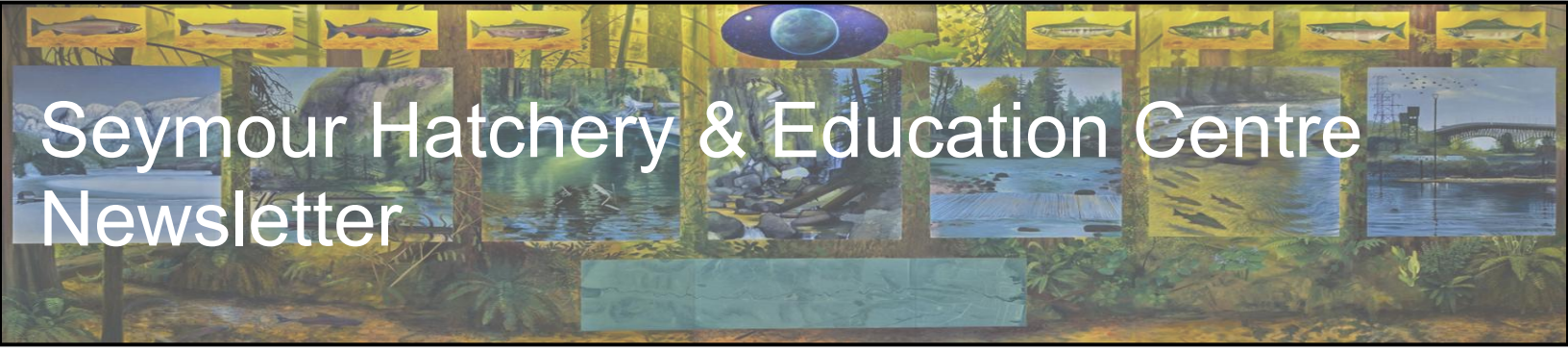


Seymour Hatchery & Education Centre Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2026

With the summer temperatures cooling and the odd rain shower arriving we are starting to see the fall colours in the watershed. Salmon began returning earlier in summer and our first river seine event in July captured ~100 early run coho, all of whom likely arrived during the smaller and short freshet flows during May and June. We completed our spring 2026 education program and continued to engage with visiting community members, especially with our volunteer assistance during the coho and steelhead fry fin clipping events.

We had a successful winter-run steelhead capture in the spring and successfully spawned three pairs for the coming season. We have also completed our fin clipping operations, so all our coho and steelhead fry are now in our outdoor ponds until May 2027. We are now beginning to collect the returning adult salmon in preparation for spawning in the fall.

We have successfully transported and released our full compliment of early run coho and half of our summer run steelhead adults upstream of Seymour Falls dam.

Our activities continue with the generous support of the Metro-Vancouver, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the District of North Vancouver Firefighters Charitable Society, the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), along with private and corporate donors. We also deeply appreciate our community volunteers for helping us accomplish so much for the watershed.



Adult capture and release marking during river seine

Enhancement 2026

Fry in Outdoor Rearing Ponds:

Coho salmon – 46,000

Summer steelhead – 22,000

Winter steelhead – 9,300

Salmonids Released above the Dam:

Coho salmon – 400

Summer steelhead – 11 (of 20 permitted)

Adults Spawned:

Chum salmon – 49 pairs (so far)

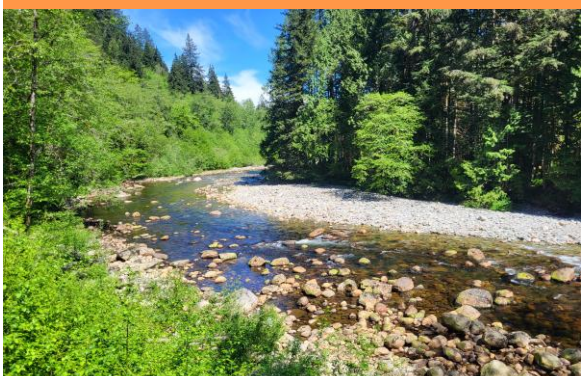
Coho Salmon – 3 (so far)

