

Seymour Hatchery & Education Centre Newsletter

Fall 2025

The summer and early fall have been busy, and we have continued our fisheries enhancement efforts, advanced habitat restoration, welcomed elementary students for hands-on learning, hosted community events, and kept our facilities in top shape. Early signs point to positive salmon returns, and we are eager for the fall runs to further boost the watershed's health.

Our progress is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), and the District of North Vancouver Firefighters Charitable Society. We deeply appreciate our community volunteers - your dedication is essential to our success. Thank you for helping us accomplish so much for the watershed.



Seining the hatchery pool for adult enhancement and fish releases above Seymour Falls dam

Our plan for 2025 is to keep a close eye on the rockslide and see which fish species are making it through the canyon. We already know that most species can get past at certain water levels, but not when the river is low in summer or winter. This year we are paying special attention to pink salmon and winter-run steelhead, since their journeys happen when water levels are at their lowest. We want to better understand how these fish manage to move through the canyon during those challenging low flow periods.

To date, winter run steelhead successfully migrated through the canyon during Spring and continue our monitoring during the Fall for coho, pink and chinook salmon movement. The river has been lower and warmer than anticipated, but we have finally had some early Fall rains.

Upcoming Events

[Our Earth Festival](#) – October 16

[Ocean Film Festival](#) – November 6

Media Highlights

[Salmon Returning to North Shore Streams](#)

[Salmon Releases Above Seymour Falls Dam](#)

[Editorial – Salute to Salmon](#)

Contact

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to our newsletter, please email volunteering@seymoursalmon.com

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In the Watershed

Pink salmon spawning is almost complete in the lower river, chinook are beginning to spawn in the mid-reaches of the mainstem (downstream of the dam), and coho are starting to enter the tributaries in preparation for spawning. We have also observed eagles arriving to feast on the spawned-out salmon.

Salmonid Enhancement

The pink salmon run is nearly complete, with only a few left spawning in the lower river. Our broodstock team secured 100 pairs for hatchery enhancement - 70 pairs have been spawned, with the remainder scheduled for this week. Chum collection will start shortly, and our team is actively scouting for adults. Coho broodstock collection is underway and will continue into November. Preparations for summer steelhead collection begin in late November.



Summer run steelhead captured during a river seine

Education

Our Gently Down the Seymour Fall classes filled up within hours of registration opening! The first class launched on September 22 and run through October 17.

BCWF educators continue to inspire students, who love exploring the facility, observing adult salmon, discovering stream invertebrates, and monitoring habitat.



GDS Kids measuring stream width and depth during their education day

Habitat Restoration

We completed our lower river and estuary masterplan study, now shared with rights holders, stakeholders and interested parties for consideration. Next steps include identifying priority restoration projects and conducting baseline studies before permitting.

So far, we have released 160 adult coho above Seymour Falls Dam, out of an aspiration goal of 400. Our new temporary capture area at the hatchery has helped capture 60 adult coho and we will continue this temporary capture to increase the number of coho we can release above the dam.



Adult salmon and steelhead release site above Seymour Falls dam



Capital Maintenance

Facility maintenance continued this year, with funds secured to install two new circulation storage tanks this fall. These tanks will allow better sorting and separation of adults by sex and species during busy periods, improving our efficiency. The tank installation is planned for this Fall.

Fundraising

Thanks to your support, we completed our masterplan, delivered the GDS education program in Spring and Fall, and tackled essential maintenance. Our top 2025 contributors include the District of North Vancouver Firefighters Charitable Society, PSF, private donors, and new supporters like Basspro & Cabela's.

The DNV Firefighters Fishing Derby on September 19th was another monumental success, with 226 Chinook weighed in at the end of the day – the largest being just over 34 pounds. We believe this event could now be the largest fishing competition in British Columbia, and it is solely due to the hard work put in by the firefighter's charity that have made this event such a success over the past 14 years.



DNV Firefighters Fishing Derby weigh in on September 19th



One of the Chinook caught off Sand Heads During the Fishing Derby

We are now preparing to replace our hatchery truck, as our current vehicle is nearing retirement. Over the past 10 years, our hatchery pickup truck has been a true workhorse - transporting fish, moving restoration equipment, supporting restoration and enhancement projects throughout the watershed, and enabling staff to operate and maintain the facility. Unfortunately, it has reached the end of its useful life, and we must begin fundraising to secure a new vehicle.



Hatchery truck during adult fish releases at Spur 7

Donations toward this vital upgrade would be greatly appreciated! Please [Donate Here](#)