
Summer Chum Salmon Reintroduction and Supplemenation Projects Dedicated to the Summer Chum Salmon - and all their chums!





In the mid 1980's the Summer Chum Salmon stocks in the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal streams experienced a huge decline in adults returning to spawn. In some cases like Chimacum Cr. none returned for several years indicating the run had been "extirpated"- no longer existed. Causes were a combination of ocean conditions, high harvest rates and, washout of the Irondale Rd culvert Efforts by Wild Olympic Salmon and North Olympic Salmon Coalition volunteers with assistance from WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife staff began to reintroduce summer chum to Chimacum Cr. The run in nearby Salmon Cr. was one of the healthiest runs so eggs were harvested from returning adults, "eyed out" at a WDFW hatchery and raised in a small hatchery on a Salmon Cr. tributary. Released into Salmon Cr. for several years increased the adult returns to the point that some eggs could be "surplused" to restart the Chimacum Cr. run. They were raised in a former trout farm on the Naylors Cr. tributary and then released into the summer chum spawning area in lower Chimacum Cr.



Houck Cr. Hatchery

Summer chum eggs from Salmon Cr. incubated on this tributary. Fry raised here, and then released back into Salmon Cr. After a few years the adult returns to Salmon Cr. improved enough to send eggs to Chimacum Cr. to restart the run there.





Salmon Cr. RSI

To emulate more natural conditions the during the last couple years of Salmon Cr. supplementation project the eggs were incubated in this "remote site incubator". When the fry were ready to leave the "gravel" stage they would swim out of RSI into Salmon Cr.



NOSC volunteers counting summer chum in Salmon Cr. trap. This removable trap used since channel reconstruction in 2004. Some fish were stripped of eggs and sperm to supplement the Salmon Cr. run and then restart the Chimacum Cr. run.

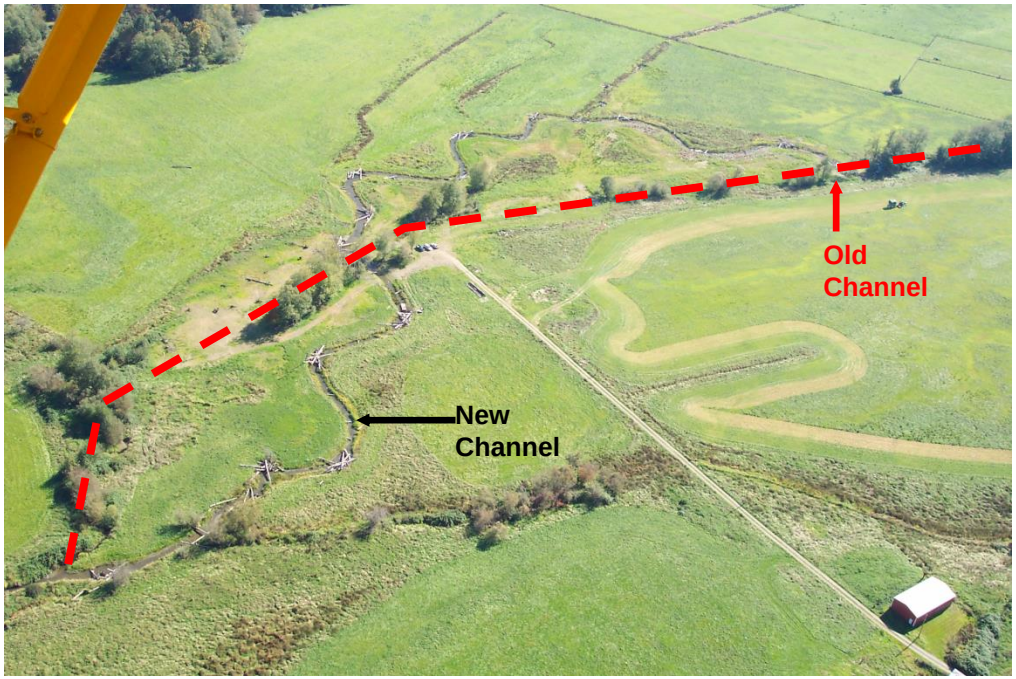


Electronic Fish Counter

An electronic fish counter wsastested on Salmon Cr. to see if this kind of device could replace the fish trap used for counting summer chum. It was not successful so manual counting by NOSC volunteers has continued