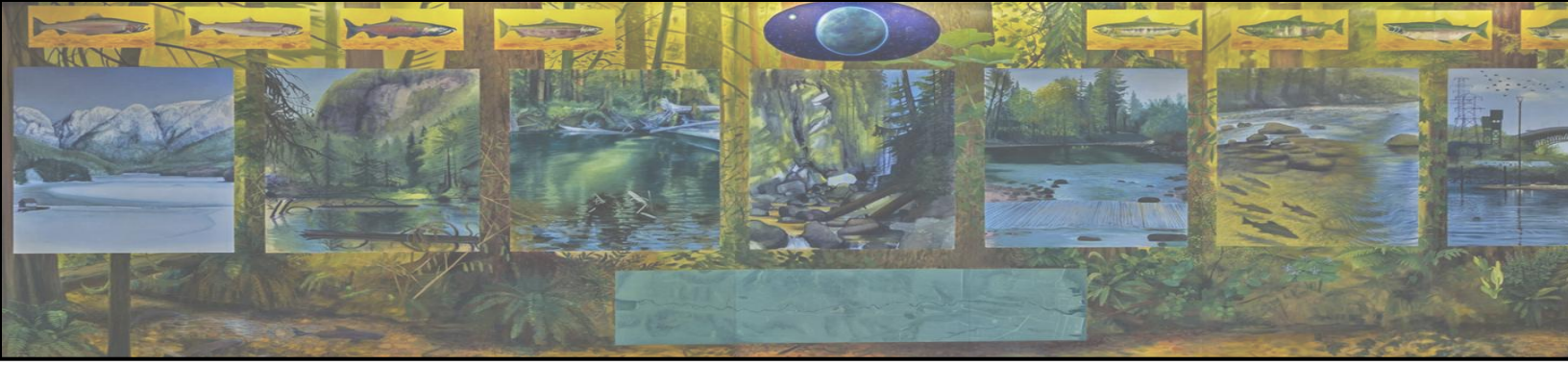
Contact

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to our newsletter, please email volunteering@seymoursalmon.com

PO Box 30085, North Vancouver, V7H 2Y8

Phone: 604-288-0511







Fin clipping juvenile coho salmon before moving to outdoor rearing ponds

In the Watershed

Our successful transport and release of our early run coho above Seymour Falls Dam before the end of September was benefitted by the capture of adults in our disused outdoor rearing pond, which enable easy access to the returning adults. We have observed good numbers of returning adult coho in the river upstream of the Seymour Canyon and chum salmon in the lower river. This is positive news for confirming fish passage for coho during the mid-late spring flow conditions and that good numbers of chum salmon have been entering the lower river during the fall.



Petra during release of early run coho above Seymour Falls dam

Fin clipping activities are completed and our coho and steelhead fry are now rearing in the outdoor ponds for the remainder of the year until May 2027 when they'll be released as smolts.

Our first hatchery pool seine in July produced approximately 50 coho and 16 summer-run steelhead. At our second seine event in September, we were able to capture nearly 1,000 adult coho, 450 of which were tagged and released (tagged fish will be used to create a population estimate later in the season). Our seine in October captured nearly 900 adult coho, 400 of which were tagged and released and an additional 45 were transported to the hatchery for broodstock. We are anticipating similar very positive fish numbers in our last seine of the season in early November.



Returning adult summer-steelhead in river seine

We undertook upgrades to the Sinkboot Creek outlet structures to improve flow management and direct water and improve flows to side creek habitat adjacent to the hatchery. Historically Sinkboot Creek was a dry channel and the upgraded outlet channel structures enable better management for the 300m of spawning and rearing habitat of the creek. Sinkboot flows into Hurry Creek, which flows into the Seymour River.

A big thank you to the Collingwood Business Organisation (https://www.collingwoodbusiness.org/) in association with students from Collingwood School (West Vancouver) for your generous financial support towards the project infrastructure, along with community volunteers, Metro-Vancouver and DFO for the expertise and additional materials to install the new Sinkboot Creek channel outlet improvements.



Community Volunteers installing the Sinkboot Creek Outlet structure

Education

Our Gently Down the Seymour fall classes began in September and are booked until mid-October, totalling 15 classes. The fall weather has stayed dry, for the most part, and has enabled the kids to get into nearby Hurry Creek, learn about stream invertebrates in the laboratory and learn about the salmon life cycle at the facility.

