



Campbell River Salmon Foundation Annual Report 2013

The Campbell River Salmon Foundation has completed its sixth year of operation. This report is intended to update our members and contributors on the activities and accomplishments of CRSF in 2013. During 2013 the Foundation has facilitated over \$265,000 in funding through 10 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, Chairman
Troy Wilson, Treasurer
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Jamie Gaskill, Director
Kris Mailman, Director
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Therisa Lowe, Secretary /Banquet Chairperson
Dale Blackburn, Director
Rupert Gale, Director
Corby Lamb, Director
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2013 Projects Funded

\$173,000 - CRSF lead the gravel placement project at Site 7 on the Campbell River just below the John Hart power station. 4200 tonnes of Chinook spawning gravel was placed in the river providing spawning habitat for 210 pairs of Chinook. The replenishment of gravel in the river is very important for the recovery of Chinook and is used by other salmon species as well. This Project was funded by BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (\$123,000), Fisheries and Oceans Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program (\$20,500), local DFO technical support (7,500), and the CRSF (\$22,000).

\$49,100 - Salmon River Coho Distribution Assessment, this project is assessing adult Coho distribution above and below the BC Hydro Salmon River Diversion dam. The results of this project help monitor the current escapement above the dam and will be important in determining the effectiveness of the improved fish passage at the dam that BC Hydro will be completing by the end of 2015. This project is primarily funded by the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (\$30,900) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. CRSF provides administration for the project.

\$10,800 - CRSF continued to fund the Chinook incubation box program carried out by the Fisheries and Oceans Quinsam Hatchery. This program in its eighth year is very important to the recovery of Chinook stocks in the Campbell River. In the fall of 2012 31% of the fish recovered in the DFO's dead pitch survey were from the incubation boxes with over 61% being 5 year olds. These returning fish are increasingly contributing to the natural spawning in the Campbell River.

\$6,400 - CRSF continued to fund the cost of the "Pinks at the Pier" project.

\$5,800 - CRSF and Storey Creek Golf Course jointly funded a Coho fish passage project on the 14th fairway at the headwaters of Woods Creek providing juvenile Coho access to overwintering habitat. Nyrstar provided the CRSF portion of the funding.

\$5,700 - CRSF provided funding for the Gillard Pass Fisheries Association stock assessment on the Phillips River and also provided a hand carved paddle for their live auction fundraiser held at Stewart Island in August. The GPFA operates a Chinook hatchery and stock assessment program on the Phillips River.

\$5,500 - CRSF provided funding to the new Campbell River Aquarium for their startup and tank sponsorship. The aquarium is a great venue in the education of the public on the importance of our local waters for healthy fish populations.

\$4,700 – Early Marine Biology of Juvenile Hatchery and Wild Salmon in and near the Campbell River Estuary Project. This project is analyzing data collected over 5 years and will look at the factors determining early marine survival rates. The project is funded by the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. CRSF provides administration for the project.

\$4,100 - C.R.S.F. is continuing to help fund a Coho Vibrio vaccination trial in its second of a three year project with D.F.O., Quinsam Hatchery and the Center for Aquatic Health Science. This is an important partnership with a controlled group of 40,000 Coho injected with a placebo saline solution and the other group of 40,000 vaccinated against vibriosis each year. Both groups would be adipose clipped and differently coded wire tagged to allow assessment of the Coho adults caught in the fisheries as well as escapement returns. The project is trying to determine if Coho ocean survival can be increased. In addition to the funds provided by CRSF the in kind contributions from the Quinsam hatchery, CAHS, and suppliers make up more than half the cost of this project.

\$1,000 - CRSF provided funding to the Campbell River Oceans Day committee for their successful educational and awareness event in June.

Ongoing Projects

In 2013 the Salmon River Diversion fish passage feasibility studies continued. CRSF has continued to push for proper fish passage to be installed at the diversion dam on the Salmon River. BC Hydro has now committed to have proper fish passage in place by the end of 2015.

CRSF has continued to look at the feasibility of improving fish passage on the Quinsam River below the lake which would increase the amount of spawning area for anadromous fish in the Quinsam River system. \$2,700 has been spent in 2013 to hire professionals to evaluate the potential project.

\$71,000 was raised at the annual banquet and auction. 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 receive generous cash and in-kind contributions from local businesses and individuals.

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 CRSF Board of Directors is very conscious of the importance of keeping administration costs very low and it's safe to say that our actual cost of administration is around one percent. The Board of Directors consists of all volunteers and we are well supported by all of the resource industries that operate in this community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Buchanan
Chairman
Campbell River Salmon Foundation

www.crsalmonfoudnation.org