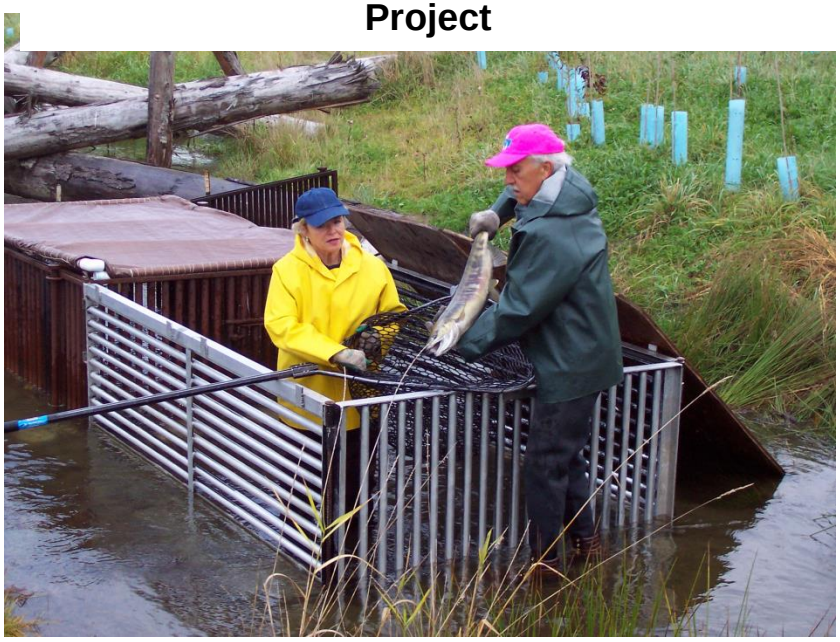


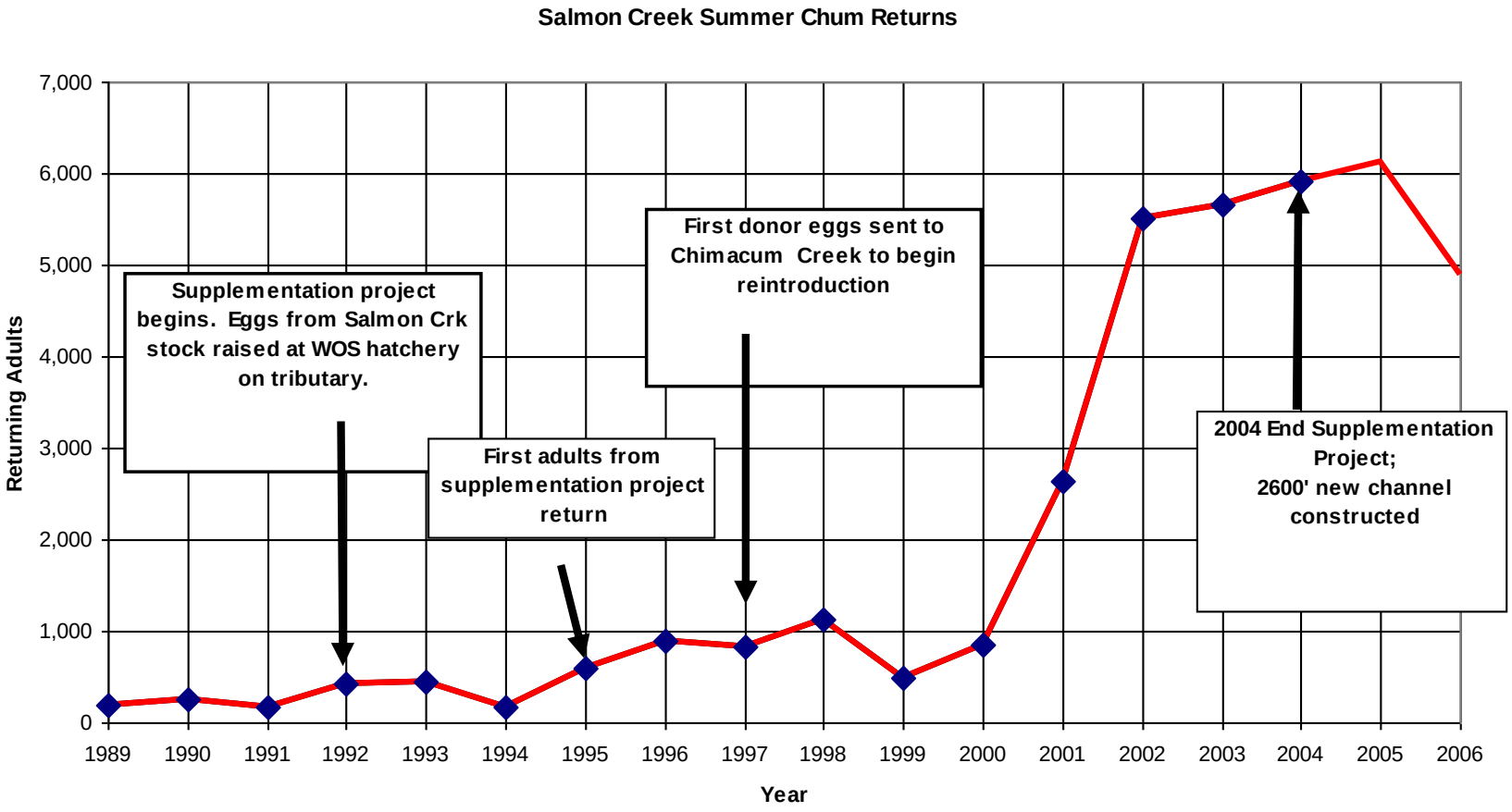




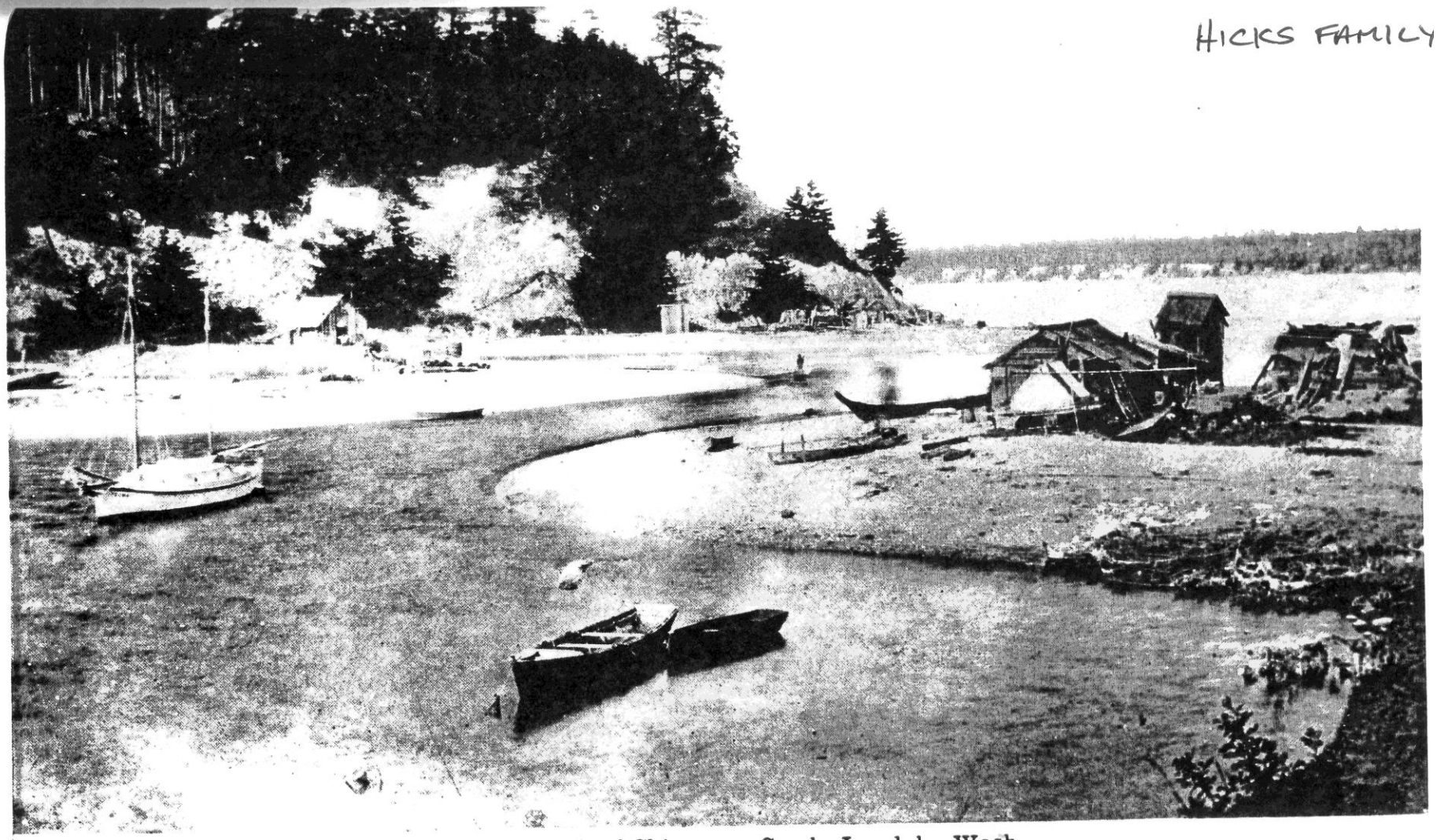
Salmon Cr. Restoration Project, 2003-042,600' New Channel completed. 30% increase in fish habitat area in this reach. Jeff. Co. Conservation District & WDFW Project





