

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE Notes

FOR MARCH 18, 2025, 9am to noon, 2025 for in person meeting and zoom meeting.

9:00-9:30 am

1. Genevieve Singleton called the meeting to order at 9:08 with thanks to Quw'utsun Peoples for care of lands for millenia, and to Fish Health for making the space available.
2. Thank you to Karen and Jim Deck for bringing coffee and snacks!
3. ATTENDANCE: Attending in person:

Genevieve Singleton Co-chair CSRT

Jim Deck, Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society,

Karen Deck Cowichan Valley Regional District,

Joe Saysell Friends of the Cowichan,

Kim Lagimodiere, Program coordinator, Lulumexun, Cowichan Tribes

Barry Hetschko Volunteer

Ian Morrison Cowichan Valley Regional District

Jennifer Shepherd Xwulqw'selu Connections

Stephanie Cottell Cowichan Community Land Trust

Danni Paydli Cowichan Watershed Board

Colleen Terlein, Cowichan Marsh Wildlife Society

Martha Lescher, volunteer

Attending Online:

Parker Jefferson, CSRT

Bethany Coulthard, supervisor of Marine Projects, Lulumexun, Cowichan Tribes,

Jill Thompson, CWB,

Bruce Coates, Nature Cowichan, Cowichan Land Trust.

Cheyenne Williams, Quw'utsun Cultural Connections

4. Review of notes: Thanks to Tom Rutherford for doing this at the Feb. meeting. No changes, will ask Sarah to post on the website. Danni and Karen are doing today's notes. Thank you.
5. Website. Thanks to Sarah Mullock for keeping this updated.
6. Update re Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul (QSS) 2024 and 2025.
Re 2024: Genevieve has met twice with Katie Mosevich and Ellery Jackson-Renz of CVRD to work on the spread sheet recording details of our 2024 event. Genevieve is very appreciative of them recording and organizing her thoughts, and adding their own slant. Very exciting.

Re 2025: Bethany spoke about the request for QSS to Cowichan Tribes to be an annual event. It was on the agenda for the most recent Natural Resources Committee. Cowichan Tribes and discussed but without a decision due to time. Tabled to April 7. Approval from Larry to put it on that agenda with a request for decision. Considered an extremely valuable day by Quw'utsun Mustimuhw – anticipates that will be supported.
7. Finances update — nothing of note.
8. Additions to agenda — none

9:30-10:45 Round the Table

Ian Morrison

- 1) Little Beach (Area F Community Park); consultant engaged to do a snapshot of what is there and what is possible - how to maintain/enhance the ecological value of the area. Heavy use in the summer time; decisions need to be made about how to care for the property. There will be a public event for input but that is not yet scheduled. Swift Water Rescue does their training at the site.
- 2) Official Community Plans for Electoral areas and Local Area Plans are underway. Electoral Area - [planyourcowichan](http://planyourcowichan.com) website - visioning/aspirational document to guide comprehensive planning bylaw.
- 3) Every 5 years CVRD does a Customer Satisfaction Survey; on now; selected number of folks will be phoned, others can go onto the website
- 4) CVRD new bylaw enforcement tool; Bylaw Dispute Adjudication System - far more efficient, aiming to get greater compliance numbers, less lawyers/court time, Nanaimo District has this in place so their personnel will help support (i.e. adjudicators).

- 5) CVRD Budget approved 2 weeks ago; Karen and Ian had the largest reduction in costs.
- 6) Reorganizing - Environmental Services area are now under Land Use Services Dept (Ann Kjerulf is the new manager); includes DWWP, Cowichan Flood Management, etc.

QUESTIONS to Ian Morrison:

Re Little Beach.

Joe:

- who identified the problem?
 - IM: Parks Commission, RCMP, Ian Morrison, ToLC; Ian initiated the initial assessment and made sure funding was available.
- tubers aren't eroding it now because stairs have been added (no problem about that now)
- deep hole is now being filled in by the river, creating a bar, natural process - doesn't see it as a problem.
 - IM: assessment is to ensure that decisions made re: roadway construction, parking, etc. are well informed,

Jennifer: re: when is the session for input. This will be sent out to CSRT list serve when available, which is not immediately.

