

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West



Nimbus Fish Hatchery Spawning by Manager Gary Novak – Photo Credit: Winetta Owens

The Nimbus Fish Hatchery was built on the left bank below the Nimbus Dam to compensate for the spawning areas of salmon and steelhead that were inundated by construction of the dam.

Since 1958, the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, located at Hazel Avenue in Rancho Cordova, just off Highway 50, has been successfully providing mitigation for the loss of natural fish habitat in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Reclamation.

As the fish make their way up the fish ladder, the mechanical crawler brings the fish to a hydraulically operated basket which dumps them into an anesthetizing solution. Another basket lifts the fish to the sorting table where hatchery personnel separate the female salmon from the male salmon. The fish are cleaned and cut opened on the spawning table and sperm is added to the eggs for each species for fertilization. An average salmon female has more than 5,000 eggs. The eggs are housed in the spawning building and the fish are raised until they are about 4 to 6 inches long. They are then released into the Sacramento River-San Joaquin Estuary. Steelhead are also raised at the hatchery and later released in the Sacramento River.

The salmon run starts about mid-October continuing into December, followed by steelhead in January and February.

The visitors nature center at Nimbus Fish Hatchery is free and provides visitors with information about the salmon and steelhead life cycle, fish pond area and trails along the river.

For more information on Nimbus Fish Hatchery, please visit:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Hatcheries/Nimbus/index.asp>

<https://www.facebook.com/NimbusHatchery>

http://www.visitfolsom.com/history/nimbus_hatchery.aspx

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