



KOKANEE POWER
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THE KOKANEE KRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KOKANEE POWER

TIME FOR A CHANGE!

BY: WES HAMASAKI

What do the following have in common?

- *Green Eggs and Ham*
- *The Cat in the Hat*
- *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*
- *The Lorax*

If your guess was that they were books by Dr. Seuss, then you are correct. Dr. Seuss has been a popular figure in society. Regardless of age, everyone is familiar with Dr. Seuss. Growing up as a child, some of my fondest memories are of my mom reading me a Dr. Seuss book before going to bed. However, it has been decades since I have last picked up one of those books until recently. Within the last year, I realized that Dr. Seuss' target audience for his books were children, but there are messages that we as adults can learn from and apply to our personal lives at this very moment.

One topic that Dr. Seuss addresses quite often in his books is about change. Change is inevitable; it's the only constant that we will ever know. Change is scary and frightening, but in the same token, it's exciting as it promotes growth and progress. Change is good; change is healthy. One quote that I revisit is "Unless someone like you cares whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

That particular quote sure resonates in many aspects of life, but it also does when it comes to the state of our Kokanee fishery. While the numbers of fish are up, the size of the fish have been suffering for a number of years, which negatively impacts angler's motivation to go fishing for Kokanee, the associated business (i.e. the motels, the business, the tackle shops), and ultimately the local economies nearby those fisheries. Kokanee Power is focused on fisheries enhancement, and that does not mean just putting fish in California's impoundments to catch. Enhancement also takes into consideration the quality of the fish in those impoundments and the laws pertaining to those fisheries.

Given the current assessment of our Kokanee fishery, we at Kokanee Power along with Kasie Barnes and her team from the Department of Fish and Wildlife realized a change needed to be made. We all took that Dr. Seuss quote to heart. The fishery will not improve the way it currently is now. Due to overpopulation, we have been seeing a steady decline in fish and overall excitement about these wonderful fish. One way to get change this is to get more fish out of these impoundments and reduce overpopulation, and we need your help! Changes to the Kokanee regulations have been proposed with the help of Kasie Barnes and her team! The regulation changes requested are:

- Define Kokanee as their own species (not lumped into the definition of "Trout", as it is currently)
- Define landlocked Chinook as their own species (not lumped into the definition of "Salmon", as it is currently)
- New limits of 10 bag/10 possession for Kokanee, except as follows:
 - Special regulations:
 - Lake Tahoe – 5 bag/10 possession
 - Pardee Reservoir – 10 bag/20 possession
 - Stampede Reservoir – 5 bag/10 possession

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS OF THE KOKANEE KRONICLE CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT:

<http://www.kokanee.org>

OR



Search "Kokanee Power" on Facebook

The proposal has already been submitted to the Fisheries Management Committee. They are the "in-house" reviewers and act as the first round of approvals for the proposal. If they approve our regulation changes, they will come back to Kasie and her team at the Fisheries Branch. Kasie and her team will then draft the additional paperwork necessary for the regulation changes to move forward and be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Commission (reviewed by them next summer). If all goes well, these regulations would go into place March 1, 2016.

However, in order to ensure this proposal is successful, we need everyone's help! The word needs to be spread. Please share this with your fellow Kokanee enthusiasts. We need to draft letters to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in support of these regulation changes. Another way to show your support is to attend the public commenting period if and when the regulation changes go before the Commission next summer. But, it is helpful if some of that work has already been done, and we can show strong public support for the changes through letters. (Be sure to check out the [September 2013](#) installment of "The Kokanee Kronicle" for examples of letters to the Commission.) If you would like to write a letter, you can send it to Kasie Barnes via email to Kasie.Barnes@wildlife.ca.gov or through regular postal mail. Her mailing address is 830 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

Below is a general timeline for fishing regulation changes.

GENERAL TIMELINE FOR FISHING REGULATION CHANGES



GENERAL PROCESS FOR FISHING REGULATION CHANGES

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Public or Department submits recommendation. II. Undergoes interdepartmental review; including Regions and Branch. III. RCCP is drafted and submitted to the FMC. IV. CDFW develops ISOR. V. ISOR is reviewed by all affected programs, edited and modified. VI. Finalized ISOR is signed by CDFW Deputy Director and Director. VII. Regulation package sent to FGC for Review. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. FGC review adheres to the APA and requires 3 meetings: Notice, Discussion and Adoption. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Public is notified and a 45 commenting period is activated. b. Regulation's language is finalized. II. Finalized regulation package sent to OAL for review and approval. III. Regulation sent to Secretary of State for notification purposes. IV. Regulation sent to Barclay's for incorporation into CCR. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Once incorporated into CCR, regulations are excerpted for use in the Sportfishing Regulations Booklet. II. Booklet is released March 1, which is when new regulations are effective.

Guide to Acronyms

APA—Administrative Procedures Act FMC—Fisheries Management Committee RCCP—Regulation Change Concept Proposal
 CCR—California Code of Regulations ISOR—Initial Statement of Reason
 FGC—Fish and Game Commission OAL—Office of Administrative Law

We need everyone's support more than ever now!

As Dr. Seuss said, "So, open your mouth, Lad! For every voice counts!" Please voice your opinion and support for these changes!

2014 EGG TAKE

BY: WES HAMASAKI

2014 has definitely been a year of challenges; mainly due to the drought conditions that California has been facing. While Mother Nature has been a little relentless in that regard, she was still able to provide us with enough water to have the annual Kokanee egg take and, yet again, experience this beautiful migration.

The weirs were placed on the Little Truckee River which feeds into Stampede Reservoir on September 16th. At the time, there were only three fish that far up the system. However, there was a large pod of Kokanee moving quickly upstream and trading in their dime-bright armor for colorful suits of red and green along the way.

On September 30th, the Kokanee were ready and the first egg take occurred. A total of 859,100 eggs were collected, which is a record for a single-day egg take. The surprising moment during the egg take was the size of the fish that showed up. The anglers that fished Stampede throughout the Spring and Summer were experiencing average Kokanee between 10 and 12 inches. However, Kokanee in the 16 and 17 inch range found a way to elude anglers as many of that size appeared during the egg take.

The second egg take is always on Taylor Creek which feeds Lake Tahoe. However, due to low water conditions this year, that was unable to occur. Thus, a second egg take was scheduled for the Little Truckee on October 9th. During this second egg take, they did not need a large amount of eggs like the first time. The Department of Fish and Wildlife reduced their egg take quota to 1.25 million as they are planning to reduce plant numbers in 2015. As a result, only around 405,000 eggs were collected during the second egg take.

Once the egg takes are completed, they are usually delivered to the San Joaquin Fish Hatchery in Friant, CA where a group of Kokanee Power volunteers in partnership with the DFW tend to the eggs daily. However, for the first time ever, due to drought conditions, the water at the San Joaquin Fish Hatchery is too warm to raise Kokanee. The eggs are at the Moccasin Creek Hatchery by Lake Don Pedro as the water is much cooler. The water comes from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out with the eggs takes. Please watch the website for further volunteer information.



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<http://www.kokaneepower.org/store/>

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP? VISIT:

<http://www.kokaneepower.org/join.php>