



## UPCOMING PROPOSED RESEARCH

## Looking Forward on the Work to (Re)Connect with Salmon

CTFN aims to conduct more research related to salmon in the Southern Lakes:

- Reviewing and collecting traditional knowledge related to places where salmon have been observed.
- Stream assessments to develop plans for salmon habitat restoration. These assessments would tell us whether historical salmon habitats are still suitable for salmon and inform efforts to restore them by removing beaver dams and debris, for example.
- Continued work with KDFN and TKC in carcass surveys and juvenile research in Michie Creek.
- Researching the potential for salmon enhancement, including in-stream incubation and small-scale hatchery operations.
- Researching how changes in climate may affect where salmon want to go.

*Gunalchéesh, for reading!*

(RE)CONNECTING WITH SALMON

**For more information, contact:**

Catherine Ford-Lammers, CTFN  
afroil@protonmail.com  
867-689-5271

Jen Herkes, 2 Crow Consulting  
jenherkes@gmail.com  
250-552-4817



*XÁAT KA KU. ÓO KUXUDATÍ (LINGÍT)*  
(RESILIENCE OF SALMON AND PEOPLE)

(RE)CONNECTING WITH  
*Salmon*

**NOVEMBER 2024**  
*Newsletter*

## FIELD WORK

## ROBOTS, CARCASSES SHED LIGHT ON CURRENT SALMON REALITIES

*This summer, Carcross Tagish First Nation staff and citizens participated in some outside-the-box salmon related fieldwork.*

Field work on salmon involved robot fish, carcass surveys, and juvenile salmon this year, providing new understanding of the current salmon lifecycle.

Catherine Ford-Lammers worked with Ecofish to send off some robot sensor fish through the dam so we can better understand how the salmon fry are affected by the turbines and spillway.

Scottie James and Amaya Cherian-Hall spent two days with Ecofish on the Teslin River conducting carcass surveys. These surveys help to understand the health of the salmon populations. The salmon continue to give back after their death and the information gathered includes age, health, population numbers, nutrient information, and other data.

Amaya also spent two days at Michie Creek with EDI and Kwanlin Dun First Nation to study juvenile salmon. Live traps were set to count and measure the salmon, and to measure the water levels and flow in the creek.

CTFN is working to secure funding for more salmon-related research in the southern parts of the territory, with an aim to bring the salmon back to their traditional habitats. This research will use traditional knowledge to understand where salmon were abundant in the past in order to monitor those places and come up with plans to restore and enhance their environment.

Carcass surveys give insight into the health, age, and population numbers of wild salmon.







FIELD WORK

Highlights from Michie Creek

Juvenile monitoring was done for the first time since 2012 this year. As a measure of the success of spawning, 102 wild and 55 hatchery juvenile chinook were observed. Among them, the team also observed grayling, burbot, sucker and sculpin.

The team also monitored spawning in the upper Michie. In a single day, they observed 75 adult Chinook and 48 redds, higher numbers than juvenile populations observed in 2017.

Michie Creek is a known traditional spawning creek, branching from the M'Clintock River. Traditionally, people travelled from Tagish and Carcross to the M'Clintock River to harvest salmon.

During observations, the team removed a beaver dam to maintain the habitat, showing the added value of reconnecting with salmon populations through monitoring.

Release the Fry!

- This year 43,263 fry were flown by helicopter and released into Michie Creek.
- A public release at Wolf Creek on May 26 added up to 1,000 fry.

HATCHERY TOUR

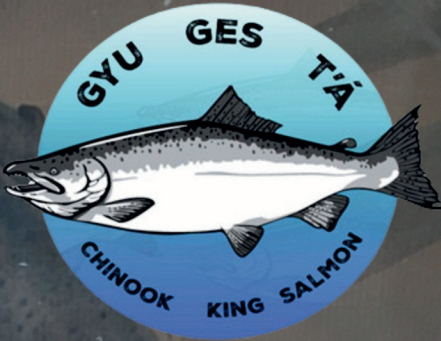


Summer Tour of Hatchery Shows Positive Change

Members of the Technical Working Group for the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station Dam relicensing took a tour of the Whitehorse Fish Hatchery this summer, July 25.

Staff at the hatchery explained some naturalization changes being made in response to requests from the First Nations.

Among these changes, adjusting the lights in the hatchery to mimic daylight and adding material to the tanks to make it more natural.



SALMON GIVEAWAY

Relationships Strengthened with Salmon

2,400 pounds of salmon were given out to CTFN citizens this year.

Salmon are an important part of the Southern Lakes and the lives of CTFN people.