Re well depths

Jill:

- Benefits/inputs of the new Weir. Heard that a few Honeymoon Bay, wells are too shallow so when lake levels low (pumped) so they need bottled water.
 - IM: cause/effect argument; shallow wells at risk when water dropping but whether it is the timing of when the pumping started was just a coincidence. Likely not but not sure if they've had issues other years. Tried to accommodate through access to showers in the arena. It is a provincial matter. CVRD attempted to respond but water is the provincial gov't role.
- Jill - thanks for confirmation - another benefit for a few lakeshore residents of the new weir - could reduce shallow wells running dry due to low lake levels.
- Joe - has the same problem with shallow wells, people just need to dig deeper wells - common sense.

Jim:

- will the new bylaws still be complaint driven?
 - IM: yes

Steph Cottell:

- Met Jeff Moore, mentioned an upcoming Conservation Strategy
- IM: region-wide initiative, doesn't have a lot of information on it though.

Jennifer Shepard, Xwulqw'selu Connections

- The documentary film Sea to Land screens on Sat March 29 at 5:30pm at the Hub at Cowichan Station. Local filmmaker Michelle Tremblay will be present for the film's premiere. The focus of the film is sustainable fishing. Tom Rutherford is featured in the film's trailer.
 - <https://events.nfb.ca/events/cowichan-valley-documentary-film-festival-2/>
- Continue to work on model of watershed
- The group is not running the same way as the past three years; Kristina back in May and will guide about how it will continue in a new way.

Jim Deck, CLRSS

- Saturday, March 22nd cohosting alongside CWB a Weir Tours morning at Saywell Park! 10am/11am/12:30pm
- considering a smaller water festival in Sept or Aug

Colleen Terlein and Barry, Somenos Marsh

- two more swan/goose counts for the year
- QUESTION: Where are you seeing the most swans?
 - Bench School, Wilson Road, corn field on Koksilah rd., Westholme rd. (usually but not this year)

Kim and Bethany, Lulumexun

- new staff on marine team (Jacob); sea garden restoration coordinator. Working with Parks to find opportunities for Cowichan Tribes' staff and members to work on sea gardens and an eye on old project (Tom and Tim); Beach hasn't been selected but Barry Hetschko may help with how to monitor and maintain sea gardens.

- No green crabs found in Cowichan Estuary yet; starting again April 29th for the first monitoring this year. They are in Ladysmith, Peneluket, Chemainus Harbour. Hoping to catch any invasion early.
- Marine program update:
 - as part of transmountain pipeline funding developing marine program
 - Lulumexun (lands and natural resource dept); used to be lands and self-governance dept.
 - DFO funding is ending; Kim found new funding to continue the program. Becoming a permanent self-sustaining program. Became own entity moving forward.
 - Shared Program Map & Document
 - new vessel to get community members out to see the territory, participate in monitoring; etc. can handle up to 25 people at once;
 - everything done is reviewed by Natural Resource Committee or Chief and Council.
 - two events per year -
 - annual marine forum event for community members and may open to the public in the future (share what is being done; ask for feedback; celebrate)
 - Sea Garden Campout (community members learning how to care for them, sometimes overnight in the dark!)
 - Sunday, May 18th, Cowichan Tribes' Open House!
 - Stay connected via the Cowichan Tribes' newsletter, website updates, Facebook
- Q: Steph Cottell, Land Trust - Marine conservation area; ongoing application keep fighting a geoduck expansion of the coast of Thetis and have been told that Peneluket has been consulted; is that something that Cowichan Tribes would be involved in.
- Kim - Fisheries Team would review; but shared territory so would defer to Peneluket if it is nearest them.

Bruce Coates, Nature Cowichan

- Tonight Sheila Harrington (Voices for the Islands book); collaborative zoom talk; discuss conservation movement; can get link on website/email

- tomorrow, city council/municipality (Owl Hill Park, east side of Richards creek, leading into Somenos marsh); Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society wrote a letter advocating for that and tomorrow night's council meeting they will be discussing it.
- Thursday, 'Why it's Tough Being a Toad on Vancouver Island' speaking event.
- Duncan Seedy Sunday on March 23rd
- Monday, March 24th, 7pm - Vancouver Island Privately Managed Action Alliance is meeting; started a review of PMFL Act; CVRD/Nanaimo put forward resolutions that they'd like that legislation reviewed.
- calendar of nature-related events, thanks to Sarah Mullock for updating the website and getting that going.