Our fall classes come primarily from Vancouver, North and West Vancouver, Burnaby, and Coquitlam schools and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation all have enjoyed their education day in the forest so far in 2026. The 355 visiting students were accompanied by 86 teachers and parents.



GDS class enjoying their waders in preparation for Hurry Creek

We had no weather-related closures that impacted field trips, so we were able to undertake all 15 classes at the hatchery and education centre. Teacher feedback also strongly agreed that GDS met expectations and supports their Salmonids in the Classroom experience.

Staff Introduction

We are welcoming Sean, our new Program Coordinator who started with us full-time in May. You may have already met Sean as he has been our seasonal fisheries technician for the past two years. Sean completed his diploma in Fish, Wildlife and Recreational Management, followed by a BSc in Ecological Restoration, both from BCIT.



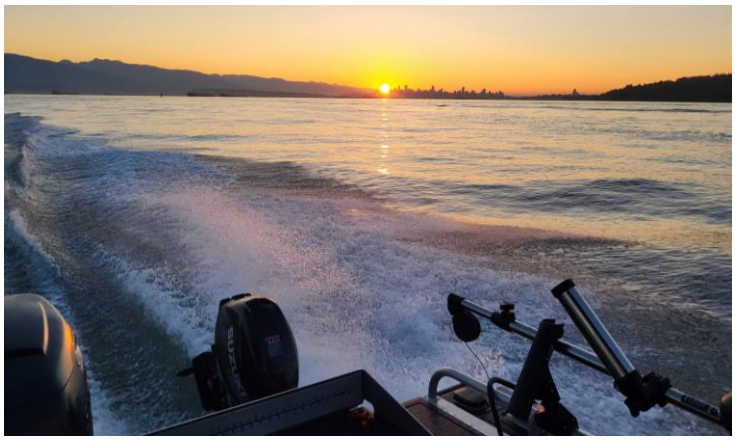
Sean involved in a river seine holding a summer-run steelhead



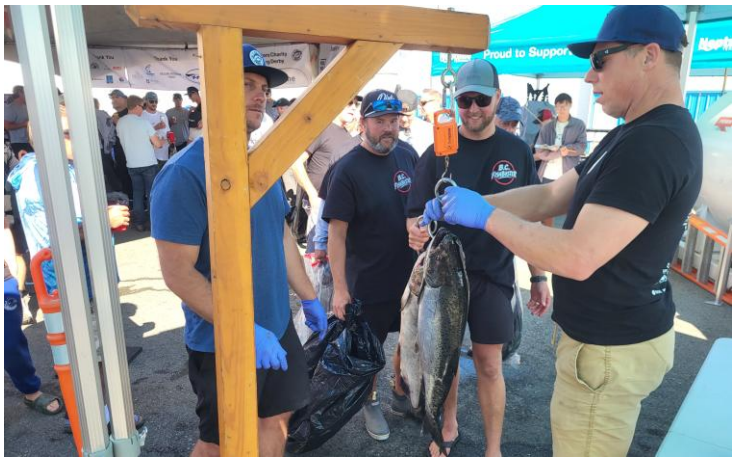
Community volunteers involved in a recent lower river Chum seine

DNV Firefighters Charity – Fishing Derby

We are finalising our fundraising for the season for our 2027 education programs, facility operations, and restoration initiatives. The DNV Firefighters Charity have once again delivered their fantastic annual Barn Burner on June 5th, along with the highly successful Fishing Derby on September 18th.









The fishing derby is now one of the largest such competitions in BC. Following the successful events the DNV Firefighters Charity donated **$50,000** towards our ongoing education programs. Such a significant contribution is instrumental in enabling us to continue our education programming in the watershed, so thank you again to the Firefighters for your massive efforts in the community!

The **DNV Firefighters Charity** continues to be a major supporter of the Society, especially our education program. Their efforts are a major reason why we can host almost 2,000 elementary school children at our hatchery and education centre annually, learning about all thing's salmon and their life cycle. On behalf of the Society, we would also like to say a huge thank you to the donors of prizes towards the Fishing Derby.

Hatchery Truck Replacement

We are also continuing our efforts to raise funds for a hatchery truck replacement. Donations toward this vital upgrade would be appreciated using the following QR Code. We have raised $10,000 towards our new vehicle to date.