

2014

Year End Report



2014 Fish Ladder Staff

(Left to Right: Jon, Brittany, Hannah, Ryan, Franziska, Liam and Tony)

Staff

All staff members started this season before the end of June. I was very impressed with the staff this year; as everyone added a unique skillset to the Fish Ladder. They were all enthusiastic, and loved giving tours to the public. Jon and Hannah have expressed interest in returning next year as potential supervisors/managers.

Appreciation Night

Yukoner Appreciation Night at the Fish Ladder is always an exciting night. This year we held the event on August 15th. Appreciation Night is our way of thanking the public for supporting the facility. We seek donations from various local businesses, and always get great responses. The donations were used as door prizes; however, some businesses have chosen to provide us with food for the evening.

All staff really came together, and went out of their way to ensure a successful night! This includes Lawrence Vano and Janet Patterson who showed up and helped with all the activities.

Wildlife

This season we had less wildlife around the Fish Ladder. We only had 1 beaver incident, and only a few Muskrats. We've seen numerous fish species in the Ladder such as Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Northern Pike fry, White Fish, Arctic Grayling, Chinook fry and smolts, and Long Nose Suckers.

Fish Tanks

We had no issues with the fish tanks this year as the Kokanee, Rainbow Trout and Chinook Fry have looked healthy.

We have cleaned out the tanks on September 2nd and released the Chinook fry back into Wolf Creek.

Chinook Salmon

The first Chinook salmon swam through the Fish Ladder roughly two weeks early this year on July 21st. The first salmon recorded at Eagle sonar radar was on June 18th. Roughly 64,522 Chinook salmon have passed through Eagle Station. This placed management in the green zone for the Chinook; however, fishing remained closed for the 2014 season.

We saw our first Chinook at the entrance of the Fish Ladder on July 20th. It took one day before we saw the first salmon (wild female) in the viewing window. The highest day of the year was August 9th, 257 salmon swam through the Fish Ladder. On this day, we had to perform a salmon sort of over 110 at 7 pm. Ryan, Lawrence and I were called in to help the staff. Our grand total as of September 2nd was 1601 Chinook salmon.

We had a grand total of 1229 hatchery fish, therefore, 77% of the Whitehorse run were hatchery origin. We had a grand total of 435 females coming through the ladder; therefore 27% of the run were females.

We've had two separate incidents of potential poaching this year. The first was when we found fish tails and fins in the woods behind the fish Ladder. The second was when we found a full fish (missing its head) in the middle of the millennium trail. Both incidents were documented and sent to DFO and Conservative Officer Services.

Visitors

This year we had a grand total of 21011 visitors. 2107 of these visitors were from Holland America.

Recommendations

1. The hand rail on the upper ladder needs to be changed. This rail is out on the board walk, towards and above the viewing windows. The wood is decomposing and is right about to collapse.
2. Gates on upper Ladder need to be repaired to close properly
3. A spring should be installed at the top of the back door to prevent it from slamming when it is windy outside
4. A new phone for the office as it's olds and hard to hear callers
5. A new salmon count board should be ordered and installed that will make it easier for visitors to read.
6. Salmon life cycle and generally information pamphlets for visitors.
7. New "Where are you from" pin map.