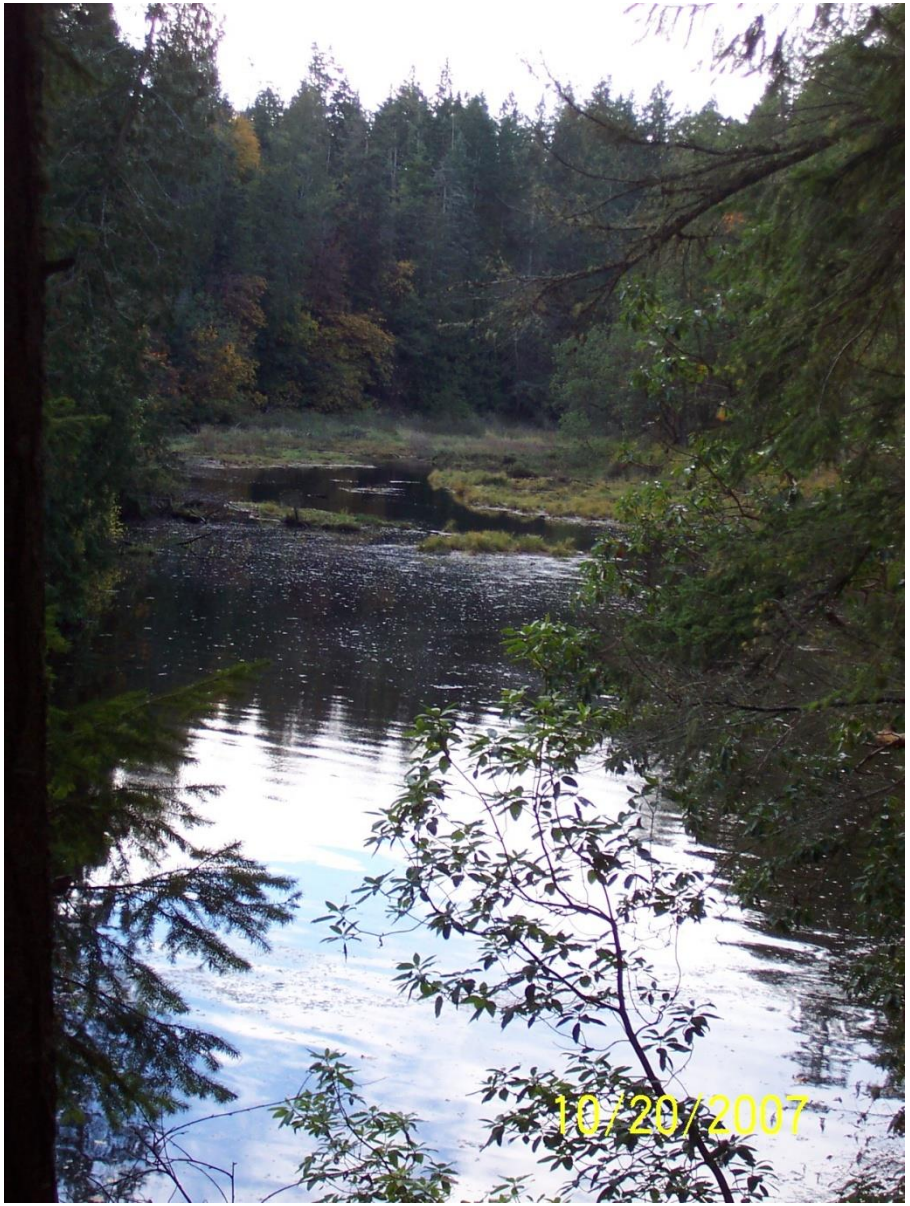

Salmon Creek Summer Chum Returns
Returning Adults
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
Year
Supplementation project begins. Eggs from Salmon Crk stock raised at WOS hatchery on tributary.
First adults from supplementation project return
First donor eggs sent to Chimacum Creek to begin reintroduction
2004 End Supplementation Project; 2600' new channel constructed

