

North Olympic Salmon Coalition

Not just another fish story

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upcoming [events](#)

**Creek Tour, Caroling,
and Cookies** with Salmon
Claus, Reed Aubin, and
Rebecca Benjamin,
Finnriver Farm, Dec. 21,
2pm

Bingo for Salmon at the
Hilltop Tavern - January
1st, 7 to 9:30 pm.

New Year's Tree Planting

at an incredible property
on Chimacum Creek -
January 4, 10am to 2pm

Plantathon, a fundraiser
for area schools. Planting
date is February 1st.

A Flash of Dark Silver

Cohos run despite low water levels

We extend a hearty welcome to our beloved Coho salmon, who are charging upstream even in lack of rain. Cohos have been sighted throughout Chimacum, Snow, and other area waterways. [Visit our website](#) for more information and check out [our facebook page](#) for up-to-the-minute updates on silver viewings.

Salmon "MicroFestival" Goes Maxi

A Chimacum tradition is alive



Greetings from Reed Aubin, Education and Volunteer Program Manager. I started at the Salmon Coalition in September, and at our annual meeting in October, Tom Jay, Sara Johani, and other all-star veterans of local salmon restoration sat me down with a question: "Is it time we revive the salmon festival?" We decided to give it a go this November 22nd with a small get-together to plan future festivals. Even before we began to

February Tree Plantings

Saturdays at Snow,
Chimacum, Morse Creeks!
Stay tuned for more info.

Questions? RSVP?

raubin@nosc.org

379-8051

Salmon Bingo!



Every Wednesday in
January. 7:00 to 9:30
pm

Hilltop Tavern
2510 W Sims Way
Port Townsend

**100% of proceeds go to
NOSC education and
restoration programs!**

**SALMON CLAUS
IS COMING!**

**Will he bring coal or
NOSC t-shirts and TOTE
BAGS!**



**Stop by the office and
pick up a gift!**

properly publicize the event, the RSVPs came pouring in. We scrambled to order more fish, more firewood, and organize kids' activities. By the time the salmon was served on a cedar-covered table beside heaps of local vegetables, bread, mushrooms, and more, the crowd numbered at least 130. The grange looked dazzling with art of festivals gone by, and the air buzzed with dreams of celebrations to come. Heartfelt thanks to the amazing community that came together to make this a truly special event and an auspicious beginning to a new chapter of Salmon Celebration on the peninsula. Stay tuned for 2014!

Cutthroat Bingo

Warm up your winter Wednesdays with wicked winnings



Another winter storytelling tradition is slated to be revived in January: Wednesday Bingo for Salmon at the Hilltop Tavern in Port Townsend. It's a classic tale of you drinking beer and NOSC raising money. Last year, we raised \$1000 for our programs! Come on people, the beer is not going to drink itself. Come enjoy great company, delicious beverages, and a chance to win some sweet cash-ola. The Hilltop will donate 100% of proceeds from the bingo game to NOSC, but they will only continue to host this fundraiser for us if we keep bringing in the people. Join us 7 to 9:30 pm, every Wednesday in January, starting on January 1st.

Volunteer Spotlight

Jeff Taylor

***T-shirts made
with ORGANIC
cotton, oh my!***

**Listen to Nature on
the Radio!**

Nature Now, a show

about our local natural
history, is seeking new
producers and
researchers. If you

have an interest in natural
history, please contact
Kate Dwyer

kdwyer@olympus.net

You can listen to Nature
Now every week on KPTZ
91.9 FM



Volunteer and board member Jeff Taylor braves reed canary grass in search of coho on the E. Fork of Chimacum Creek

When Jeff retired from a career in High-Tech Engineering in Seattle, he knew he wanted to move to a smaller, active town that was surrounded with outdoor recreation options. Choosing Port Townsend, He and wife Cindy moved in 2011 and quickly found out about the North Olympic Salmon Coalition's volunteer opportunities in Chimacum Creek.

"So much volunteer work is aimed at just keeping things from getting worse. Working here with salmon I have seen runs improve dramatically in a relative short period of time."

Jeff has worked as a chum surveyor and coho surveyor on Chimacum Creek for the past two years. "One of the things I really like about surveying is that you get to spend 3 hours with someone who you otherwise would not necessarily get to know, someone outside your social circle and with a different background. I've met some really great people in the creek."

Jeff's favorite moment of this past year was watching the salmon return to Chimacum Creek in record numbers; "This year you could hardly walk in the creek without a salmon running into you."

"And this year" Jeff added, "the waders didn't leak."

Fall Volunteer and Education Highlights

Thanks, Volunteers!



Chimacum HS students prepare to plant cedars and spruce along the West Fork of Chimacum Creek



Volunteers, led by Eagle Scout Jazz Weller, remove invasive blackberry and ivy at Irondale Beach County Park. Nice Work, Jazz!

Winter Planting Season Begins

Volunteers Needed!



Winter is tree-planting time!