The relationship with salmon has been altered because of development and other changes, however, the relationship that CTFN people have with salmon remains strong.

To make sure that this relationship continues, every year CTFN purchases salmon from the Taku River to provide to the citizens.

Big thanks to Donna Wolf and the Lands and Natural Resources team!

Joke of the Day

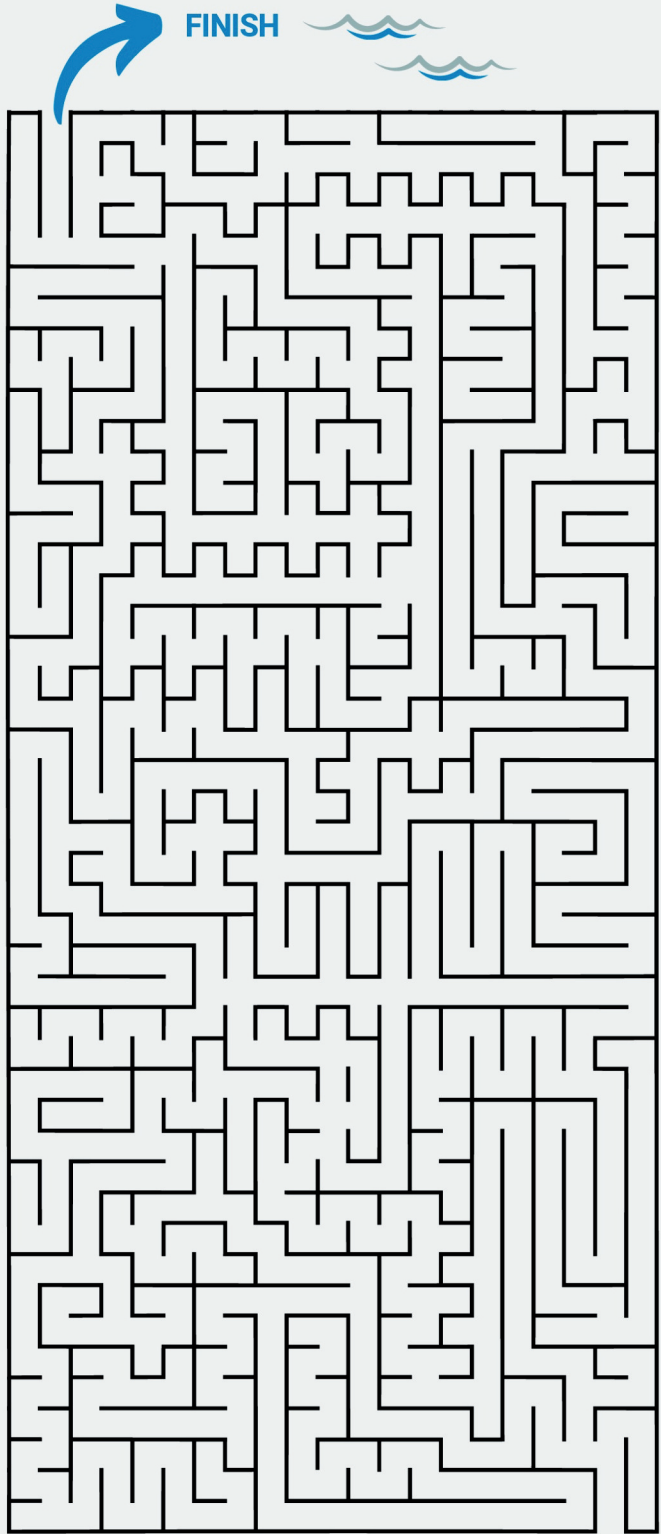
What do you call a boat full of salmon eggs?

Answer: A roe boat

MAZE

Find Your Way Up the Fish Ladder

Sammy the Salmon needs some help making her way up the fish ladder. **Can you show her the way?**



START



OKANAGAN HATCHERY

First Nations Run  
Hatchery Inspires  
Through Success

Representatives for CTFN had the opportunity to visit the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) Hatchery in Penticton, B.C., in September and take part in their First Nation's Salmon Feast Event.

It was a valuable visit as a testament to First Nations operating their own hatchery to help restore salmon populations, even after they were told by regulators that the efforts were futile.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance was formed in 1981 as the inaugural First Nations government in the Okanagan which is made up of the eight member communities: Okanagan Indian Band, Upper Nicola Band, Westbank First Nation, Penticton Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, and the Colville Confederated Tribes on areas of common concern. Each of these communities is represented through the Chief Executive Council by their own chief or chairman representative.

