

Our mission is to promote robust wild salmon stocks for families, fishers, and local economies by furthering habitat restoration and education on the North Olympic Peninsula.

Quiet Currents & Far Reaching Ripples

A Note from Director, Rebecca Benjamin

Salmon follow migration pathways starting as a tiny alevin, growing in the streams, making their way to the estuaries where they transform from a freshwater species to a salt-tolerant animal. Onward to the ocean they go, to an unimaginable journey no one has taught them how to navigate. They go on instinct and millennia of ancestral memory. Their work is miraculous. Some feed the ocean web, others feed the human race, and still others make their way back 'home' to perpetuate their species. Every day, our work serves one purpose – to make this journey worthwhile for those who make it home, so they have healthy habitat, fresh water and spawning gravel to welcome them. Sometimes our work is bold and attention grabbing (think – constructing a new bridge or culvert or having dozens of community members out planting trees). Other times, it is quiet, mysterious work, known only to those making the journey. This year was one of the years our work was quiet to the onlookers – it was a planning time where we identified, designed and funded restoration projects. No dump trucks or cranes in sight. Our splash came in the form of a new education program and a few planting events. It will be a while before the salmon see the fruits of this year's work, so for now we'll tease you with a little taste of what's to come and immerse you in the joy of educating our next generations.



Rebecca Benjamin



Growing Minds & Raising Fish

Salmon in the Schools



This year the Salmon Coalition was presented with the amazing opportunity to participate in a statewide Salmon in the Schools Program. We provided three North Olympic Peninsula classrooms with an aquarium to raise coho salmon from eggs to fry. We then visited each classroom to teach lessons on the salmon life cycle and biology. Once the coho were about 1-2" long, the program culminated with a field trip to a salmon-bearing stream where students released their fry and bid them good luck on the next chapter of their journeys. This year, we partnered with first and second graders from Salish Coast Elementary in Port Townsend, third graders from Chimacum Elementary, and fifth graders from Hamilton Elementary in Port Angeles. It was so much fun getting to work with these students, and we are excited to announce that the program will continue for a second year! *Thanks to WA State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) grant funding, secured by our sister organization, the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group.*

"NOSC is helping hundreds of students understand the importance of salmon in our ecosystem and giving them reason to think about what they can do to take care of salmon now and in the future."

- Dawn Braden, Salish Coast 1st & 2nd Grade

Above Right: Coho fry ready to be released.

Above Left: Chimacum Elementary students release the salmon they raised into Chimacum Creek.

Reimagining Riverways

Snow Creek Uncas Preserve Habitat Restoration

The Jefferson Land Trust (JLT) has permanently protected a property on Snow Creek they call 'Uncas Preserve'. The property includes a half-mile of Snow Creek. Despite having a nice riparian forest, the creek itself has cut itself deeper and deeper over the years and is no longer connected to a healthy floodplain. In partnership with JLT, we are working with Natural Systems Design who is designing a project to make a healthier habitat in this reach of creek. We have done survey work, studied water flow patterns, volumes and velocities, mapped trees, measured gravel and more. These studies inform a design where we will be installing engineered log jams. The wood will increase pool frequency, trap gravels and fine sediment, raise the water table, create side channels and increase volume of hyporheic (where groundwater and surface water meet) flow and surface water exchange. New side channels will promote off channel habitat, floodplain connection, and further promote sediment retention. The project will provide benefits to ESA-listed Puget Sound steelhead and Hood Canal summer chum, and Puget Sound coho. The project is currently at 60% design and is in the permitting phase. We plan to construct the project in the Summer of 2023. *Funding provided by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.*



Project Manager Kevin Long walks Snow Creek with engineers from Natural Systems Design.

Knee-Deep in Chimacum Creek

Thank You to our Devoted Volunteers!

The 2021 summer chum survey season was an excellent way for community members to make a difference by collecting scientific data. Twenty-six volunteers walked one mile of Chimacum Creek for ten consecutive weeks, from late August through early November. Sharing data with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) feeds important regional research on the recovery of ESA-listed summer chum salmon.

Right: Maude Richards takes a scale sample on Chimacum Creek
Left: Cheri Scalf and Kai Wallin pose with a coho while monitoring the fish trap on Snow Creek.



BY THE



2,383
Volunteer Hours

Americorp Service Hours
6,450

Miles of
0.59
Habitat
Restored

Students Reached with K-12 Education
637

School Fieldtrips
& Classroom Visits
33

Native Trees
& Shrubs Planted
6,989

Acres of Invasives
Removed
11.2

Fish Released
750

A Fond Farewell to Cheri Scalf

In 2022, Cheri Scalf retired from WDFW after over 30 years of service to our local salmon. She started advocating for salmon as a Wild Olympic Salmon and WDFW volunteer from 1992-1999, where she and other volunteers played a pivotal role in helping to recover Hood Canal Summer Chum in Chimacum, Jimmycomelately, and Salmon creeks. She joined WDFW as a staff member in 1999 and has led efforts with community volunteers and WDFW technicians to count salmon at the permanent weir on Snow Creek, the adult traps on Salmon and Jimmycomelately creeks, and the smolt trap on Salmon Creek. She has also hiked all of these creeks on innumerable occasions to conduct spawning surveys for the returning salmon. The data that she collected has been critical in tracking the recovery of summer chum in our region. Summer chum returns were at record highs during Cheri's retirement celebration, and we'd like to think they came to give her a thankful farewell for her heartfelt dedication to their recovery. We appreciate you, Cheri, and we hope to carry on your legacy of care for our local salmon!

Planting for the Future Growing Partnerships & Forests at River's Edge



Volunteers appreciate their planting handiwork in the floodplain of the Dungeness at River's Edge.

In 2021, the Salmon Coalition was invited by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (Tribe) and the Clallam Conservation District (CCD) to partner on the planting of the River's Edge levee setback project on the Dungeness River near

Sequim. Revegetating the 56-acre floodplain is a Herculean task, and there was plenty of work for an array of community volunteers, students and our Washington Conservation Corps Crew. During this first phase of planting, 14-acres were planted with nearly 9,000 trees and shrubs. Salmon Coalition and CCD volunteers planted 2,000 of those 9,000 trees and shrubs. Thank you to all who joined us to plant a future floodplain forest! It isn't often when Salmon Coalition volunteers have an opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder as they did with volunteers, staff and board members from other Clallam County organizations, and it was a lot of fun! For more about the River's Edge Revegetation Project, visit <https://clallamcd.org/restoration>. Funding for NOSC staff to coordinate community planting events at River's Edge came from both RFEF funds and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Financials 2021-2022

Expenses			Income		
Monitoring	\$7,565	0.78%	1.56%	\$16,380	Private Grants
Project Development	\$32,188	3.32%	4.98%	\$52,278	Federal Grants
Education and Outreach	\$48,072	4.96%	20.71%	\$217,448	Contracted Services
Operations	\$122,507	12.65%	27.97%	\$293,680	Core RFEF & Donor Funds
Restoration Projects	\$758,197	78.28%	44.79%	\$470,339	State Grants
Total	\$968,530	100.00%	100.00%	\$1,050,126	Total

Photos were generously provided by: John Gussman, Charles Espey, Mae Wolfe, NOSC staff and volunteers. Thank you!



Base funding for the RFEF program comes from a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, a portion of state commercial and recreational fishing license fees, and excess egg and carcass sales administered by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.