

NEWS FROM THE...

Salmon Coast | Field Station

SUMMER
2012

VOLUME TWO.
ISSUE TWO.



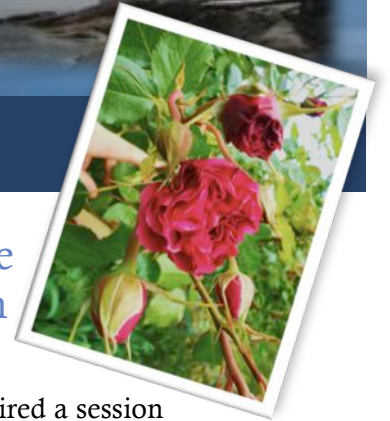
NEW 2012 RESEARCH

Salmon Health Assessments: Salmon Coast will be collecting samples from Chinook and other species of salmon caught in the Broughton over the summer of 2012, to monitor the health of local salmon populations. Samples will also be used to build a DNA bank of local salmon runs, which will help us pinpoint the watersheds from which the salmon are sampled.

Want to help with this exciting project? Here's how! **Bring us your freshly caught Broughton Chinook on ice** so that we can take tissue samples. Please note that samples must be delivered fresh, not frozen. (Don't worry – you can still eat it! We just need the head and guts.) We are also interested in other salmon species, especially if their health looks compromised. Alternatively, you can contribute by **donating sampling funds**. Sample analysis is expensive. Sponsoring just one sample to be analysed helps add to our knowledge about the health of this ecosystem. If you support the cost of sampling your fish, we will send you a short health report of our findings.

(To read about other new projects, see Page 2)

Schine's Soundscape Film wins Award in France



This spring, Jennifer Schine chaired a session at the 13th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) in Montpellier, France (May 20-25, 2012), where she presented her film, "Listening to a Sense of Place" (co-created with Greg Crompton). The film and audio piece, which documents the life-history of Broughton elder and pioneer, Billy Proctor, was awarded the **2012 International Society of Ethnobiology Student Award** for an alternative format contribution. Schine first came to Echo Bay in 2007 to volunteer at Salmon Coast and has returned many times to work on both her master's thesis and this film.

Jennifer will be hosting a sold-out workshop at the Salmon Coast Field Station for fellow sound artists interested in experiencing and listening to one of BC's pristine areas. The **Sound and Listening Wilderness Workshop** will be held August 22 – 27.

Greetings, Summer visitors!

We're looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones as the summer season progresses. We are offering tours this summer so that interested folks can see the station for themselves and get in touch with the work we conduct here. Contact us for a tour, or check *Pierre's Echo Bay Marina* for notices about scheduled tours.

Website | www.salmoncoast.org

Facebook | facebook.com/salmoncoast

Email | info@salmoncoast.org

Phone | (001) 250.974.7177

VHF Radio | Call "Salmon Coast" on Channel 16



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New Projects 2012

Marine Mammal Surveys

In the tradition of station founder and board member, Alexandra Morton, who came to this area 30 years ago following her orcas, Salmon Coast is beginning regular surveys throughout the year along three different routes in the Broughtons, to collect data on marine mammals.

You can help us by reporting local marine mammal sightings to info@salmoncoast.org and by sending us clear photos of whales you sight, especially orcas and humpbacks. Also, please make yourself familiar with the guidelines for whale-watching and keep a distance of 100 metres.

Sea Lice SLICE Resistance Studies

Salmon Coast is beginning a small laboratory study to help determine whether sea lice in this area have begun to develop resistance to SLICE, a neurotoxic drug used to kill sea lice. The numbers of these salmon parasites can be greatly amplified around salmon farms. Sea lice have negative effects on both farmed and wild salmon populations; juvenile wild salmon that pass by farms are particularly affected.

In other parts of the world where SLICE has been used by the salmon aquaculture industry to control sea lice, the lice have evolved resistance to the drug, so we are beginning this study to see if there is any evidence of resistance evolving in this area thus far.

Photos (top left): Sea lions and a humpback whale hang out near the station.

Station Wishlist

This has been a difficult year for many non-profit societies and research institutions, and Salmon Coast is no exception.

We are struggling to continue. Though we are not lacking in ideas, passion, or energy to move forward, we are lacking in funds. **If you share our passion** for conservation in the Broughton and would like to help support and increase the science we do out here, **financial or in-kind donations** are one of the most effective ways to ensure that our work continues. Rest assured that we will use every dollar efficiently. Here are some suggestions of effective ways to donate to Salmon Coast.