The ONA Hatchery is run by First Nations citizens and is doing amazing work incorporating ceremony and traditional knowledge and values and has proven success in bringing back their salmon.

Their people operate the hatchery with great pride while proving to others that they can succeed where DFO has failed.

Chu Nii kwän Gyu Stewardship Centre



SALMON STEWARDSHIP  
CENTRE FEASIBILITY

Reconnecting the  
Broken Salmon Trail

The Salmon Stewardship Centre feasibility study was initiated by KDFN in response to direction given in the Southern Lakes Salmon Plan, Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail.

A study is currently underway to determine the feasibility of the project with planned features that include teaching and gathering spaces, a research hub, a centre for chinook restoration, and, potentially, a new small-scale hatchery based on modern best practices.

In the first year of the feasibility study, the need was identified

to partner with CTFN and TKC and to identify the community specific values aligned with the project.

Planning is underway for CTFN staff and decision-makers to tour B.C. First Nations stewardship centres and hatcheries in 2025. The study is also working to integrate knowledge and teachings into restoration and hatchery planning.

Next steps:

- Engage Southern Lakes First Nation communities,
- Develop joint vision and collaborative goals,
- Pursue funding partnerships,
- Develop governance framework (MOU between KDFN, CTFN, TKC).
- Identify potential locations.
- Begin technical feasibility assessment.

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT

KEEP AN EYE OUT OR LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE EVENTS.

Jen Herkes: [jenherkes@gmail.com](mailto:jenherkes@gmail.com)  
Catherine Ford-Lammers: [afroil@protonmail.com](mailto:afroil@protonmail.com)



HATCHERY TOUR

Open to the Public

The hatchery collects fish from the fish ladder each year to collect their eggs and milt.

These fish are collected after the first 10 female fish pass through the ladder, and then less than 30 per cent of the fish are collected.

This year, 53 fish were collected (25 female and 28 male) and provided to the First Nations for distribution.

**Would you like to have a tour of the hatchery?** Contact Catherine Ford-Lammers for information.

**Catherine Ford-Lammers, CTFN**  
[afroil@protonmail.com](mailto:afroil@protonmail.com)  
867-689-5271

Highlights from the Panel: Salmon  
Protection and Rebuilding Make Headway



The Yukon River Panel meets twice a year, in January and April, with locations alternating between Alaska and Yukon.

This year, Yukon and Alaska signed an agreement to not fish Chinook for the next seven years on the mainstem Yukon River.

Additionally, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has begun a salmon rebuilding plan. As part of the planning process, CTFN has participated in two workshops already, with two more workshops scheduled this month, and in March 2025.

Yukon River Panel meetings are open to the public and allow for public testimony.

The January 2025 meeting will be in Anchorage, and the April 2025 meeting will be in Dawson.

The panel includes members from Yukon and United States, as well as First Nation advisors.

CTFN's Danny Cresswell is a member of the panel elected by the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee, and Jen Herkes attends on behalf of CTFN as a member of the Traditional Knowledge Committee.

Past public meetings are video recorded and can be watched online:

**[www.yukonriverpanel.com/meetings/past-meetings](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/meetings/past-meetings)**



WHITEHORSE RAPIDS  
GENERATING STATION

Generating Better  
Conditions for Salmon

CTFN's advocacy through the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station dam relicensing process for the past two and a half years has been an uphill battle to ensure the First Nation's voice and knowledge can have an important impact.

The Whitehorse dam was built in 1956, when First Nations were excluded from consultation and were not able to consent to this major project. Waters from the Bennett and Tagish Lakes flow towards and power the dam, impacting the natural water features and the life they support.

CTFN joined the table during the relicensing process over two years ago in hopes that the First Nation's input will help find ways for the dam to operate in a way that has less impact on the land, water, animals, and fish that the CTFN people rely on as a way of life.

