



A QUARTERLY INSIGHT INTO THE CURRENT SER OPERATIONS

Spring 2021

ST'ÁT'IMC ECO-RESOURCES MESSAGE from Angela Bissat, CEO

DID YOU KNOW

SER is HIRING!!!

Please check out our website at <https://statimceco.ca> and our Facebook page for information on current and upcoming opportunities!

Please share with your family and friends!



Spring is here!!! The weather is slowly warming up, the trees are blooming, and St'át'imc Eco-Resources is gearing up for another very busy season!!!

It has been a busy few months! We are preparing for the upcoming Water Use Projects through BC Hydro, while bringing in additional work with DFO, UBC and FLNRORD, among others! We have added staff, including new Technicians. We have hired a new Field Biologist, Kyle Krahn, who will begin with SER later this month. SER has a magnified presence at the Big Bar project in Lillooet this year and are embarking on a Camera Trapping project with FLNRORD and UBC that will track a variety of animals through the southern St'át'imc Territory into the Cascades in Washington. For those of you in the southern communities, we will be in touch regarding community engagement and recruitment.

Spring is the season of growth and change, and that has happened at SER as well. We have said goodbye to Roxx Ledoux, Chris Bob and Lesley Riley. I am happy to say that all have left to pursue new opportunities that will let them continue in their professional growth and development. We miss all of them and certainly wish nothing but the best for them.

We are in the process of planning our 2021 AGM, scheduled to be held on Wednesday, **September 15, 2021**, from 9 am – noon. As of now, the AGM will be held virtually, due to Covid 19. Should that change, we will advise as soon as possible.

None of this would be possible without you, our Shareholders, the Board of Directors, and all those who work for SER and support us. We are very lucky to have a wonderful group of committed employees who return year after year, because they believe in the work that SER does and the impact that we can have in the St'át'imc Nation. We look forward to working with each and every one of you during the upcoming season and after. Stay tuned!!!



OPERATIONS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Lillooet Fish Wheel Operations to Support Big Bar Landslide Response This Summer — contributed by Kavitha Palanisamy, Communications Advisor, DFO

Residents of Lillooet can expect to see a critical aspect of the Big Bar landslide response closer to home this Fraser salmon migrating season.

As early as June, Gitksan Watershed Authorities and St'át'imc Eco-Resources, in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), are poised to capture approximately 800 at-risk, Early Stuart sockeye from the Fraser River in Lillooet. First Nations crews and technicians will collect the mature salmon using a traditional fish wheel to serve as broodstock for breeding.

This work continues to evolve since it began in 2019 as part of the Big Bar Emergency Conservation Enhancement Program and is a step towards ensuring the long-term survival of vulnerable salmon populations.

“I had the opportunity to visit the fishwheel station last year while it was stationed beside one of our T'it'q'et communities. I was so impressed with the overall operation and functionality of the system. It was very interesting to witness how the crew was able to selectively collect certain species of salmon for sampling and safely return to the river along with any bycatch. Our community is so please to see this operation return to the Fraser River to continue the valuable work to help the salmon species impacted by the Big Bar slide.”

-Chief Courteney Adolph-Jones, T'it'q'et

As part of the fish wheel operations, crews will use the emergency boat launch located at the Seton River to transfer fish to holding tanks. Each tank, containing approximately 60 Early Stuart sockeye, will then

be loaded onto transport trucks. The fish will be closely monitored as they are moved to a DFO hatchery at Cultus Lake, where they will be held until ready to spawn. Collecting fish downstream of the slide site will allow a quicker transport to the hatchery than in previous years, making operations more efficient and reducing stress to fish.

Known for its ability to operate at various water levels and conditions without causing them harm, the fish wheel will also capture migrating salmon for radio tag application. Tagging activities are expected to continue throughout the migration season until the end of October. The data collected will help DFO better understand fish migration, movement, health and run size, in near real time as they approach the slide site.

NOTE: The Seton River boat launch will remain closed to the public, except to support search and rescue operations.

PORTAGE CREEK CHINOOK RELEASE



Photo & Story credits: Tsal'alh chief Randy James

The Portage Creek Chinook population has been experiencing low returns for the past 30 years, and with further decline in the past 4 years it is time to intervene and save the unique genetic population from extinction.