Jill Thompson, Danni Paydli CWB

- echo Jim's announcement re: Weir Tours this coming Saturday, March 22nd. If you know of anyone who hasn't had an opportunity to join - please tell them!
- will have property view tool, CLRSS will have information booths, CVRD staff will be there with information on climate change expectations, free hot tea!
- website: cowichanlakeweir.ca
- next speaker night - April 14th (date changed); speaker to be decided
- March 31st - CWB meeting; whole of watershed discussion/guests

Steph Cottell, Cowichan Land Trust

- book reading tonight (see Bruce's note); zoom link will be circulated if needed
- CLT turns 30!!
- Linda Hill coming out with a new book as well.
- Coming Home to Grandmothers short film on YouTube channel; importance of Garry oak to Quw'utsun people; many local folks interviewed. Please share.
- work on Maple Mountain to pull invasives; new team member - Laura (awesome!),
- Cowichan Conservation Springboard new initiative, how best to leverage land trusts to address barriers to conservation on private land.

Genevieve Singleton, CSRT

- Brought Ts'sey', (Douglas Fir) s from Madrone Nursey- please take one!
- Books available too (thanks to Dave Polster's collection, which Genevieve is distributing to anyone who wants materials)
- During the same time as weir tours this Saturday, Ken Elliot and Genevieve are doing walks (Holt creek); it is fully booked and then Tim and Genevieve scheduled for March 29th (will likely fill quickly). There are funded by a grant from BC Parks, the funds which come from the car licence plates that have pictures of nature on them.
- March 27: T'awahwiye Philomena Williams and Genevieve led a walk with the public library (mostly children); walk to VIU; look at native plants, etc.
- 2 students working on thesis', working with Ken Elliot - planting, weeding at the big garden. Yellow Gates on Cowichan Bay Rd, large fence plot with food and medicinal plants.

Joe Saysell, Friends of the Cowichan

- Exeter Creek restoration project initiated by Joe. - did some counts - 5 to 6 pairs of coho back in the creek; hopefully rebuild and widen on its own. Money given by the Fly-Fishing Club out of Victoria.
- left over funds, hopefully can be used to add gravel to Tiny Creek; hardest part is getting people to do the work.
- river is really high
- worried about anchoring in spawning areas, this is why we need the river closed.

10:45- 11 Break

11:00-12:00 – Ted Danyluk of Adams River

Salmon Society (on zoom) speaking on Achieving Angler Closure on Adams River

<https://www.salmonsociety.com/>

Notes from Presentation are at the end of these notes.

Notes from Karen Deck re:

Ted Danyluk's talk about river closures on Adams River brought up questions about the how long the closure lasted as well as the length of the stretch of the river that was closed to angling. There are differences between the Adams River and the Cowichan River, that would require different mitigation efforts. For

example, there are no boats with anchors on the Adams, whereas anchors destroy redds on the Cowichan. Closure of a four mile stretch of the Adams would protect the majority of fish, but the longer Cowichan River has a greater number of spawning grounds and requires closure of the upper river to bolster populations that are experiencing water conditions that are suboptimal. Non-anglers and anglers in close proximity was a safety concern for the Adams River, but not for the Cowichan.

Signs saying “Don’t tread on our redd!” were used as part of an educational program, but Ted felt that signs alone would not be effective without the ability to enforce a law.

Cheyenne William, Quw’utsun Cowichan Connections, asked about River Guardians, as Cowichan Tribes also has River Guardians. The River Guardians of the First Nation near the Adams River have increased their presence on the river, but as they do not have the ability to enforce laws around laws created to protect spawning fish. Ted highlighted the importance of collaboration in moving initiatives like the closure of the Adams River to angling during spawning season forward.

Timeline to Achieve Angling Closure on Adams River

-Ted Danyluk

The Adams River Salmon Society

Phase One October 2020 - January 2021

-identified two big problems on the Adams River that got worse during COVID

*Surge in unethical anglers wading in the river causing damage to the redds and disrupting the spawning cycle

*surge in negative interactions involving anglers with public wanting to experience the spectacle of the spawning salmon

-committee of four from The Adams River Salmon Society (TARSS) begin to pursue an angling closure on the Adams River

-prepared a written proposal providing a strong and logical argument to have the river closed to angling for presentation to BC Fish & Wildlife Branch (BCFWB), BC Parks (BCP) and DFO.

-proposal needed to be based on data not on qualitative information. Definitely a need for qualitative reasons but “numbers” was critical.

