a hatchery must be marked, this is done to distinguish a hatchery fish from a wild fish, and the mark is done by clipping off the adipose fin located near the tail.

A crew of 12 to 22 people is hired to clip the fins; every fish that is released from a hatchery must be marked with this fin clip to identify it as a hatchery fish. This mark allows fishermen to keep their catch, if fish caught with no mark the fishermen must release it, because it is considered a wild fish and these fish are protected under the Endangered Species Act.