

Comox Valley

Project Watershed Society

Summer Chinook Migration Study

Summer chinook migration in the Puntledge River is being closely monitored through a combination of two radio telemetry studies

with funding from BC Hydro's Water Use Planning Monitoring Program and the Bridge Coastal Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program (BCRP).

The first study monitors summer chinook migration in the Puntledge River in response to 5 pulse (higher flow) releases of water below the diversion dam during July and August. The purpose of the study is to determine if these summer pulse flows are beneficial to these historically significant Puntledge River fish populations.

The goal of the second study, conducted in close collaboration with the first, is to better understand summer chinook



Tracking chinook migration in the Puntledge River.

migration after the pulse flows, and once they reach the upper Puntledge River (above the diversion dam) and access the cooler water temperatures in the Comox Lake Reservoir.

Historically, summer-run chinook salmon and steelhead were the only fish populations to have traveled past Nib Falls and Stotan Falls. Summer chinook that are successful in accessing the lake are more likely to survive to spawn.

These two studies involve a collaboration of researchers from Carleton University, DFO scientists, the Puntledge River Hatchery, BC Hydro, Comox Valley Project Watershed Society and a local biologist.

The results from the migration



Radio transmitter (antenna visible) being surgically implanted in a summer chinook salmon.

assessment will be essential in guiding future operations and restoration activities in the Puntledge River. Such activities are important to rebuilding these important Puntledge River fish populations back to sustainable and viable levels.

Project Partners:

