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KOKANEE POWER  
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# THE KOKANEE KRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KOKANEE POWER

## ADDRESSING THE LOSS

BY: WES HAMASAKI

Towards the end of 2014, there were questions and concerns about some loss involving this year's Kokanee. That is true; some were loss. However, before we get too far, let's first take a trip down memory lane. It will help provide some background to the situation. It will help highlight the challenges, some insight to the reason for the loss, and a prediction of the future.

2014 was definitely a year of challenges; mainly due to the drought conditions that California has been facing. While Mother Nature has been relentless in that regard, she was still kind enough to provide us with water for the 2014 annual Kokanee egg take. During the 2014 egg take, a total of 1.25 million eggs were collected between the two egg takes that occurred.

Normally, once the egg takes are completed, the eggs are 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 adverse drought conditions, the water at the San Joaquin Fish Hatchery is too warm to raise Kokanee. The eggs had to be moved to the Moccasin Creek Hatchery by Lake Don Pedro as the water is much cooler. The water comes from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

We've all heard the common idiom, "One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel." The same goes for the Kokanee eggs. The daily care of the eggs is extremely vital to keep losses to a minimal. A "rotten" one can spoil many. With the eggs at the San Joaquin Fish Hatchery, our Kokanee Power members are there daily to help with sorting of the eggs. However, with the eggs at the Moccasin Creek Hatchery this year, the distance has made it difficult for our members to exercise the same amount of care. Nearly 485,000 fingerlings survived despite the adverse conditions, and they have now been split between the Moccasin Creek and Silverado hatcheries.

While a loss of eggs does sound scary, the Kokanee fishery can still be sustained. Every year, over a million eggs are collected in case there is such loss like we have experienced this year. Plus, on top of that, the DFW was also considering reducing the plant sizes across all lakes for 2015. Be assured that there are still plenty of Kokanee to go around for this year's plant. This may be a blessing as this could actually translate to minimizing overpopulation of our lakes and bigger fish to be caught!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 7th** —The Annual Fundraiser Banquet is this Saturday March 7th at the Waterloo Gun and Bocce Club in Stockton. Come join us for great dinner in a fun filled night with a big raffle, silent and live auction. Just go to the web site for the link to sign up for the event.

Our fund raising efforts go right back to the fishery and the special causes we support with your member, derby and fundraiser contributions. For any non-profit you should know where your dollars go and Kokanee Power lists this info on our Projects web page every year, which we believe provides full transparency to our organization.

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

<http://www.kokaneepower.org>

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