HICKS FAMILY

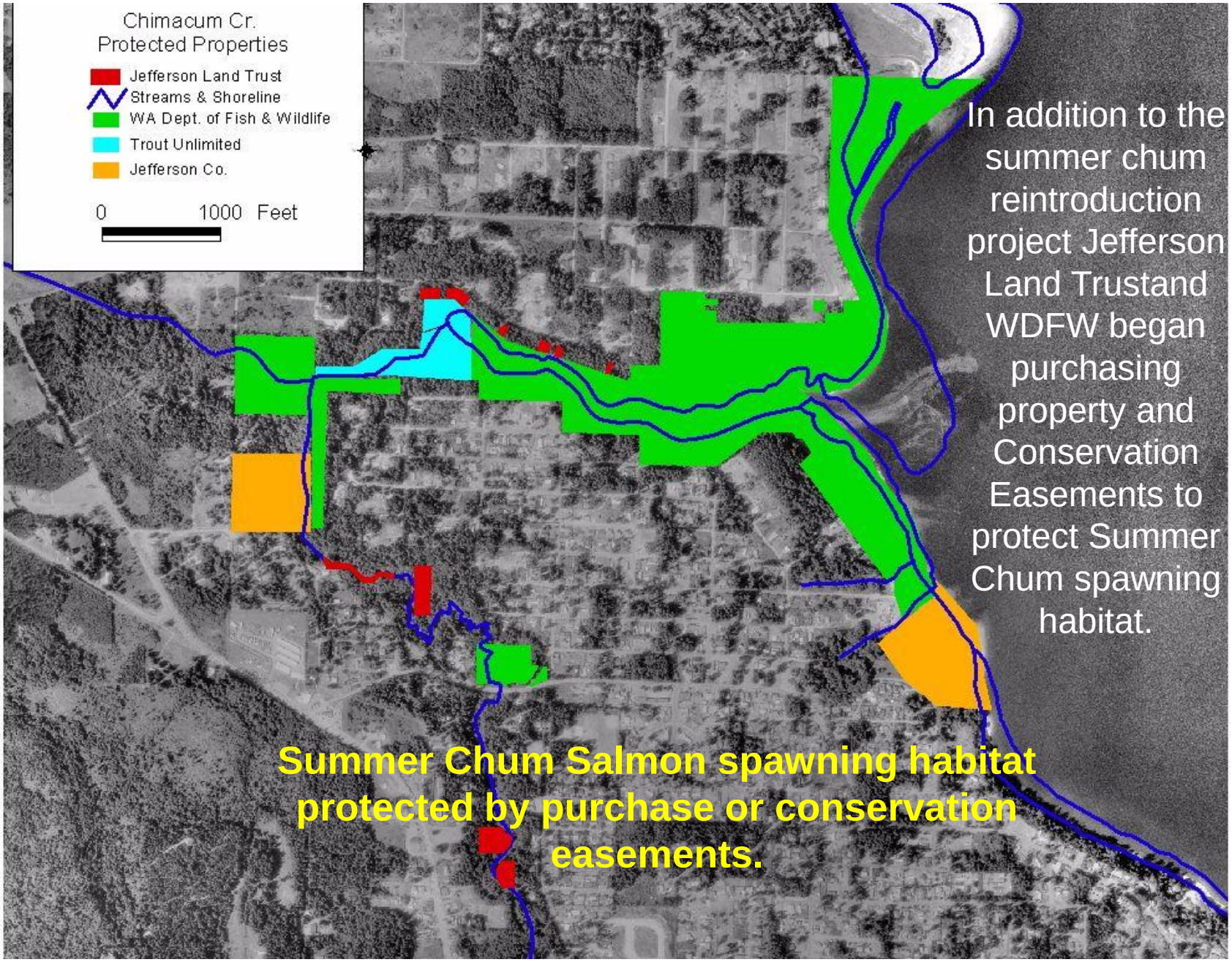


12232. Mouth of Chimacum Creek, Irondale, Wash.

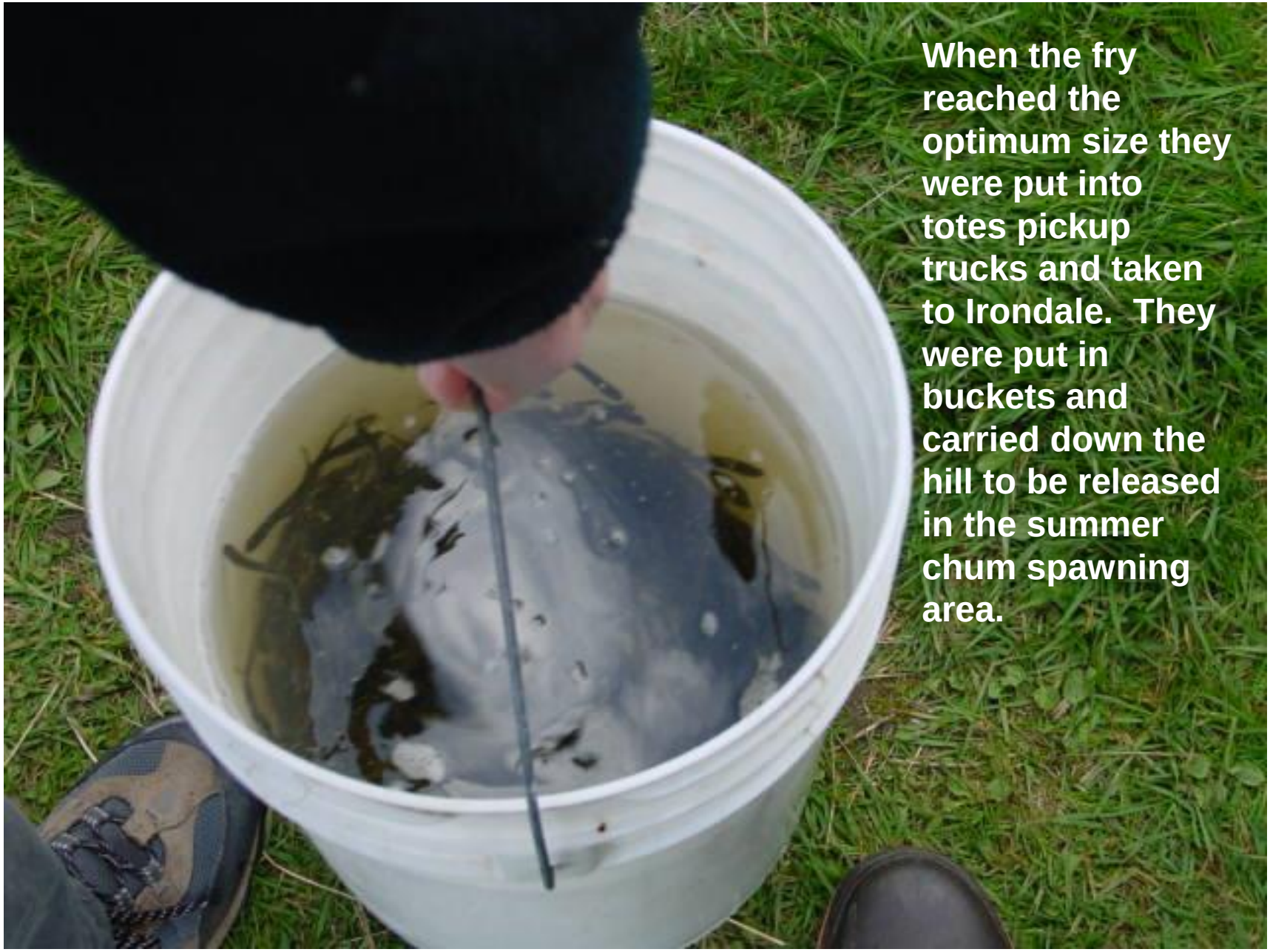




Lower Chimacum Cr.


Chimacum Cr.
Protected Properties
Jefferson Land Trust
Streams & Shoreline
WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Trout Unlimited
Jefferson Co.
0
1000 Feet
In addition to the summer chum reintroduction project Jefferson Land Trustand WDFW began purchasing property and Conservation Easements to protect Summer Chum spawning habitat.
Summer Chum Salmon spawning habitat protected by purchase or conservation easements.