Tsal'alh supported the collecting of Broodstock from the Portage Creek Chinook for rearing in the Tenderfoot Creek Hatchery in Brackendale for the past couple of years. There was great success this year as 50,000 Chinook yearlings were brought back for release in the Portage Creek on April 27th, and 28th. Because of the Covid travel restrictions we could not have a large gathering as we hoped could happen.

We had a few of our community attend the release event, with Ida Mary Peter offering a prayer and tobacco before the release of the Chinook into Portage Creek. Our dream is to be able to fish the Portage Creek Chinook like we did in the past.

I recall as a child watching my dad spear the Chinook and pack them home on a stick over his shoulder with the tail dragging on the ground.

JOB & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing: Fisheries Technician/Laborer

Recently Closed: Safety Manager

Recently Filled: Field Biologist

Open & Upcoming positions:

IT Support (Summer Student position)

Internal Training Opportunities:

First Aid Level 3

Environmental Monitoring (Backup)

On-Call Administrative Assistant

BOARD INFORMATION

Who is on SER's Board of Directors??

Chair Chantel Thevarge – Chantel is a member of N'Quatqua, where she has been a band council member since 2013. Chantel was appointed by the St'át'imc Chief's Council to the SER Board of Directors in 2018 and is active in her community and other boards, including SGS. She is passionate about providing economic development and capacity-building opportunities for her community and the St'át'imc Nation.

Dean Grant - Dean Grant has lived in Lillooet for 30 years and is a member of Cayoose Creek Band. Having moved here in his mid-twenties, he was excited about all the opportunities Lillooet had to offer. Dean immediately started contracting and is still doing that today. His past ventures include work in the areas of carpentry, tourism, sawmill work, ownership of a Butcher Shop and pizza restaurant, BC Hydro work at Reservoir in Mica Creek, building Lightfoot, rebuilding IDA, and work on the upper reservoir for the band, rebuilding the Cinnamon Creek Campground, as well as many other smaller jobs in Lillooet. Dean has worked closely with DFO, BC Hydro and various bands concerned with flows and fish on Cayoose Creek. Dean was a member of the Tribal Police board for two years. He has two children and two grandchildren and is currently building a house for his daughter. Dean is looking forward to continuing to serve as a SER board member.

Nelson Jatel. (Cand.), P.ag- Nelson serves as the Water Stewardship Director at the Okanagan Basin Waterboard. He has more than 20 years of senior Project Management and innovation development experience. He holds a science degree in freshwater science (UBC) and a master's degree in water governance and social-ecological systems. Nelson joined the SER Board of Directors in September 2020.

Naleen Narayan - Naleen has been a Director of SER since September 2020 and currently resides in the Fraser Valley. He has worked with Treaty 8 First Nations from 1990 until 2015. Initially as Director of Education for the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, he transitioned to Band Administrator of SLCN and eventually the CEO of the Western Cree Tribal Council upon its creation. During this tenure he also advised Horse Lake Cree Nation as their Financial advisor and was privileged to stand as a member of their Land Title Trust Agreement Board.

STAFFING UPDATE

Please join us in welcoming Kyle Krahn, Field Biologist!!

The new Field Biologist with St'át'imc Eco-Resources! Kyle will begin with SER on Tuesday, May 25. He is originally from Chilliwack and is very familiar with the Lillooet area. Kyle has a variety of experience, both in the field and managing projects and teams, including with the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre. He is very community-oriented, values life-long learning and two-way mentorship. As he is coming back to BC from Eastern Canada, he will be working from home during his first two weeks, due to Covid 19 protocols. We look forward to having him here!!!

Employee Profile: Doug Mitchell Fisheries Tech/ Environmental Monitor:

My name is Doug Mitchell, I am from Xaxlíp, I started working at SER in 2016. I love working outdoors and being apart of something that makes an impact for the good of St'át'imc Nation and our way of life.

My biggest accomplishment working for SER "I will never forget catching and tagging my first Steelhead salmon, it was such a rush reeling it in"! All our work has meaning, we not out there just for the data.

What I like most about working for SER is "getting to work outdoors, angling for Salmon and other fish in the rivers and lakes of the Bridge River system."

I see myself in five years moving up the chain and into a Leadership role. But I am still young enough to be out in the field.



PHOTOS OF A FEW OF THE HARD-WORKING TECHS!!



Location: Lower Bridge River

Fraser River

TRAINING DAYS WITH SCALE MOUNTING TAUGHT BY LEAD TECH BAILEE PHILLIPS.



SWIFT WATER TRAINING AT SETON RIVER

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