



In the Field

*This report was prepared by
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Although this year's TKC Summer Day Camp was limited due to COVID-19, Ben Monkman, TKC's Youth Outreach and Support Worker, still found a way to organize many exciting activities for the kids. In early July, Ben reached out to Kristina Beckmann, TKC's Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator, to arrange for the kid's camp to join them in their field work as a fun learning experience.

Over the summer I, as TKC's Summer Fisheries Student was fortunate to join Kristina to work on the Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project. Throughout the summer we would go to Fox Creek at the end of each month to study the catch and release of juvenile Chinook.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council initiated the Fox Creek Chinook Salmon Stock Restoration Project to rebuild the extirpated stocks in the historic traditional fishing stream. The project includes stewardship and restoration activities that are guided by both traditional and scientific knowledge. The project planning began in 2006, with restoration activities beginning in 2008 and continuing over two salmon life cycles. Phase I, or the first salmon life cycle ended in 2015, and the project is now in Phase II, or the second salmon life cycle. Chinook fry have been released into Fox Creek annually since 2009 and adults have been returning to spawn since 2013.



Spawning success has been confirmed with wild fry emerging from spawning redds since 2016.

Restoration activities and monitoring are conducted annually by TKC staff and Citizens in order to ensure the continued success of rebuilding this stock.

Although this year there were no fry released, Kristina and I will continue our regular monitoring of juveniles, adults and redds.

In previous years, the majority of fry were generously donated by Yukon Energy from the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Hatchery and the remainder came from the Stream to Sea program, which raises salmon in Yukon schools.

Fox Creek flows into Lake Laberge, located just north of Whitehorse, Yukon. One of my most memorable times this summer was on July 28, 2020 when the kids camp got a unique opportunity to take a field trip out to Fox Creek to help us set up the fish traps and place them in the water. The kids got to go back to Fox Creek the next day to help pull the fish traps and see what they caught.

Overall, this summer has been a wonderful opportunity for me. It offered me a chance to experience a different work environment than my past two summers where I helped run the TKC's Summer Day Camp.

I am now embarking on studies at Yukon University and am looking forward to returning to work next summer at TKC where I hope to return to LRH.

-Brooklyn Massie

