

PROJECT #CRE-67-03

STREAMKEEPERS NORTH SOCIETY



**STREAMKEEPERS NORTH SOCIETY
YUKON SCHOOLS FRY RELEASES AND HABITAT STUDIES
2003-2004**

**YUKON RIVER SALMON RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT FUND
PROJECT #CRE-67-03
FINAL REPORT MARCH 2004**

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STREAMKEEPERS NORTH SOCIETY YUKON SCHOOLS FRY RELEASES AND HABITAT STUDIES 2003-2004

Introduction:

Conservation of Yukon River salmon runs depends on the maintenance and development of a stewardship ethic among those who live in the watershed. The Salmon in the Classroom program helps students to achieve a better understanding of salmon and their habitat requirements, and thus helps to foster a stewardship ethic in students and their families. Field trip funding enabled students involved with the "Salmon in the Classroom" program to participate in various aquatic habitat studies, giving them a memorable experience that brought to life the scientific concepts students had been taught in the classroom. For students who had raised fry in their classroom, the sense of stewardship that the students developed for their fry was extended to include the natural salmon habitat and aquatic habitats in general. Stewardship became an even greater focus on some field trips, where shoreline cleanups were conducted.

Project Location:

Students participated in field trips to many Yukon aquatic habitats, including McIntyre Creek, Kluane River, Flat Creek, and Tatchun Creek, Porter Creek, Ibex River, Nares River, and Fish Eye Lake.

Project Summary:

The primary objective of this project was to enable students involved with the "Salmon in the Classroom" program to participate in a fry release field trip including various salmon habitat studies to better understand the nature of salmon habitat. The R and E funding enabled twelve Yukon schools to participate in field trips at which students released their salmon fry and conducted various habitat studies. Students also participated in the fall Kluane Lake egg collection field trip, and in field trips that included clean ups of river banks and lakeshores in Carcross, Faro and the Whitehorse area. Students and teachers participated in aquatic habitat studies. In most cases, the classes were accompanied by, and in some cases were chauffeured by, parent volunteers. The DFO education coordinator was available to facilitate the fry release and aquatic habitat field trip activities. Activities varied with the age and time available. They included aquatic invertebrate studies, water quality and studies, life cycle games, and dissections.

These activities also met the objectives of enabling classes that incubated salmon in their schools to release their fry back into their natal streams, and thus make the connection between their classroom studies and the natural habitat of salmon. The field trip activities also helped to give students, teachers and parent volunteers an appreciation of the natural aquatic habitat of the salmon and to foster stewardship of the salmon and their habitat.

Fry releases: Twelve of the Yukon schools involved with the Salmon in the Classroom projects in 2002-2003 participated in fry releases between early May and mid June, 2003. Students were bussed or chauffeured by volunteers out to various creeks to release salmon fry to their natal streams. Students, teachers and volunteers released fry into Flat Creek (Takhini river drainage), Tatchun Creek, and into the Kluane River. Eight classes incorporated a tour of the McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project into their field trips. Field trip durations varied from a couple of hours to a full day. Over 700 fry were released from the school incubation projects in 2003. These were the survivors from a total of an estimated 965 eggs. (See attached data sheet.)

Other aquatic field trips (not fry releases):

Kluane Lake School once again participated in an egg take at Kluane River in October 2003. Other school field trip study sites included Porter Creek, Nares River, Fish Eye Lake, and the Ibex River. Classes at Jack Hulland School, Golden Horn School, Carcross Community School and Del van Gorder School each participated in field trips that included shoreline cleanups.

Classroom Incubator Carts:

Problems with salmon incubator chillers can result in leakage of coolants, and in subsequent loss of fry. The classroom incubation program has experienced several problems with the chillers due to damage during movement and storage. In late summer of 2003, Streamkeepers North Society was offered the opportunity to purchase salmon incubation carts from the BC Watership Foundation at a subsidized price (Half of usual cart purchase price). The carts are designed to protect the equipment during use and storage, and to facilitate the operation and sharing between classes of the incubation system. Streamkeepers purchased six and offered them to schools for half the cost that the society had paid.

Ongoing:

The Salmon in the Classroom Program and incubators were again offered to Yukon teachers in the fall of 2003. The new Salmon in the Classroom Lesson aid was also offered to teachers. Seventeen classes decided to participate in the incubation portion of the project. They are currently rearing fish and will release their fry in May and June of 2004.

Partners:

