

Departure Bay Update for September 21 2017

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Hello All,

The good news is that this past Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning (September 19-20) and triggered by the rain event, Pink salmon migrated up Departure Creek to spawn. Subsequent we conducted two stream walks and counted a total of 53 salmon and confirmed that they have begun to spawn.

There are still more pinks holding in Departure Bay waiting for the next rain event to move upstream. This means that we can expect to find Pink fry in our smolt trap next spring along with Coho smolt !!

Now the not-so-good news. The multi-partnered enhancement project planned and scheduled to begin on that same Wednesday morning, has now been postponed until next summer. The objective of the project was to address bank stabilization and to create a much needed side channel .

Unfortunate delays pushed "our shovels -in-the-ground" starting date back to Wednesday September 20. Under the Fisheries Act no stream work is permitted if there are spawning salmon present in the creek. We very much look forward to completing this important project next summer.

Lastly a big "thank you " to our community volunteers who, led by Kylie Oussoren, participated in the vital summer watering program in the park to ensure that many riparian plants we planted late last fall survived this exceptionally dry summer. The plants would not have survived otherwise.

Thank you all for your support in aid of Departure Creek and its inhabitants.

cheers,

Jean-Michel