

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

Annual Report 2019

The Campbell River Salmon Foundation has completed its twelfth year of operation. This report is intended to update our members and contributors on the activities and accomplishments of CRSF in 2019. During 2019, the Foundation contributed over \$97,000, which has helped facilitate more than \$360,000 in funding through 14 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, inclusive of the Salmon River Watershed and the Oyster River watershed.

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

Martin Buchanan, President
Troy Wilson, Treasurer
Phillip Griffith, Director
Rick Senger, Director
Terry Stuart, Director

Rupert Gale, Vice President
Stewart Carstairs, Director
Kent Moeller, Director
Laurel Sliskovic, Director
Colin Taberner, Director

Directors Don Bendickson, Corby Lamb, and Therisa Lowe retired in 2019 and we would like to thank them for their years of service on the Board.

2019 Projects

\$1,800 - CRSF provided funding for identification of otoliths (ear bones) of 53 Chinook caught at the Tye Pool in 2018. 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. The otolith information collected from 2016 to 2018 was analyzed and presented in an easy to read format.

\$11,800 - CRSF continued to fund the Campbell River Chinook incubation box program carried out by the Quinsam Hatchery. This program, in its twelfth year is very important to the recovery of Chinook stocks in the Campbell River. 896,000 fry were released from the incubation boxes in the spring of 2019. When they return (during their life cycle), these fish are increasingly contributing to the natural spawning in the Campbell River.

\$2,900 - CRSF provided funding to the Tye Club for their annual Campbell River estuary cleanup. The Tye Club has been removing sunken debris from the estuary and thus creates a healthier environment for eel grass re-establishment (in addition to overall environmental restoration).

\$21,000 - CRSF initiated a Campbell River Estuary Sub-tidal Habitat Mapping Project after finding a distinct lack of information on the sub-tidal areas of the estuary. The project mapped baseline quantification and qualification of habitats as well as identified restoration and habitat improvement opportunities within the estuary. It will also provide the ability to track future changes to the estuary habitats. The estuarine habitat is extremely important for juvenile salmonids rearing and smoltification.

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

\$8,200 - CRSF provided funding to the Quadra Island Salmon Enhancement Society for their Drew Creek habitat restoration project. Rejuvenating spawning habitat primarily for Chum salmon but also used by Coho and Cutthroat trout. Spawning gravel and large woody debris structures were added to the creek. A bridge was also constructed on a well used trail over Drew Creek to reduce sedimentation into the downstream spawning gravel.

\$2,500 - CRSF provided funding to the Quadra Island Salmon Enhancement Society to replace their unreliable outboard motor; the new outboard motor will ensure safe access to their Village Bay salmon counting fence.

\$16,400 - 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 committed \$32,100 of the \$148,625 total. CRSF provided \$16,400 in 2019, the final contribution to the project.

\$5,000 - CRSF provided funding to the BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences 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.

\$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 second year of a two year commitment to the project.

\$10,200 - CRSF provided funding to the Sayward Fish and Game Club for their Stowe Creek habitat restoration project. A side channel entrance on Stowe creek was deepening and diverting more flow into it which trapped salmonids fry and parr. The channel dried out in the summer months killing the fish. A weir was constructed to block fish access to a side channel. The \$5500 raised by the Straits View Cafe Salmon Festival and donated to CRSF for use in the Sayward area was used in this project.

\$4,000 - CRSF lead the gravel placement project at Site 7 on the Campbell River just below the John Hart power station. Gravel was placed here in August 2016 but was washed out by extreme flows released from John Hart Dam during a storm event in November. 1500 m² of Chinook spawning gravel was placed in the river providing spawning habitat for 150 pairs of Chinook.

In an effort to reduce loss of spawning gravel at high flows, part of the gravel placement area had the river bottom dug out to a depth of 1 metre prior to the new gravel placement to see if it will withstand higher flows before being mobilized. Four gravel sensors were planted in the new gravel and will measure at what flow the gravel starts to move and to what depth it washes out. 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 (\$189,000), local DFO technical support (\$3,000), and the CRSF (\$4,000).

\$3,000 - The CRSF initiated a Level 1 Fish Habitat Assessment of Woods Creek, and is developing specific plans for habitat restoration and enhancement opportunities.

\$570 - CRSF provided funding to the Campbell River Guides Association to have the net pens used to rear 100,000 Chinook at Hidden Harbour, towed back to April Point for storage.

Ongoing Projects

\$110,000 was raised at the annual banquet and auction held in March 2019. 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 lack of spawning gravel in the Campbell River. Following this engagement the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Fund (FWCP) has modified its funding model to be more responsive to timely replacement of spawning gravel when it is washed out by high water releases. Natural gravel recruitment ceased in 1947 with the construction of the John Hart Dam!

CRSF has applied to the FWCP for a 2020 gravel placement project at Site 9 above the pump station.

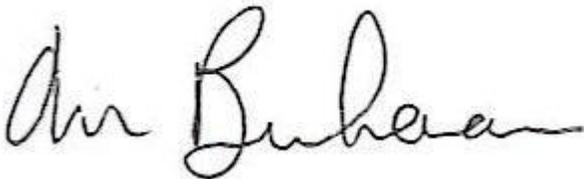
CRSF continues to explore potential projects and funding partners.

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

The Straits View Cafe Salmon Festival held on Labour Day weekend raised \$5525 to be used for projects in the Sayward area. The money raised was used on the Sayward Fish and Game Club Stowe Creek project. Thank you to Nancy Chritchley for organizing the event

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, flowing style.

Martin Buchanan
President
Campbell River Salmon Foundation

www.crsalmonfoundation.ca