-research research research research research research

-the proposal

- * described in detail the negative effect of sport fishing on the Adams River during the spawning season

- * described the characteristics of the Adams River that make it a premier spawning and nursery habitat for developing salmon embryo,

- * explained the status for each species of salmon that spawn in the Adams River,

- * provided a review of the literature advising fishermen why it is ethical to stay out of the water when spawning salmon are present,

- * provided an in depth review of a study that provides empirical data to support the closure of the Adams River to sport fishing as a management tool,

- * provided the rationale specific to Fish and Wildlife Branch for the closure of the Adams River to sport fishing,

- * provided the rationale specific to Fisheries and Oceans to support the closure of the Adams River to sport fishing,

- * provided the rationale specific to BC Parks to support the closure of the Adams River to sport fishing,

- * explained, in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, why it is time to stop fishing in the spawning beds of the Adams River

-the Proposal gave TARSS focus with their meetings with BC Parks (BCP), BC Fish & Wildlife Branch (BCFWB) and Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO)

Phase Two - December 2020 - May 2021

-inter agency meetings started in December 2020 involving TARSS, BCP, BCFWB and DFO for the purpose of pursuing the angler closure

-procedure summary for changes to the Regulation Synopsis involved

-senior biologist makes proposed regulation changes.

-consultation to all stakeholders including fish & game clubs and Indigenous groups

-region section head needs to approve regulation change

-public consultation process

-signed off by Fisheries director and then entered into the region's regulations

-regulation synopsis is for a two year period however "in season" changes can be

made

-temporary closure could not occur as an emergency situation. No legal option regarding a temporary closure unless it can be demonstrated there is an extreme emergency situation. Emergency situation defined as human safety issues and response to drought conditions where there is a low flow and high temperature issues

-BCFWB not opposed to considering a closure but needed to get input from DFO. Agree there is a user conflict with anglers and non-anglers. DFO needs to part of the process regarding significant biological impact from angling

-BCP not opposed to having certain areas of the Park closed to anglers.

-DFO came to the table at the end of February 2021. Acknowledged there are negative impacts to the redds by fishermen when they are stepped on but the effect is minimal. Other comments from DFO included not opposed to closing certain areas, will not take a position of who has priority of the resource between user groups, acknowledges there are more non-fishers than fishers in the Park.

-mid-March 2021 walkabout on the river involving TARSS, BCP, BCFWB, DFO, Neskonlith Band, Little Shuswap Lake Band. Thoughts and ideas raised during the walkabout

- *identified potential fishing closure areas to alleviate user conflicts.

- *developing ethical behaviour signage for fishermen

- *implementing a River Guardian program with the Bands' involvement

-by the end of April 2021, as a result of further inter agency meetings involving TARSS, BC Parks, DFO, BCFWB and a representative from two of the three local First Nation Bands, three positive strategies were developed to address the user conflict issues and to educate fishermen in an effort to protect spawning salmon. They are,

- *developing educational signage for both the angler and non-angler on identifying a redd, reasons to avoid both a redd and spawning salmon along with examples of ethical behavior for anglers when fishing in a river with spawning salmon. This signage would be prominently displayed in four key locations within Tsutswecw Provincial Park.

- *BC Fish & Wildlife Branch, in conjunction with Qwelmintec Secwepemc, plan to implement a River Guardian program. Employing local Indigenous people, the mandate would include providing a fisheries presence for compliance monitoring, public relations and educational purposes.

- *implementing a permanent In Season Closure to angling during the salmon spawning season from September 1-November 30 effective 2022. It would be located 800m upriver from the Viewing Platform and 800m downriver from the Interpretive Centre operated by TARSS in conjunction with BC Parks.

-going forward specific roles for each agency in the closure process is defined

- *BCFWB

Senior Biologist will recommend to Victoria for changes to the Fishing Regulations for Region 3. Regular two year revision process cannot be used as this is an In Season Change. Variant Order Form will be completed for the regulation change

- *BC Parks

Ensure the closure notice is posted on the Tsutswecw Provincial Park website using the Attention Visitors-Important Notice feature for the purpose of letting the public know about our present plan going forward as well as a way of seeking public opinion.

*DFO

Liaison with BCFWB regarding the Indigenous River Guardian program. In addition DFO resource managers and enforcement officers will be made aware of our plan, but there is no role for DFO prior to the closure going into effect.

