



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

Annual Report 2018

The Campbell River Salmon Foundation has completed its eleventh year of operation. This report is intended to update our members and contributors on the activities and accomplishments of CRSF in 2018. During 2018 the Foundation has funded over \$86,000 which has helped facilitate more than \$293,000 in funding through 13 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
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Stewart Carstairs, Director
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2018 Projects

\$500 - CRSF provided funding to have the otoliths (ear bones) of 58 Chinook caught at the Tyee Pool in 2017 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 2018. These fish when they return are increasingly contributing to the natural spawning in the Campbell River. This program is now more important than ever as the gravel available for returning Chinook is greatly reduced. The extreme flows of November 2016 released by BC Hydro washed the majority of the Chinook spawning gravel out of the river.

\$5,500 - CRSF provided funding to the Tyee Club for their annual Campbell River estuary cleanup. The Tyee Club has been removing sunken debris from the estuary allowing for eel grass re-establishment.

\$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.

\$29,500 - CRSF provided funding for a Gillard Pass Fisheries Association's \$200,000 stock assessment project that operated three rotary screw traps on the Phillips River. The information gained is used to provide estimates of the number of Chinook juveniles produced from different parts of the watershed as well as total production. Supplementary biological samples were also being taken to establish life-history characteristics (stream type versus ocean type, size, timing etc.). The GPFA operates a Chinook hatchery and stock assessment program on the Phillips River.

\$2,000 - CRSF provided funding for an excavator to fix a fish stranding problem along the foreshore behind the Campbell River Indian Band carving shed. Over time gravel had shifted creating a trap for salmon smolts emigrating out of the Campbell River estuary, the area would go dry at low tide killing any fish trapped. DFO had identified the problem and with the quick help of the A-Tlegay Fisheries Society, Campbell River Indian Band, DFO, and CRSF the fish stranding issue was resolved.

\$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.

\$2,500 - CRSF provided funding to the BC Centre for Aquatic Health for the North Strait of Georgia Plankton Monitoring Project which is a \$4,800 annual project. This project was carried out in conjunction with the Oyster River Enhancement Society. The project took place near the mouth of the Oyster River which has different conditions from the Discovery Passage 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.

\$20,000 – CRSF provided funding for a Salmon River Nutrient Enrichment project carried out by the BC Conservation Foundation. This project adds nutrients to the Salmon River to improve the health and size of fry in the Salmon River leading to better survival. This is the first year of a two year commitment to the project.

\$750 - 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.

\$3,000 - CRSF provided funding to the Sayward Fish and Game Club to upgrade their Chinook brood stock holding ponds at their hatchery.

\$1,200 - CRSF provided funding for the Cortes Island Streamkeepers to modify incubation boxes for their Whaletown Creek chum restoration project.

\$3,000 - CRSF provided funding to the Hidden Harbour Chinook net pen rearing project. The funding is to replace the pen nets and provide fish food.

Ongoing Projects

\$113,000 was raised at the annual banquet and auction held in March 2018. 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 be engaged with BC Hydro and other local fisheries related organizations in looking for a solution to the crisis of spawning gravel in the Campbell River. Currently there is insufficient spawning gravel to maintain the iconic Campbell River Chinook. CRSF has again applied to the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Fund for a 2019 gravel project as the 2018 project was rejected. The current funding model by BC Hydro is not responsive to when gravel removal takes place and is much like a lottery in securing funds to provide adequate spawning gravel. Natural gravel recruitment ceased in 1947 with the construction of the John Hart Dam!

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 third annual ROYAL LEPAGE Advance Realty Salmon Derby donated \$31,000 to the CRSF.

The CRSF would like to thank the estate of Arnie Leigh for their generous donation.

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.



Martin Buchanan
President
Campbell River Salmon Foundation