Core Funding: Our current grants, projects, and contracts do not fully cover our operating costs, and this year, new grants and projects seem especially hard to come by. The most effective way to ensure our organization continues is to help support our ongoing operating costs.

Reliable Station Boat and Motor: Currently, the Station Coordinators use their small personal boat for supply runs and various research efforts, which is not ideal. A larger and more reliable station boat with a quality motor would greatly increase our safety as well as our capacity to expand upon our research.

Volunteer Support: We do not currently have the extra funds to welcome youth to help us as general station volunteers, unless they pay their own way. Also, the Juvenile Salmon and Zooplankton Study is stalled, as it does not currently have funding to support the dedicated volunteer who has spent years working on its sample analysis. Not only do volunteer opportunities allow us

to continue with research, but they also provide opportunities for bright young people to gain research and practical life experience, while being inspired by working in this beautiful ecosystem. Visit our website's User Testimonials, under "At the Station," to see how volunteering at Salmon Coast has changed lives.



Photo: Volunteers Julia and Marie-Josée in the field.

Item Donations: We are in need of various items that are currently outside our budget, such as a wood chipper, maintenance tools, construction and garden supplies, and various research supplies. To see our more detailed wishlist, please visit our website.

Three ways to donate: Donate online through PayPal on our website. **Visit the Station**, or leave a donation for us at Billy's Museum or Pierre's Echo Bay Marina. **Send a cheque to:**

Salmon Coast Field Station Society
General Delivery
Simoom Sound, BC
V0P 1S0
Canada



JULIA FIEVEZ FEATURED VOLUNTEER

Julia is currently an undergraduate student studying marine and freshwater biology at Guelph, and she intends to continue onto a master's degree in marine biology. Here, she describes her volunteer experience.

Coming from a small town in Ontario, my exposure to marine ecosystems before Salmon Coast has been limited. As a child I always had a fascination with the ocean and the life within it, which I learned about from reading and watching television documentaries. During my late teenage years I spent time every summer in Florida fishing with my uncle, which made my fascination grow even stronger. My growing love of marine life combined with the generous donations of long-time station supporter Sarah Haney are what led me to Salmon Coast.

My time here has been full of new and exciting experiences, like participating in the weekly sea lice sampling and going on the first test run of a marine mammal survey. I also helped with various household, yard-keeping, and garden tasks. By contributing to work that needs to be done I have gained a large number of new skills, ranging from something as basic as new cooking abilities to knowing how to beach seine. I have also learned so much from the people I have met here, by talking one-on-one and listening to the many stories told.

Being here has opened my eyes to the world of marine biology, which has reinforced my interest in pursuing a job in this field. I am leaving Salmon Coast with higher self-confidence and the satisfaction of knowing what I want for my future. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to volunteer here, and hope to return next year.

RETURNING PROJECTS

Just like the salmon,
these projects keep coming back every year

Sea Lice Monitoring

Initiated by Alexandra Morton in 2001, monitoring continued this year from March-June. Station coordinators and volunteers continue to monitor general health and sea-lice levels on juvenile wild salmon near local salmon farms by live sampling weekly as juvenile salmon leave local streams and rivers, and migrate past the Broughtons.

Juvenile Salmon and Zooplankton Study Sample Analysis

Operating between April and July, this project aims to relate the productivity of plankton to the survivorship of juvenile salmon in the Broughton. Volunteers have collected two seasons' worth of plankton and juvenile salmon diet samples to do so, which Marie-Josée Gagnon is currently analysing.