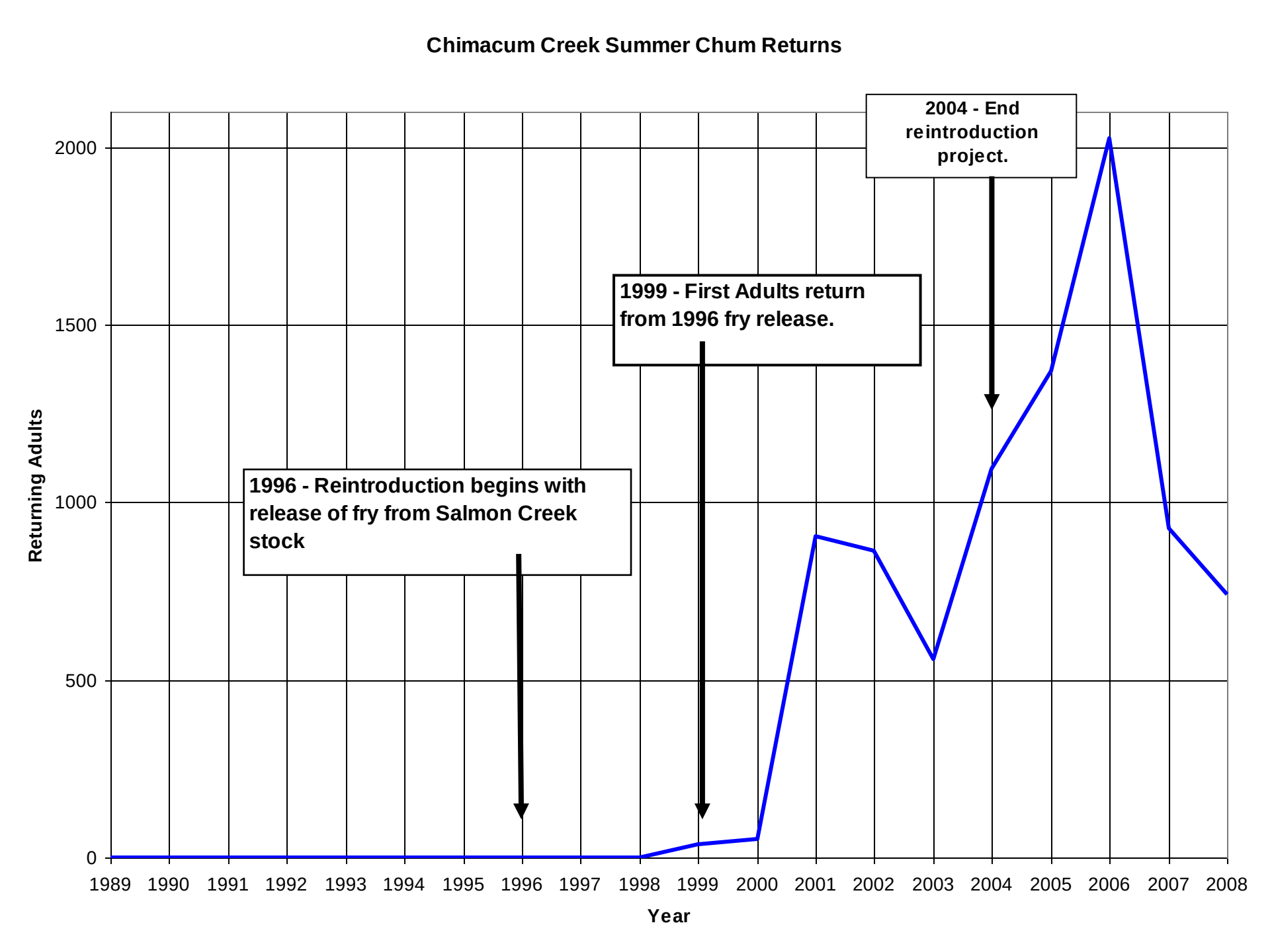

WOS/NOSC volunteers at the former trout farm on the Ammeter property where summer chum were raised prior to release in Chimacum Cr.
B36