*TARSS

Survey other TARSS like minded groups (eg PSF, Kingfisher Interpretive Centre, Watershed Society, Nature Trust of BC, tourism groups) for their input regarding the proposal (potential closure, River Guardian program, educational signage for both anglers and non-anglers). This information will be passed onto BCFWB for feedback inclusion from stakeholder groups. (Appendix A)

Phase Three May 2021 - August 2022

-Educational Signage

*TARSS took the lead involving the other agencies (BCFWB, BCP, DFO) in deciding content and sign locations within the Park.

*Theme for the signs is "Don't Tread On My Redd". Three large signs (3' x 4') are permanently posted in river access locations. Ten double sided sandwich board signs are utilized for busy locations along the river.

*Educational signage have the message for both the angler and non-angler on identifying a redd, reasons to avoid a redd and spawning salmon along with examples of ethical behaviour for anglers when fishing in a river with spawning salmon. Signage were in place on the river by September 2021. (Appendix B)

*Funding for signage came from BC Parks and BC Hydro Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program.

-River Guardian Program

*The mandate of the program is to provide a presence on the Adams River for compliance monitoring, public relations and educational purposes. The LSLB was successful in putting forward a grant application to the First Nations Guardians Initiatives from Environment Change Canada for this program that will encompass the Adams River. The River Guardian program was implemented in time for the 2022 Salute To The Sockeye quadrennial event.

-Angling Closure

*Multi-agency river walkabout took place October 2021 to make a final decision on closure boundaries.

*Application for implementing a permanent In Season Closure to angling during the salmon spawning season from September 1-November 30 effective 2022 hit a major road bump with the provincial fisheries department in Kamloops not supporting the October Walkabout closure areas. Closure area was reduced to get their approval as well as from the Region 3 Regional Advisory Team (Thompson Nicola).

*In addition, the rationale for the closure area is to support where TARSS educational programs take place, and not as a tool to separate two legal user groups when there is a conflict. There are concerns provincially about setting precedent with this type of decision that could impact other fisheries where spawning salmon are present across the province. Application was finally submitted to Victoria in March 2022

*Fifteen letters of support for the application were received from all the local and provincial representatives (except our local MP) as well as local and provincial groups similar in philosophy to TARSS, the local Chamber of Commerce and from each of the local bands. BCFWB received a number of positive letters from local fish and game clubs in the area indicating their support for the closure. All letters of support were forwarded to Victoria with the closure application.

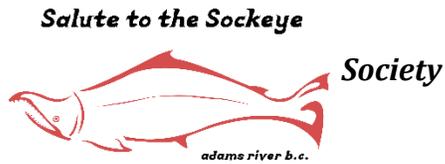
Progress letter was sent to each of our supporters. (Appendix C)

*On June 28 and July 11 meetings were held to review the closure application with two BCFWB senior management staff along with a representative from TARSS and a Senior Biologist from the Kamloops BCFWB office. Variance Order signed off effective August 1, 2022 with a change to the closure now being reduced to only September and October.

*Here is the wording within the Regulations Synopsis

Adams River (downstream of Adams Lake) 3-37 No Fishing from Sept 1- Oct 31 between fishing boundary signs in the vicinity of the public salmon viewing platforms in Tsutswewc Provincial Park.

Appendix "A"



The Adams River Salmon

PO Box 24034

Scotch Creek, BC V0E 3L0

29, 2021

April

Sample Letter Requesting Support

Dear

The Adams River Salmon Society (TARSS), through it's Adams River Fishing Committee (ARFC) is seeking a letter of support from the (name of organization) for a plan that has been developed to address two situations as described in this letter that is occurring on the Adams River below Adams Lake.

During the spawning season from late summer through the fall and into winter, rainbow trout follow the salmon up the Adams River feeding on the roe. Following the rainbows up the river are the fly fishermen involved in the catch and release trout fishery in the Adams River.

Therein lies the first problem, when walking or wading through the river to reach a favorable location for casting many, but not all, fishermen are not demonstrating ethical angling behavior by

- *stepping on or near redds that disturb or damage the developing salmon embryo

- *kicking up sediment that may cover the nest impeding the needed flow of water

- *spooking or bumping the fish from their nest location, disrupting the release of eggs or milt and increasing the physical stress of the spawning behavior.

The second problem occurs when many, but not all, of the fishermen demonstrate unethical angling behavior creating conflict issues with non-anglers. It occurs when

- *anglers set themselves up along or in the river across from a viewing platform designed to give ambulatory and non-ambulatory visitors a panoramic view of a very large spawning channel.