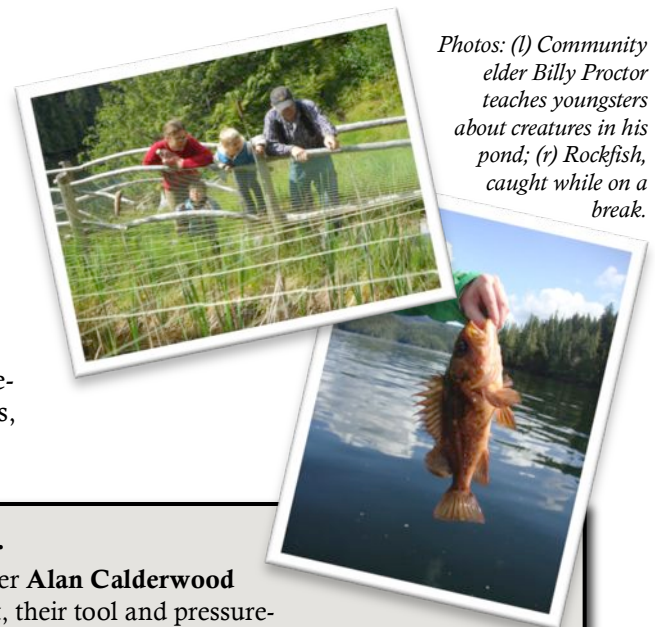
Broughton Archipelago Monitoring Project (BAMP)

This collaborative project between independent scientists, government, and industry

professionals initiated in 2010, and continued this year from April to June. It involves sampling juvenile salmon at over 70 sites in an effort to monitor sea-lice abundance on wild and farmed salmon in the Broughton Archipelago. The team uses Salmon Coast as a home base during part of its monthly sampling trips.

BAMP Sample Lab Analysis

Skilled technician, Lauren Portner, processes half of the juvenile salmon samples from BAMP in our Salmon Coast lab. The other half is sent to the Department of Fisheries & Oceans. Lauren will analyse a total of 3,000 – 4,000 fish this season.



Photos: (l) Community elder Billy Proctor teaches youngsters about creatures in his pond; (r) Rockfish, caught while on a break.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Sarah Haney and her partner **Alan Calderwood** for their continuing support, their tool and pressure-washer donations, and for sponsoring Julia, our fantastic spring volunteer. **Bill Terbrugge**, for his generous contributions of time and materials to help us set up two hydrophones, one at the station and one for our new Marine Mammal Surveys. **Charlie and Libby Sneed**, for their ongoing support, as well as their donation of a beautiful new laser printer. **Ivan Gettings**, for his continued support, advice, and help with our GPS systems. And the **many other folks** who have come through the station to offer advice and help.

Station coordinators Zephyr and Coady would also like to thank the local folks in Echo Bay for making them feel welcome and supported within this community and for sharing their advice and local knowledge. These gestures have helped them immensely in their first year as station coordinators.



Highlights: A few events from Spring 2012

Pies, Easter eggs, children & film crews.

Echo Bay Easter Reunion

Present and past community members, some of whom hadn't been back here for over a decade, enjoyed reconnecting with one another over an Easter dinner and extravagant Easter-egg hunt on Billy Proctor's beautiful property.

Documentary Film Crew

In mid-May, SCFS hosted a film crew from the French documentary series, "Somewhere on Earth," which aims to showcase places around the globe where people live in harmony with nature. They filmed our neighbours, Billy Proctor and Nikki van Schyndel, and conducted interviews with several station residents.

Seattle Times Visit

SCFS founder and board member Alexandra Morton stopped in with reporters from the Seattle Times, who were writing an article about her work searching for potentially deadly salmon viruses that stem from salmon aquaculture. The resulting article, which features the station, was published on May 26th and is available on the Seattle Times website.

Educational Tour

Grade 10 boys from St. George's School in Vancouver toured the station in May, during a kayaking fieldtrip for their Outdoor Education Program.

Third Annual Salmon Coast Pie-Off

On May 31st, we had a large and diverse crowd at our pie competition: Station residents, past researchers, board members, Echo Bay community members, the BAMP project crew, and summer visitors. We're already eagerly anticipating the Fourth Annual Pie-Off! (See below for the final results of this year's intense competition.)



Salmon Coast Pie Contest 2012 Results

SAVOURY PIE CATEGORY

Winner | Scott Rogers with "Full Moon Flood Pie"

Runner-Up | Brad Boyce's Green Seafood Curry Pie (with pastry sea-louse decoration)

SWEET PIE CATEGORY

Winner | Marie-Josée Gagnon's Coconut Cottage Cheese Pie

Runners-Up | Pierre Alarie's *Pomme D'Amour* and Teri Shannon's *Fruit Frangipane*

Photos from top left: French film crew, shooting "Somewhere on Earth"; Fall volunteer Jilann Lechner; BAMP team member Lauren Portner with SCFS residents Salix and Fuffy. Bottom right: Contestants in the 2012 Annual Salmon Coast Pie-off.