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

**December 2017**

This time last year we started our article with ‘Singing in the rain’ but this year let’s go with ‘It’s raining again’. A wonderful fall weather pattern and rivers and creeks are in full flood.

The chum brood take is over and with the help of the DFO Big Qualicum Hatchery staff we were able to get approximately 68,000 chum eggs. Now for coho, fortunately coho can swim up a ladder and into the fish trap so less labour intensive for the volunteers. From the trap they get a ‘room assignment’, separating girls from guys and then we wait until the females are ready to give eggs. Our coho target this year is 60,000 eggs. Presently, we have 15,000 eggs in incubation. The scuttlebutt is that it looks like very poor coho runs on both Vancouver Island east and west coasts this year, so the egg take is important as insurance that the 2017 genetics will continue.

Volunteers have been busy doing a balancing act with adipose fin clipping, getting our brood, doing coho egg takes, taking DNA and kidney samples which then are taken down to the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo for further studies. We are also slowly returning the salvage fry to their natal creeks.

We are certainly interested in showing folks around the hatchery, encouraging them to try a little fish feeding, clipping adipose fins or participating in an egg take – you know ‘getting their feet wet’ – not always just figuratively!! There will be coffee, cookies, laughter and potentially an uncontrollable desire to return – very salmon like…. For more information, visit our website **www.fbses.ca**.