



Mill Bay and District Conservation Society 2023 SUMMARY

With the trap shut down last week, another year is finished and another record is on our books.

That makes 4 years in a row, that we have set new records for returns to the Shawnigan system. The final total number of fish moved this year, was 985, of which 706 were adults and 279 were jacks. 93 adults were transported to Goldstream and Shawnigan Lake School Hatcheries, for brood stock. With the low returns in Goldstream and other South Vancouver Island streams, it is a blessing that we were able to share our bounty with them.

The exciting thing about this year's return, is that these fish were our heat dome fish. It truly is amazing that they were able to find a hospitable place to rear in our system and come back in the numbers that they did. We are, once again, near the top of the Coho projects in BC, percentage wise. Three years ago, we had 404 spawners return, of which 80 fish went to Goldstream for brood stock. 324 fish, were transported above the falls and released back into the creek. This year's 706 returning spawners, are coming from those 324, giving us over a 100% increase. Looking back, only 4 returns ago, this run was only 5 fish. There were a good number of jacks that came back this year, which is an encouraging sign for next year, as they are part of the return that had to endure the "Atmospheric River", that pounded us in November, 3 years ago.

Thank You, to all the volunteers, who contributed their time and effort this year. Whether that involvement was: doing clerical things; helping out at the bottle drives; putting in some real effort doing stream enhancement; trap maintenance and, of course; the capture and transporting of our Coho. A special Thank You, to the volunteers, that put in their time netting fish this year. Without their dedication and hard work, we wouldn't be at the numbers that we were able to achieve.

Our Societies' logo, is now proudly displayed on apparel we had made, and was purchased by a number of volunteers. This will add another dimension to the awareness and importance of this project.

Another, big Thank You to all of our sponsors, for your support, allowing us to continue to make this one of the most successful projects in the Salmon world.

Our AGM, will be held early next year. The date is not set yet, but as soon as I know, you will too. Please think about what we do and if there is an opportunity to makes things even better.

Come and voice your opinions at the meeting. We host it at the Shawnigan Rec Centre.

As the Christmas season approaches quickly, please stay safe, enjoy time with your families and soon we will be together again, working on a project, that is so dear to our hearts.

Ken Gray
Secretary/Director



“A hope for our future”

Gary Caton – Goldstream Volunteer holding a male coho.
The fish was sent to Goldstream Hatchery. Nov/2023