

Ribbon-Cutting Marks Opening of the Cedar River Fish Hatchery

After more than 20 years the long-anticipated Cedar River Sockeye Salmon Hatchery has finally opened its doors.

The Sept. 20 grand opening – complete with sunny blue skies and a red-ribbon cutting – marked years of negotiations and planning. The project started in 1989 when Senate Bill 5161 created the legislative mandate, which called for the hatchery to be built in order to replace the lost sockeye production capacity upstream of the Landsburg Diversion Dam.



The new facility is a vast improvement over the interim hatchery, which has been operating since 1991. The state-of-the-art hatchery boasts higher capacity, more reliability and better monitoring, says Paul Faulds, manager of the Landsburg Mitigation Group.

“It’s been a long road to here today,” said Seattle City Council President Richard Conlin, who addressed the crowd, gathered at the dedication. “In carrying out our commitment to building this facility, we are fulfilling a promise to help provide a healthy, harvestable and sustainable population of sockeye salmon in the Cedar River.”



The new facility has the capacity to incubate and release up to 34 million fry, while the former interim facility had a capacity of only 17 million fry. In addition, the new hatchery is also designed to better match stream conditions.

These stream conditions include water temperatures that are similar to river water to help ensure appropriate development rates during incubation. In addition, the new facility allows the fry to migrate from incubation to rearing areas on their own and, if needed, to be held in ponds for short periods to ensure similarity to natural origin fish.

Background about the new hatchery was recently highlighted in a [Seattle Times article](#) by Mark Yuasa, who covers fishing and the outdoors in the Pacific Northwest. Partners in developing the fish hatchery include the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Washington and King County.

Photo captions:

Shown in the top photo (left to right): Phil Anderson, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; King County Councilmember Larry Phillips; Seattle City Council President Richard Conlin; Phil Hamilton, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe; Frank Urabeck, sports fisherman and community activist; and Seattle Public Utilities Director Ray Hoffman
Photos taken by Anthony Harris