



CAMPBELL RIVER SALMON F•O•U•N•D•A•T•I•O•N

Annual Report 2017

The Campbell River Salmon Foundation has completed its tenth year of operation. This report is intended to update our members and contributors on the activities and accomplishments of CRSF in 2017. During 2017 the Foundation has funded over \$60,000 which has helped facilitate more than \$189,000 in funding through 11 different projects for local Salmon Enhancement.

Our mandate is to promote the conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of watersheds for Pacific Salmon north of the Oyster River and south of the Salmon River estuary and eastward to the adjacent mainland coast.

The current Board of Directors is comprised of the following volunteers:

Martin Buchanan, President
Troy Wilson, Treasurer
Don Bendickson, Director
Phillip Griffith, Director
Kent Moeller, Director
Terry Stuart, Director
Dan Telosky, Director

Rupert Gale, Vice President
Therisa Lowe, Secretary
Stewart Carstairs, Director
Corby Lamb, Director
Rick Senger, Director
Colin Taberner, Director

2017 Projects

\$500 - CRSF sponsored a fish tank at Campbell River Aquarium. The aquarium is a great venue in the education of the public on the importance of our local waters for healthy fish populations.

\$400 - CRSF provided funding to have the otoliths (ear bones) of 49 Chinook caught at the Tyee Pool in 2016 analyzed. The Quinsam hatchery has 3 distinct otolith marks for Chinook, hatchery raised, net pen raised, and Campbell River incubation box raised. This information is valuable in helping understand the success of the different stock enhancement methods.

\$12,400 - CRSF continued to fund the Campbell River Chinook incubation box program carried out by the Fisheries and Oceans Quinsam Hatchery. This program in its eleventh year is very important to the recovery of Chinook stocks in the Campbell River. 800,000 fry were released from the incubation boxes in the spring of 2017. These fish when they return are increasingly contributing to the natural spawning in the Campbell River.

\$6,000 - CRSF provided funding to the Greenways Land Trust Haig-Brown Kingfisher Creek Restoration Project which is a 3 year project focused on enhancing Coho, Chum and Cutthroat habitat. CRSF has committed \$32,100 of the \$148,625 total. CRSF provided \$6,000 in 2017, with the final contribution to be funded in 2018. As a special note \$2,000 of the CRSF contribution was provided by the Chris Allan Legacy Fund through the Victoria Foundation.

\$14,000 - CRSF provided funding to carry out a Campbell River gravel survey on the main stem of the river from First Island to the highway bridge. The extreme flows of November 2016 released by BC Hydro washed the majority of the Chinook spawning gravel out of the river. The results of the assessment indicate there is very little quality spawning gravel remaining for Chinook and chum salmon. The river is in critical need of gravel replenishment since there is no natural gravel recruitment since the installation of the John Hart Dam.

\$5,100 - CRSF provided funding to engineer and prepare a gravel placement project for submission to BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program for 2018. A new technique will be utilized in placing the gravel which will hopefully be able to withstand the higher flows being released in recent years.

\$5,000 - CRSF provided funding to the BC Centre for Aquatic Health for the Discovery Passage Plankton Monitoring Project which is a \$26,400 annual project. The productivity of the near shore environment is analyzed to indicate early rearing conditions and potential survival to returns and resulting brood availability. This type of information is essential for characterizing near shore ecosystem health and dynamics, and is important for the survival of all juvenile salmonids.

\$800 - CRSF provided several auction items to the Gillard Pass Fisheries Association for their fundraiser held at Stuart Island in August. The GPFA operates a Chinook hatchery and stock assessment program on the Phillips River.

\$5,100 - CRSF provided funding to the Sayward Fish and Game Club and DFO for their Chinook brood stock collection and stock assessment flight on the Salmon River. Eggs were collected for 125,000 fry to be released in 2018.

\$8,000 - CRSF provided funding to the Quinsam River Fish Passage Review by the AtLegay Fisheries Society and is the 2nd year of a project to examine fish passage at different flows and the effectiveness of improvements made to the lower Quinsam Lake cascades by CRSF in 2015. The CRSF has provided \$16,000 of a \$175,000 project.

\$2,700 - CRSF provided funding to assess and make minor modifications to the 2015 Quinsam River Fish Passage Project.

The CRSF is pleased to see the removal of the BC Hydro Salmon River Diversion which it had been pressing BC Hydro to improve fish passage for the last 10 years. Once the decision to remove the dam was made BC Hydro is to be commended in returning the river to a natural free flowing state within the short fish window available. Great accomplishment. Excellent for fish.

Ongoing Projects

\$82,000 was raised at the annual banquet and auction held in March 2017. This included donations from generous sponsors. The CRSF would like to thank all of its contributors and volunteers for their generous support.

CRSF continues to explore potential projects and funding partners.

CRSF continues to receive generous cash and in-kind contributions from local businesses and individuals.

The second annual ROYAL LEPAGE Advance Realty Salmon Derby donated \$24,000 to the CRSF.

In closing I would again like to thank Seymour Pacific Developments Ltd. for covering the CRSF administration costs annually as they have since our inauguration in May 2007.

The volunteer CRSF Board of Directors works hard to keep administration costs very low so that monies raised goes directly to Salmon enhancement projects.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'B'.

Martin Buchanan
President
Campbell River Salmon Foundation