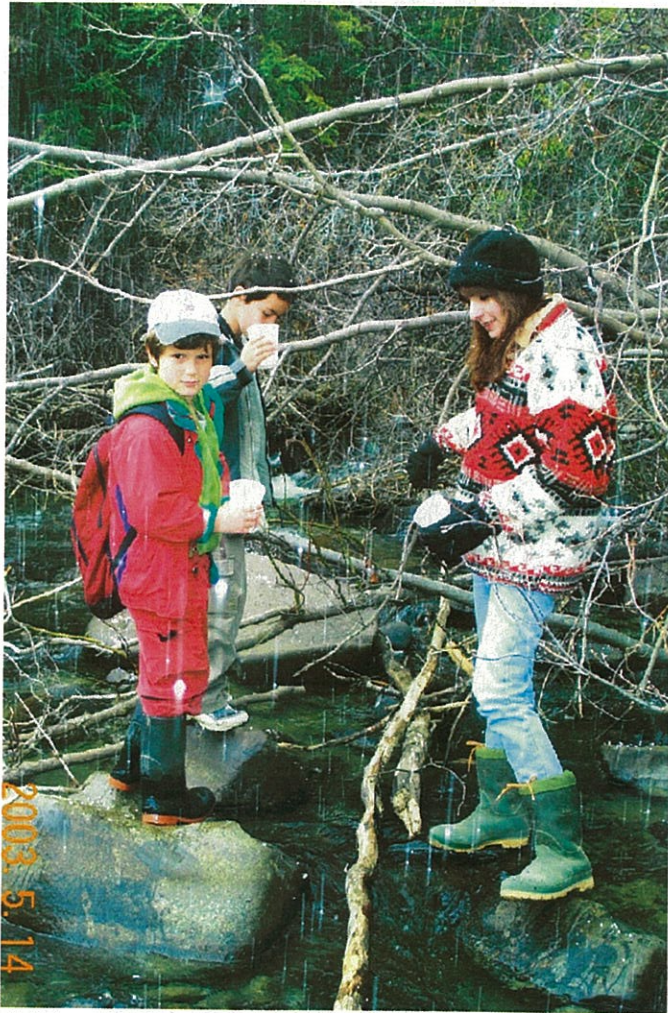
Many organizations contributed to the success of this project. **Yukon Schools** teachers taught the Salmon in the Classroom program, and supervised classroom incubation and field trips. They were assisted on field trips by **parents and other volunteers**.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada conducted egg takes for the schools and provided technical support to the salmon in the classroom program. **Yukon College** students with the support of the **Northern Research Institute** incubated the 2002-03 chinook eggs to the eyed stage, and maintained the McIntyre field trip site. Teachers from Wood Street school and Streamkeepers volunteers assisted with the 2003 Tatchun Creek egg take.

Y2C2 and **Yukon College** students maintained the McIntyre site in 2003-04.

Attached:

1. School fry release spreadsheet 2003.
4. Budget Report 67-03.



Hidden Valley School releasing fry at Flat Creek

(Cover page photo: Student sorting aquatic invertebrates at Flat Creek)

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Yukon Schools Fry Releases and Habitat Studies Field Trips Expenses:

cheque #	School	amount
104	Eliza van Bibber	\$400.00
105	Elijah Smith	\$200.00
108	Golden Horn	\$200.00
111	Carcross	\$200.00
112	Jack Hulland	\$200.00
114	Kluane Lake	\$200.00
115	WhitehorseElementary	\$300.00
116	Holy family	\$200.00
124	September field trip Jack Hulland	\$200.00
126	del Van Gorder fry release	\$200.00
127	Hidden valley field trip	\$200.00
128	Carcross School aquatic hab trip	\$200.00
129	Wood Street field trip	\$200.00
130	Kluane Lake salmon egg take field trip	\$200.00
131	FHC salmon fry release field trip	\$200.00
132	del Van Gorder aquatic habitat field trip fall 2003	\$200.00
	Total field trip expenses:	\$3,500.00

Yukon schools salmon incubator cart expenses :

(for 6 carts the construction of which was partly subsidized by Watership Foundation.)

123	Watership Foundation aquarium carts	1444.5
125	Canadian freightways to ship carts	383.15
	recoup from schools @ 150 each	-900
		\$927.65

Total Expenses for 67-03 including carts:

\$4,427.65

School	Teacher	Community	Salmon Species	River System	Intermediate Incubation site	Delivery date	Release date	Number Delivered	Number Released
FHC	Scott Kirby, Ken	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	07-Nov-02	12-May	51	50
WHSE.ELEM	Corrine Girtler/Sue G	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	05-Nov-02	Jun-05	51	47
WOOD ST****##	Kevin, Alain	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	15-Nov-02	Jun-12	51	47
HOLY FAMILY	Betty Byblow	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	06-Nov-02	06-Jun	51	48
JACK HULLAND	Ken Taylor	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	13-Nov-02	15-May	51	43
ELIJAH SMITH	Kerri Peters	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	12-Nov-02	02-Jun	51	45
GOLDEN HORN	Ev pasichnyk	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	12-Nov-02	03-Jun	52	52
HIDDEN VALLEY	Dennis Darling, Cher	WHSE	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	19-Nov-02	14-May	51	45
CARCROSS	Fran Nieman and Ani	CARCROSS	CHINOOK	TAKHINI	MCINTYRE PROJECT	19-Nov-02	04-Jun	52	49
<u>TAKHINI TOTALS:</u>								461	426 92%
DEL VAN GORDER	Renee Dove	Faro	CHINOOK	TATCHUN	MCINTYRE PROJECT	Dec-11	May	52	45
ELIZA VAN BIBBER	Chris Kingsbury con	Pelly	CHINOOK	TATCHUN	MCINTYRE PROJECT	01-Dec	16-May	52	47
<u>TATCHUN TOTALS:</u>								104	92 88%
KLUANE LAKE	Roxienne Prestone	DESTR. BAY	CHUM	<u>KLUANE</u>	KLUANE LAKE SCHOOL started with green eggs class collected and fertilized eggs ** had problems with incubator filter	Oct-18	29-Apr	400	196 49%