**Grist Goeson Memorial Hatchery, Coquitlam River Watershed and Environment**

**Annual Report for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019**

PCDHFC’s hatchery operations experienced successes and disappointment in 2019. Returns of adult coho, including “wild” unmarked and our hatchery raised “clipped” fish, in the last two years were the highest numbers experienced in the present programs to date. Pink and chum returns were far below expectations in the Coquitlam and Fraser River systems this fall and no sockeye returns were seen from our April and May, 2017 Coquitlam sockeye releases. There may still be a limited possibility for some of these sockeye to return as 5 year fish next fall and there still is much to learn about the reservoir sockeye.

In 2019 our volunteers reared and released 50,000 unmarked coho fry and 22,000 marked (clipped) coho smolts (including 1,500 at PoCo’s Rivers & Trails Festival in September). Our fish releases are very popular with kids of all ages at Lions Park and other riverside areas in Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam.

The rusted steel rearing trough was replaced this fall with a clean aluminum trough donated from DFO surplus; a $3,500.00 contribution from DFO; workers, fork lift and gravel from Jack Cewe Construction and an excellent turnout of volunteers. Many thanks to all of those involved.

This year was the first time that our angler volunteers provided most of the coho brood stock (56 males and 32 females) for the hatchery. There was only one netting in 2019. The 70,000 eggs from this stock are expected to hatch during February and March.

High discharge flows used for managing reservoir levels and siltation from powerline areas above one closed gravel pit continue to cause environmental problems for Coquitlam River and off stream salmon habitats. DFO and community efforts to encourage completion and maintenance of remedial measures will continue.

PCDHFC is represented on the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable Core Committee and the Kwikwetlem Salmon Restoration Project (KSRP). These organizations support sustainable development in settled portions of the Coquitlam Watershed and the restoration of salmon species to available Reservoir habitats. Work is expected to continue in 2020 on planning for production of sockeye for the reservoir and restoring coho use in existing stream habitats above the dam.

Our hatchery operates every day of the year with approximately 30 PCDHFC member volunteers and support from DFO, Metro Vancouver and other community volunteers. PCDHFC appreciates their ongoing, diligent efforts which make all of this possible.

Norm Fletcher, Hatchery Coordinator