- *anglers place themselves on the riverbank, or in the river near the bank, so that when they are backcasting, their hooks are coming dangerously close to the non-fishermen walking along the river.

- *groups of anglers set up along the riverbank making it difficult for non anglers to get close to the river to observe the spawning process.

Initially, the ARFC prepared a comprehensive Proposal to solve these issues that recommended BC Fish & Wildlife Branch change the fishing regulations to no longer permit any type of sport fishing on the Adams River. Since December 2020 numerous meetings have occurred seeking a solution to address these circumstances involving a representative from the ARFC, a Senior Biologist from the BC Fish & Wildlife Branch, area management from BC Parks, the Conservation & Protection Detachment Commander from Kamloops DFO and representatives from area First Nations Bands.

The meetings have demonstrated a willingness to move forward by all parties. It has resulted in the development of three positive strategies to address the user conflict issues and to educate fishermen in an effort to protect spawning salmon. These include,

- *developing educational signage for both the angler and non-angler on identifying a redd, reasons to avoid both a redd and spawning salmon along with examples of ethical behavior for anglers when fishing in a river with spawning salmon. This signage would be prominently displayed in four key locations within Tsutswecw Provincial Park.

- *BC Fish & Wildlife Branch, in conjunction with Qwelmintec Secwepemc plan to implement a River Guardian program. Employing local Indigenous people, the mandate would include providing a fisheries presence for compliance monitoring, public relations and educational purposes.

*implementing a permanent In Season Closure to angling during the salmon spawning season from September 1-November 30 effective 2022. It would be located adjacent to the Viewing Platform and the Interpretive Centre operated by TARSS in conjunction with BC Parks.

TARSS, through the ARFC is requesting a letter of support from the (name of organization) for the three strategies to address the user conflict issues and help both anglers and non-anglers be more aware of the problems they may create when they enter the river during the salmon spawning season. In addition to your assistance, our group will also be seeking confirmation from other like minded associations and individuals, elected representatives and local tourism organizations.

Your letter of support is extremely important to our cause as it validates the work we have been doing to protect the sensitive salmon spawning habitat and providing public education efforts. In addition, it will be a significant contribution to the consultation process required by the Regional Angling Advisory Team in Region 3 (Thompson-Nicola) who are responsible for submitting the In Season Closure application to the BC Fish & Wildlife Branch in Victoria. As both the ARFC and BC Fish & Wildlife Branch are working collaboratively in the consultation process, the Region 3 Fish & Wildlife Branch office is also seeking the same level of support from local and regional fishing clubs including the BC Wildlife Federation.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request and our group looks forward to receiving your letter of support. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me with return email or by phone at 250-955-6384.

Yours truly,

Ted Danyluk

Chairperson

Adams River Fishing Committee

The Adams River Salmon Society

Appendix B : SANDWICH BOARD SIGN

DON'T TREAD ON MY REDD

Xyemstem – Honour All

A redd is a salmon nest.
Stepping on the redd will
damage the buried eggs.

Please respect the
salmon and help protect
their habitat.



Avoid wading or allowing pets
in the water where there is a
concentration of salmon.

Avoid angling where there is a
concentration of salmon.



Female salmon will make a redd
by moving rocks in the stream
bed to make a depression.



Female salmon will lay up to
4,000 eggs in the redd before
covering it with rocks.



Rocks where a salmon redd
is located will be cleaner and
brighter than the surrounding
area.



Conservation Officer Service - RAPP (Poachers and Polluters) 1-877-952-7277
for non-salmon related fishing and hunting violations or other fish and wildlife habitat violations.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans ORR (Observe, Record and Report)
1-800-465-4336 for salmon fishing or salmon habitat violations.



