

**STREAMKEEPERS NORTH SOCIETY
YUKON SCHOOLS FRY RELEASES AND HABITAT STUDIES
2005-2006**



**YUKON RIVER SALMON RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT FUND
Project # CRE-67-06**

FINAL REPORT November, 2006

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STREAMKEEPERS NORTH SOCIETY YUKON SCHOOLS FRY RELEASES AND HABITAT STUDIES 2005-2006

Introduction:

Conservation of Yukon River salmon runs depends on the maintenance and development of a stewardship ethic among those who live in the watershed. The Salmon in the Classroom program helps students to achieve a better understanding of salmon and their habitat requirements, and thus helps to foster a stewardship ethic in students and their families. Field trip funding enabled students involved with the "Salmon in the Classroom" program to participate in various aquatic habitat studies, giving them a memorable experience that brought to life the scientific concepts students had been taught in the classroom. For students who had raised fry in their classroom, the sense of stewardship that the students developed for their fry was extended to include the natural salmon habitat and aquatic habitats in general. Stewardship became an even greater focus on some field trips, where shoreline cleanups were conducted.

Project Location:

Students participated in several field trips to many Yukon aquatic habitats, including McIntyre Creek, Kluane River, Flat Creek, and Tatchun Creek, Porter Creek, Ibex River, Nares River, and Fish Eye Lake.

Project Summary:

The primary objective of this project was to enable students involved with the "Salmon in the Classroom" program to participate in a fry release field trip including various salmon habitat studies to better understand the nature of salmon habitat. The R and E funding enabled sixteen Yukon schools to participate in field trips at which students released their salmon fry and conducted various habitat studies. Students and teachers participated in aquatic habitat studies. In most cases, the classes were accompanied by, and in some cases were chauffeured by, parent volunteers. The DFO education coordinator was available to facilitate the fry release and aquatic habitat field trip activities. Activities varied with the age and time available. They included aquatic invertebrate studies, water quality and studies, life cycle games, and dissections. These activities also met the objectives of enabling classes that incubated salmon in their schools to release their fry back into their natal streams, and thus make the connection between their classroom studies and the natural habitat of salmon. The field trip activities also helped to give students, teachers and parent volunteers an appreciation of the natural aquatic habitat of the salmon and to foster stewardship of the salmon and their habitat.

The Schools that participated included:

Selkirk Elementary
Teslin School
F.H. Colins Secondary
Whitehorse Elementary School
Takhini Elementary School
Golden Horn Elementary School
Johnson Elementary
Hidden Valley School
Porter Creek High School
Kluane Lake School
Holy Family Elementary
Jack Hulland School
Christ the King Elementary
Ross River School
St. Elias Community School
Elijah Smith Elementary

Fry releases: Several Yukon schools involved with the Salmon in the Classroom projects participated in fry releases between early May and mid June, 2006. Students were bussed or chauffeured by volunteers out to various creeks to release salmon fry to their natal streams. Students, teachers and volunteers released fry into Flat Creek (Takhini river drainage), Tatchun Creek, and into the Kluane River. A number of classes incorporated a tour of the McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project into their field trips. Field trip durations varied from a couple of hours to a full day. The highlights from 2006 are:

- The Ross River School incubated Tatchun Creek Chinook eggs and released these on-site at Tatchun Creek
- 3 schools (Kluane lake School, St. Elias School and Porter Creek Secondary) incubated Kluane River Chum eggs and released them into the Kluane River.
- Johnson Elementary School and the Teslin School incubated Chinook eggs from the Morley River and released them at the Morley River picnic area.
- Many of the Whitehorse area schools incubated Takhini River Chinook eggs released fry at McIntyre Creek and at Flat Creek

Ongoing:

The Salmon in the Classroom Program and incubators were again offered to Yukon teachers in the fall of 2005. Several classes decided to participate in the incubation portion of the project. They are currently rearing fish and will release their fry in May and June of 2007.

Partners:

Many organizations contributed to the success of this project. **Yukon Schools** teachers taught the Salmon in the Classroom program, and supervised classroom incubation and field trips. They were assisted on field trips by **parents and other volunteers**.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada conducted egg takes for the schools and provided technical support to the salmon in the classroom program.

Addendum:

Due to unforeseen circumstances at the time of writing, the content of this year's report lacks detail in terms of the many activities typically and which most certainly were associated with the Salmon in the Classroom Program in 2006. Unfortunately these details are not readily available at this time and could not be included. A full disclosure will be made at the earliest opportunity to fill in the gaps. We hope this is acceptable. The Streamkeepers Society appreciates the solid support from the YUKON RIVER RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT FUND this past year and the many years previous to 2006.

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Yukon Schools Fry Releases and Habitat Studies Field Trips Expenses:

cheque #	School	Amount
166	Selkirk Elementary	\$200.00
167	Teslin School	\$200.00
170	Takhini Elementary	\$200.00
172	Johnson Elementary	\$400.00
174	Porter Creek High	\$200.00
178	Christ the King Elementary	\$200.00
179	Ross River School	\$400.00
180	St. Elias School	\$200.00
181	Elijah Smith	\$200.00
171	Golden Horn	\$200.00
177	Jack Hullah	\$200.00
175	Kluane Lake	\$200.00
169	WhitehorseElementary	\$200.00
176	Holy family	\$200.00
173	Hidden valley field trip	\$200.00
168	FHC salmon fry release field trip	\$200.00
	Total field trip expenses:	\$1,600.00

Total Expenses for 67-06 including carts: **\$1,600.00**