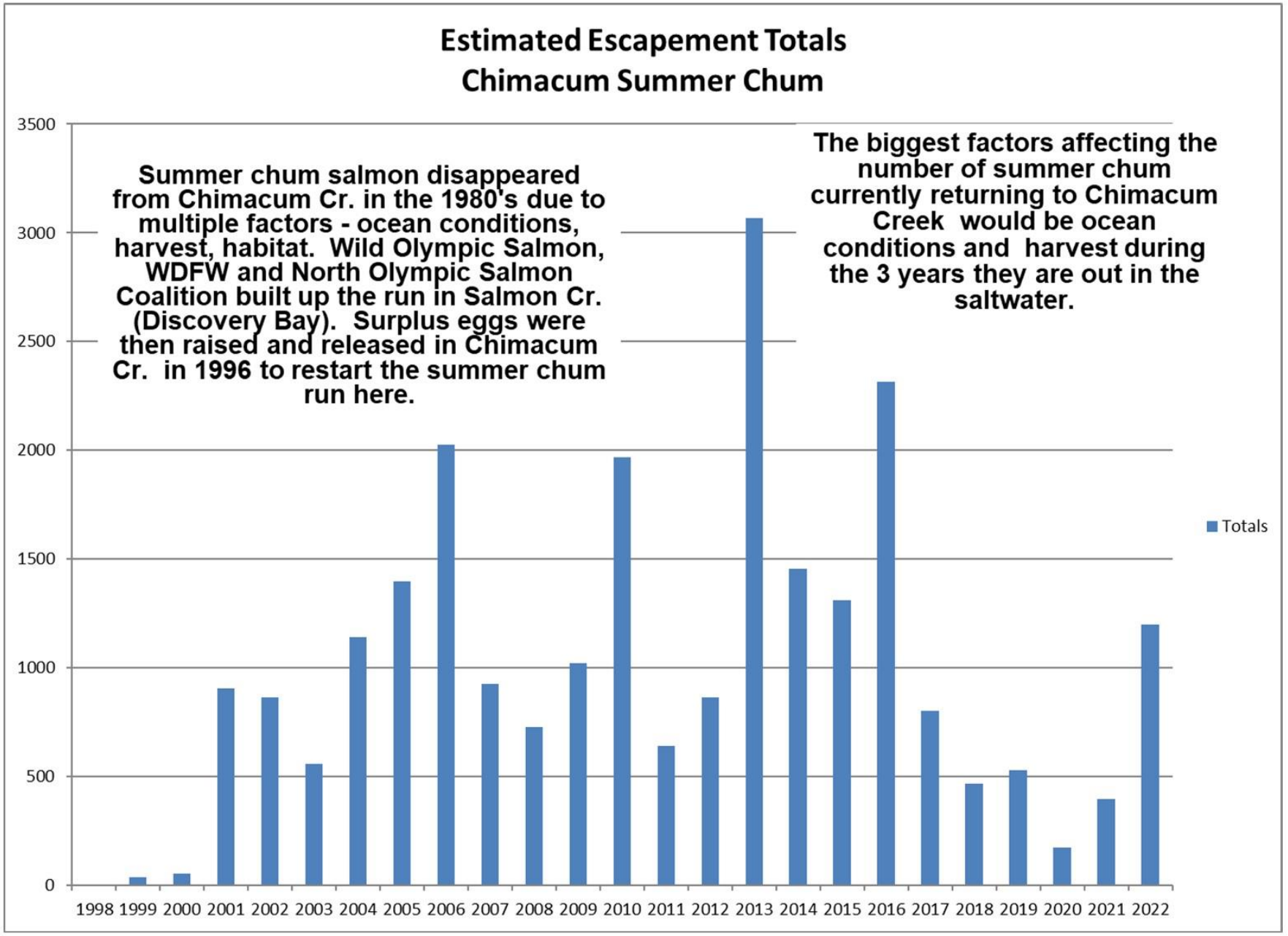

When the fry reached the optimum size they were put into totes pickup trucks and taken to Irondale. They were put in buckets and carried down the hill to be released in the summer chum spawning area.





Bucket Brigade! Volunteers carrying buckets of summer chum fry down to the Chimacum Cr. and releasing them into the creek.


Chimacum Creek Summer Chum Returns
2004 - End reintroduction project.
1999 - First Adults return from 1996 fry release.
1996 - Reintroduction begins with release of fry from Salmon Creek stock
Returning Adults
0
500
1000
1500
2000
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
Year


Estimated Escapement Totals
Chimacum Summer Chum
Summer chum salmon disappeared from Chimacum Cr. in the 1980's due to multiple factors - ocean conditions, harvest, habitat. Wild Olympic Salmon, WDFW and North Olympic Salmon Coalition built up the run in Salmon Cr. (Discovery Bay). Surplus eggs were then raised and released in Chimacum Cr. in 1996 to restart the summer chum run here.
The biggest factors affecting the number of summer chum currently returning to Chimacum Creek would be ocean conditions and harvest during the 3 years they are out in the saltwater.
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022
Totals