BC Parks



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



ADAMS RIVER
SALMON SOCIETY



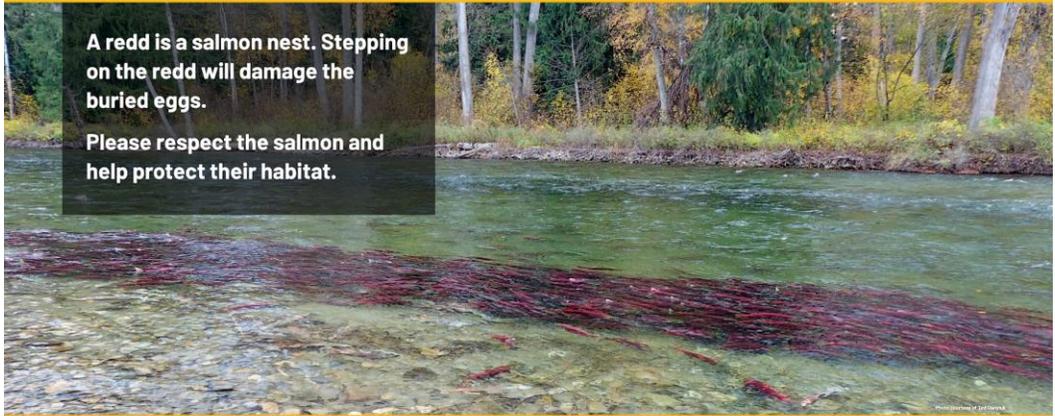
PERMANENT "IN THE GROUND" RIVER ACCESS SIGNS

DON'T TREAD ON MY REDD

Xyemstem – Honour All

A redd is a salmon nest. Stepping on the redd will damage the buried eggs.

Please respect the salmon and help protect their habitat.



Avoid angling, wading or allowing pets in the water where there is a concentration of salmon.



Female salmon will make a redd by moving rocks in the stream bed to make a depression.



Female salmon will lay up to 4,000 eggs in the redd before covering it with rocks.



Rocks where a salmon redd is located will be cleaner and brighter than the surrounding area.



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BC Parks



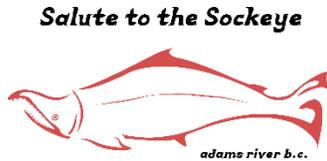
Fisheries and Oceans
Canada
Pêches et Océans
Canada



THE ADAMS RIVER
SALMON SOCIETY



Appendix "C"



Adams River Salmon Society

PO Box 24034

Scotch Creek,

BC V0E 3L0

March 14,

2022

Sample Progress Report Letter

In spring 2021, the Adams River Fishing Committee (ARFC), a subcommittee of The Adams River Salmon Society (The Society) requested and received (if no letter of support received, the words *and received* are omitted) a letter from (you or your organization) supporting our efforts to protect spawning salmon on the Adams River in Tsutswecw Provincial Park. Our efforts focused upon addressing user conflict issues between anglers and non-anglers as well as educating fishermen on responsible behaviour when fishing in a river that contains spawning salmon. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update regarding the Committee's progress.

A committee, composed of representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), BC Fish & Wildlife Branch (BCFWB), BC Parks, Little Shuswap Lake Band (LSLB), Neskonlith Band and The Society developed three strategies to address this situation. These are summarized below with current status,

1. Implement a Permanent In Season Fishing Closure

Tentative approval has been given for a closure by the Thompson Region fisheries staff at FLNRO for approximately 1.5 km of the Adams River from above the Viewing Platform to below The Society's Interpretive Centre within Tsutswecw Provincial Park during the salmon spawning season from September 1-October 31 effective 2022. The priority for the closure area is to support the educational programs undertaken by The Adams River Salmon Society within that stretch of the Adams River. The application has been submitted to the BC Fish & Wildlife Branch in Victoria for their review and the completion of their consultation process. ARFC has

emphasized the need to move quickly so as to have the closure in place by the quadrennial Salute To The Sockeye scheduled for September 30 - October 23, 2022.

2. Develop Educational Signs

Signage emphasizing the theme “Don’t Tread On My Redd”, has been developed to help river users identify salmon redds, why it is important to avoid spawning salmon and their redds as well as examples of responsible behaviour when in-stream. Two types of signage have been developed, i) larger (3’x4’) signs that have been permanently installed at three prominent river access points, and ii) smaller sandwich board signs that can be located at a variety of locations along the Adams River.

3. Implement a River Guardian Program

The LSLB has put forward a grant application to the First Nations Guardians Initiatives from Environment & Climate Change Canada to implement this program that will encompass the Adams River. The mandate is to provide a much needed presence on the Adams River for compliance monitoring, public relations and educational purposes. If they are successful The Society will work in partnership with them to provide support for their success.

If you have any questions, please contact Ted Danyluk, Chairperson of the ARFC at 250-955-6384 or email teddanyluk@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you in the park for any of The Society’s events during 2022 including the Salute To The Sockeye Festival in October 2022..

Yours truly,

Ted Danyluk

Chairperson, Adams River Fishing Committee

Ken Benoit

President, The Adams River Salmon Society