

RE-14-98

**SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM
FIELD TRIPS
SPRING 1998**

Prepared for:
The Yukon River Panel
Restoration and Enhancement Fund

By:
Trix Tanner
Streamkeepers North Society

On:
September 30, 1998

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM FIELD TRIPS: SPRING 1998

Background:

In 1997 Streamkeepers North Society applied for and received Restoration and Enhancement funds from the Yukon River Panel to pay for Yukon school groups to participate in field trips to release the salmon fry they had incubated, and to study salmon habitat.

The objective of the Salmon in the Classroom field trips is to give students a hands on experience with salmon and aquatic habitats. This further extends the sense of responsibility that the students develop for the salmon fry they have reared to include the natural habitat of the salmon and aquatic habitats in general. The field trip at the end of the year is a memorable experience that brings to life the scientific concepts students have been taught in the classroom.

Salmon in the Classroom 1997-1998:

Over the 1997-1998 school year, twenty-two Yukon schools in nine communities incubated salmon eggs. They were provided with chinook eggs or chum eggs from stocks as close to their school as was available, or as was requested, to facilitate student participation in releases back to the salmon's natal stream. Three stocks of chinook and two stocks of chum were used. (See attached spreadsheet summary.)

Egg survival ranged from zero percent to 96 percent, with an average of about 76percent. Problems with survival were mainly due to overfeeding and subsequent problems with tank cleanliness. One class with green chum eggs likely started with some infertile eggs. Overall, the students released almost 2400 salmon fry. Classes with the poorest survival rates probably learned the most about the vulnerability of salmon to environmental stresses!

Teachers used a variety of materials over the school year to teach the salmon theme. These included videos and written curriculum material, water quality test kits, "Streamkeepers" kits, guest speakers, salmon carcasses for dissection, and classroom incubators.

Field Trips 1997-1998:

All classes participated in salmon related field trips, including visits to the Whitehorse Rapids Hatchery, the McIntyre Creek salmon incubation project, the salmon display at the museum, Wolf Creek, the Whitehorse Fishway. One school participated in chum broodstock collection and egg take in October. Two classes visited FOC facilities in British Columbia as part of extensive field trips for which they fund-raised.

At the end of the school year all classes were given the opportunity to release their fry. Only one school could not participate. Field trip activities varied with the age of the students. Apart from releasing fry, they included examining the substrate, the aquatic invertebrates, the riparian zone, and the water quality, and playing games that reinforced what they had learned. Many parent volunteers accompanied the students. Classes went to Flat Creek (Takhini River drainage), Morley River, the Kluane River, Tatchun Creek and the Porcupine River. Many teachers commented that this was the highlight of the program.

Conclusion:

The funding provided by the Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement fund provided hundreds of Yukon school children with a wonderful learning experience, and thereby helped to instill in them, and their families, a sense of stewardship towards Yukon salmon and their habitat.

STUDENTS TOURING THE MCINTYRE CREEK SALMON INCUBATION SITE:



STUDENTS STUDYING FLAT CREEK SALMON HABITAT:



SUMMARY OF SALMON INCUBATION PROJECTS IN YUKON SCHOOLS: 1997-1998												
SCHOOL	COMMUNIT	SPECIES OF SALMON	STOCK	SOURCE	DATE DELIVERED	NUMBER OF EGGS	ATU'S AT DELIVERY	DATE RELEASED	%SURVIVAL TO RELEAS	# fr released	COMMENTS	
CARCROSS	CARCROSS	CHINOOK	MORLEY	MCINTYRE PROJECT	19-Nov-97	100	435	22-May-98	86	86		
JOHNSON ELEM	WATSON L.	CHINOOK	MORLEY R	MCINTYRE PROJECT	23-Nov-97	84	454	28-May	91.66667	77		
TOTALS/AVERAGES MORLEY:						184			88.83333	163		
HOLY FAMILY	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	6-Nov-97	74	340	2-Jun-98	90.54054	67		
GOLDEN HORN	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	6-Nov-97	87	340	26-May	90.8046	79		
FHC	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	6-Nov-97	75	340	5-May-98	81.33333	61		
CKES	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	14-Nov-97	75	340	3-Jun	80	60		
WHSE.ELEM	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	18-Nov-97	60	380	4-Jun-98	86.66667	52		
WOOD ST****##	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	18-Nov-97	75	397	1-Jun	80	60	EST.	
TAKHINI	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	18-Nov-97	75	397	19-May	88	66		
JACK HULLAND	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	20-Nov-97	76	409	20-May-98	94.73684	72		
HIDDEN VALLEY	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	20-Nov-97	75	405	27-May-98	93.33333	70		
SELKIRK	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	25-Nov-97	75	425	13-May	26.66667	20	OVERFEEDING	
ELIJAH SMITH	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	26-Nov-97	76	429	14-May-98	53.94737	41	AQUARIUM DIRTY	
GREY MT	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	1-Dec-97	75	449.5	21-May-98	0	0	BACTERIAL GILL DISEAS	
GREY MT EXTRA FRY		CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	Mar-98	40		21-May-98	100	40		
TOTALS/AVERAGES TAKHINI:						938			74.30995	688		
ROBERT SERVICE	DAWSON	CHINOOK	TATCHUN	MCINTYRE PROJECT	13-Nov-97	75	378	16-May	90.66667	68		
TANTALUS	CARMACKS	CHINOOK	TATCHUN	MCINTYRE PROJECT	13-Nov-97	100	378	4-May	65	65	OVERFEEDING	
DEL VAN GORDER	FARO	CHINOOK	TATCHUN	MCINTYRE PROJECT	30-Nov-97	101	455	10-Jun	96.0396	97		
TOTALS/AVERAGES TATCHUN:						276			83.90209	230		
CHIEF ZZEH GITTLIT ***#	OLD CROW	CHUM	FISHING BR	FISHING BRANCH	26-Sep-97	500	0	JUNE	70	350	EST.	
ST ELIAS	HAINES JCT	CHUM	KLUANE	KLUANE	24-Oct-97	625	0	1-May	94.72	592		
KLUANE LAKE	DESTR. BAY	CHUM	KLUANE R	KLUANE R	24-Oct-97	1075	0	9-Apr	27.34884	294	INFERTILE EGGS	
YOUNG OFFENDERS	WHSE	CHUM	KLUANE	KLUANE	24-Oct-97	75	0	15-May	74.66667	56		
TOTALS/AVERAGES KLUANE:						1775			65.5785	942		