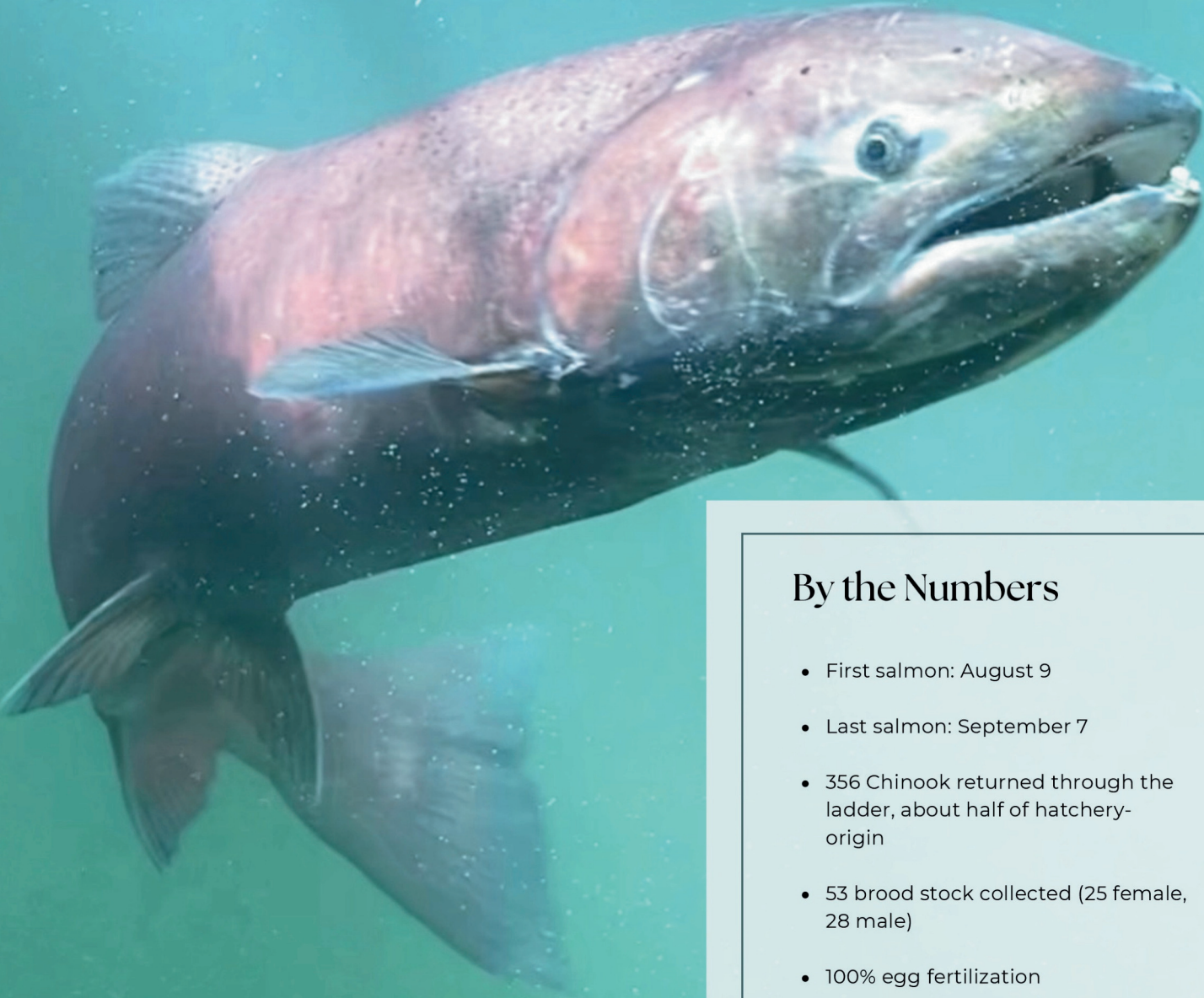
Through this process, CTFN has been a strong advocate for the chinook salmon, which have been blocked from their natural spawning grounds for over 65 years by the dam. The result is a decline in the salmon population.

The First Nation is advocating for a new fish ladder, responding to CTFN citizens' repeated objections to the use of creosote timber logs, which are toxic to fish, used on the fish ladder. With new available solutions, CTFN has encouraged a shift to an alternative material.

CTFN is also advocating for a safer way back down the stream for chinook fry when they are heading back out to the ocean, and has also worked with the hatchery to include traditional values and ceremony in those operations.



Ladder Count  
2024



By the Numbers

- First salmon: August 9
- Last salmon: September 7
- 356 Chinook returned through the ladder, about half of hatchery-origin
- 53 brood stock collected (25 female, 28 male)
- 100% egg fertilization

After spawning and fertilization, Chinook were sampled, cleaned, frozen and distributed to First Nations

Photo Credit: Whitehorse Fish Ladder



SALMON DAY

Salmon, in Celebration

Citizens from CTFN, Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN), and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) gathered this summer on Aug. 2 to celebrate Salmon Day at McClintock Bay Resort.

The event featured a salmon feast, a fish filleting contest led by Colleen James, a prayer and welcome ceremony for salmon, and door prizes and gift giveaways.

Next Salmon Day will be hosted by TKC in 2025.

Photos by Catherine Ford-Lammers.

