**FANNY BAY SALMONID ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY (FBSES)**

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By Judy Ackinclose

Over the summer the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure did a terrific job on Rosewall Creek armouring the banks along Berray Road. Then along comes the fall with loads of rain which lead to raging rivers. Over the course of a couple of weeks, with one storm after another, the directional flow of Rosewall Creek changed. Our hatchery river water intake was compromised to the point that we were unable to use the water. So once again we have had to rely on the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to supply us with groundwater. Unfortunately, the groundwater is considerably warmer than river water which accelerates the egg development. But the good news is that we are — thanks to Department of Fisheries and Oceans — gaining a new river intake this summer. Hopefully this will take care of future river water issues. From the hatchery point of view, we are trying to keep the onsite chum and coho in as natural an environment as possible, this means river water.

With the fact that bacterial kidney disease is endemic in our pacific salmon we have had to test all of the female coho that provided us with eggs. This testing takes place in Nanaimo at the Pacific Biological Station and is a valuable service as it allows us to keep only the healthy eggs which we then raise to fry and smolt. As far as our chum eggs go, all 165,000 of them, are doing quite well and we will be ponding them shortly.

Various ongoing hatchery activities include frozen chum carcasses being placed out in the creeks (providing food for existing and emerging fry), preparing tanks for ponding and the ongoing feeding fish and cleaning tanks.

If you would like to help or see what is happening at the hatchery, our hours of operation are Wednesdays and Saturdays 9 am to 12 pm, Rosewall Creek on Berray Road. For more information, visit our website **www.fbses.ca**.