We are planning several large plantings on Chimacum and Snow Creeks this winter season, and possibly McDonald Creek as well. We will kick off the season with a small planting event at a beautiful stretch of the West Fork of Chimacum Creek, near Eaglemount. This is a unique opportunity to plant young trees in the company of their old growth counterparts, in this case a grove of Sitka Spruce that has never been logged, right here in Center Valley. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 4th, 10am to 2pm. RSVP to Reed Aubin raubin@nosc.org, 379-8051.

3 Crabs Restaurant Laid to Rest

Estuary and shoreline restoration project moves forward



Demolition crews remove debris from the former 3 Crabs Restaurant site in Dungeness

One of the Salmon Coalition's large-scale projects passed a major milestone last month as heavy equipment crunched and hauled away the former 3 Crabs Restaurant in Dungeness. Located in the estuary of Meadowbrook Creek, just beside the majestic Dungeness River, this project will open up valuable habitat for juvenile and adult salmon, one of the last way stations for small fry from all over Puget Sound before they embark on their ocean voyage. Check out our [project blog](#) for videos, photos, news coverage, and updates.

Rebecca Wins Again

NOSC Executive Director honored with Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Award

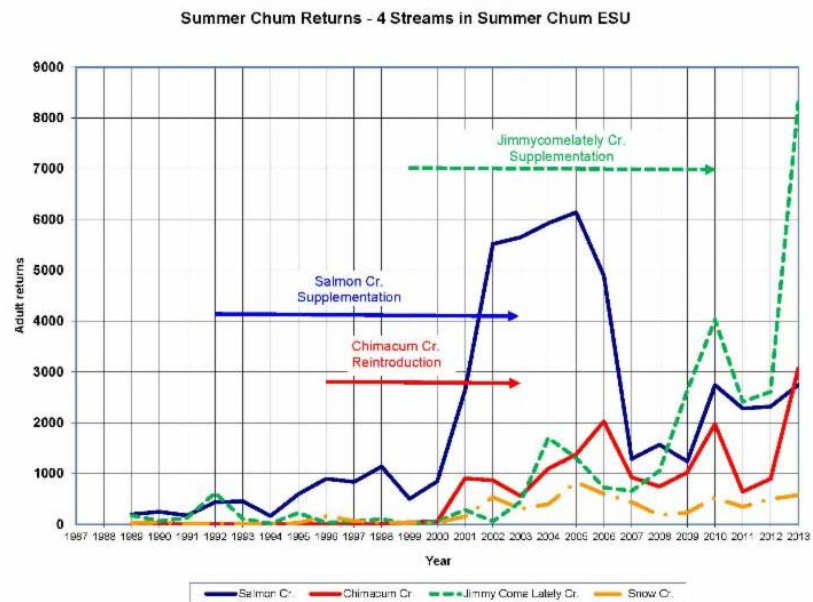


The North Olympic Salmon Coalition's Executive Director, Rebecca

Benjamin, who was recently honored with the Eleanor Stopps Environmental Leadership Award, racked up another distinction in November: a Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Award. Sponsoring agency Hood Canal Coordinating Council had this to say:

"Rebecca Benjamin is recognized for her dedication to the conservation and protection of wild salmon stocks on the Olympic Peninsula. Although this is her job as Executive Director of NOSC, she continually goes above and beyond to further their mission by actively working to increase the effectiveness of partners and salmon recovery in Washington. Rebecca leads staff as they take on the challenges of bigger restoration projects that affect ecosystems with the largest and longest lasting impacts. She has successfully funded a Washington Conservation Corps restoration crew who planted over 40 acres in summer chum habitat. Rebecca continues to educate community members and children about salmon, despite limited funding. She carries a spirit of collaboration into every meeting or project she endeavors." Congratulations Rebecca!

Chum Returns Way Off the Charts Incredible runs this year



This just in from Cheri Scalf, keeper-of-the-numbers for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This was a record year for ESA-listed Hood Canal Summer Chum in our area creeks.

- Jimmycomelately Creek: 8,341
- Salmon Creek: 2,746
- Snow Creek: 574
- Chimacum Creek: 3,066

These numbers are a testament to the decades of hard work that this community has put in to restoring our salmon runs. Hooray!

You are a Sparkplug for Change

Thank You NOSC Members and Donors 2013

In September, NOSC humbly asked for your support during our Membership Drive 2013. We were elated by the response- 74 new members, and a heaping ton of existing and new donors! While we did not fully reach our membership goal this year, we believe that through our work to grow our community today we will continue to meet the development challenges we face head-on and ultimately succeed in our endeavors. Thank You for standing beside us.

Your support and encouragement is the inspiring force behind our mission-driven work and we are so grateful for our volunteers, members and donors. To show our appreciation, there will be new and exciting member/donor events in 2014. Stay tuned! And, if you aren't yet, or know someone who should be, don't miss this chance to [visit our membership page TODAY](#).