

The

GUMBOOT GAZETTE



Volume 11, Number 3

Winter 2021

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Ice Safety!

Sockeye Fry
Out-Migration Monitoring

Coho Counts 2021

Clearwater
Signage
Updates

Follow Our Social Media



@lakelse_watershed_society



@Lakelse Watershed
Stewards Society

Ice safety

Minimum thickness of clear, hard ice



Treading water

Do not panic and thrash about. Resist the urge to gasp, slowly tread water or grasp the edge of the ice to keep your head above the water.



Kick and pull

Keep your hands and arms on the ice and kick your feet. This brings your body to a horizontal position, parallel to the ice surface.



Horizontal kick and pull

Once horizontal, continue to kick your feet while pulling with your hands. Draw yourself up onto the ice.



Roll onto the ice

Keep your weight spread out as you roll, crawl, and slide across the ice until it will support your weight.

Scully Creek Coho Counts

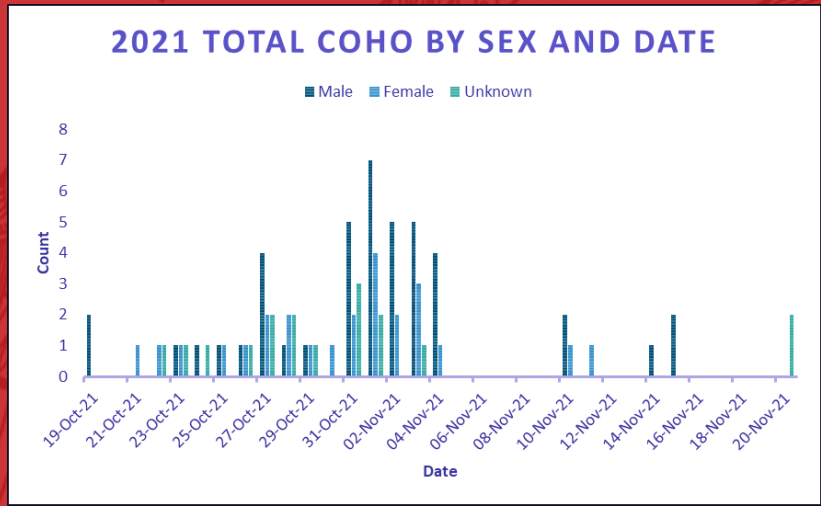
Coho Counts:

Total: 207

Male: 95

Female: 67

Unknown: 45



Some fish swim by the camera too fast and don't give us a glimpse of their face or back. This makes it difficult to identify their sex. Therefore, they are recorded as unknown.

Sockeye continue to be counted!



Eel Creek Culvert Replacement

Two adjacent culverts which host Eel Creek and cross Beam Station Road required replacement. In order to provide adequate fish passage and incorporate proper channel width to protect upstream and downstream values, the two appliances were replaced by one 2500mm open bottom culvert. Replacing the culverts also created habitat for fish and other aquatic species.



Fish species observed or historically recorded in Eel Creek include Dolly Varden char, coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and threespine stickleback.

Clearwater Signage Updates

New sign topics include Moose, Invasive Plants, and River Otters.



Invasive Plants

Invasive Species

Invasive species are organisms that are non-native to an ecosystem, and often have adverse effects on the environment that they colonize. Invasive species can include many different types of animals, insects, and plants. When invasive plants pop up in an area, they often do not have natural enemies to keep their population in check. They spread very rapidly, outcompeting native species for space, sunlight, and water. Invasive plants can also alter the structure, resilience, and threat of an ecosystem. BC Invasive Species

Stink plants



How did they get here?

Invasive species can be spread by boat, train, airplane, or even in your garden or yard. Medicines or food

Water Invasive



Himalayan Balsam

Invasive aquatic plants can overrun waterways, blocking water flow, reducing oxygen levels.

River Otters

The American river otter is a semi-aquatic mammal that lives both on land and in water. They are found near lakes, streams, and rivers. In many other types of habitats, otters use the same animals or natural hollows for a den, a safe place where they can stay away from danger.

Diet
River otters are omnivorous species that eat a variety of aquatic invertebrates, small mammals, and birds.

- Did You Know?**
- River otters can grow up to 1.4m and can weigh up to almost 40lb.
 - Otters can stay under water for minutes and can swim as fast as 11 km/h.
 - River otters can close their ears and keep water out during long dives.

Communication
River otters communicate amongst each other through sound and scent. Whistles, grunts can mean that they're aggravated or danger is near, or that their simply happy. Musky odors produced in scent glands at the base of their tail are used to mark territory and warn others to keep away.

Moose



Habitat
Moose reside throughout the Northern Hemisphere in mixed and temperate broadleaf forests. Within these forests, moose are often found along the borders of lakes, streams, and rivers. Young forests provide an abundance of food for browsing, while mature forests provide cover from predators and adverse weather conditions. Logging can temporarily improve moose habitat as it allows the new growth of plants, although excess logging can be detrimental if it removes nearby cover.

Diet
Moose are herbivores that browse on fresh tree shoots, grasses, deciduous shrubs, and many other types of plants and aquatic plants. A typical moose is capable of consuming up to 71lb of food per day.

- Did you know?**
- Moose are the tallest land mammals in North America, growing up to approximately 7 feet in height.
 - Moose are powerful swimmers and can dive several meters to feed on plants at the bottom of a lake.
 - The lifespan of a moose is 15-25 years.
 - The predators of moose are wolves, bears, and humans.

Communication
Communication amongst moose is accomplished primarily through sound. Loud bellows, grunts, and croaks can indicate stress, danger, or mating rituals.

Sockeye Fry Out-Migration Monitoring



In July 2008, a sockeye salmon spawning enhancement project focused on the placement of spawning substrates in mid channel Schulbuckhand (mid Scully) Creek. The project was conducted by the DFO as part of an ongoing restoration program to help reverse the declining trend of sockeye salmon populations within the Lakelse Watershed. A sampling program of out-migrating sockeye salmon fry was conducted in April and May of 2021 to determine if the imported gravels were providing viable spawning habitat thirteen years after the initial enhancement project was completed. During the initial field set-up of the sampling program, it was evident that the imported gravels had migrated approximately 300 to 400 meters downstream, changing the scope of the project in relation to location. The data collected during the sampling program was analyzed and used in conjunction with a spawning area assessment of mid Scully Creek. A significant number of migrating sockeye fry were captured during the sampling program and were determined to have only originated from the enhanced spawning area. This sampling program provides valuable information on the sockeye spawning capacity in the relatively small spawning area of mid Scully Creek. An estimated total of 11,245 fry migrated from the enhanced spawning area and 0 were captured above the enhanced spawning area which indicates that the enhanced area provides viable spawning habitat and successful egg incubation conditions. According to the estimated number of out-migrating fry captured during the sampling period, we estimate that approximately 41 spawning pairs would have utilized the enhanced area. The results of this sampling program demonstrate the opportunity to further enhance mid channel Scully Creek through the addition of more spawning gravels that would increase the area of spawning habitat thereby improving the total carrying capacity of the creek. This information may also be used as a model for future restoration works in other water courses.

*Full report available upon request.



Stay Warm This Winter



Hat \$25
T-Shirt \$25
Hoodie \$45





We look forward to offering volunteer opportunities I the upcoming months!

We have a variety of projects starting in May, including water quality sampling, salmon escapement, and interpretive programs!

If want to get involved or if you have questions, feel free to email Summer at sschulte@westlandresources.ca.

All opportunities are dependent on updating COVID health regulations.

We hope everyone is staying healthy, happy, and safe out there!

