Kitsap Salmon Tours

Kitsap Salmon Tours is an annual fall event created to increase awareness of the ecological needs of Pacific Northwest salmon and the actions people can take to build and maintain a successful balance between salmon and humans.

Tens of thousands of salmon return to spawn in Kitsap Peninsula streams every year. These fish have been central to the diet and culture of first nations in our region for millennia and remain important to the Lower Elhwa Klallam, Jamestown S'Klallam, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Skokomish, Squaxin Island, and Suquamish tribes. The Port Gamble S'Klallam and Suquamish tribes' reservations are on the Kitsap Peninsula.

The marine shorelines are critical for the growth and survival of young salmon offspring. Even freshwater systems that do not have salmon may have resident cutthroat or rainbow trout and many other important fishes and invertebrates. Shorelines provide spawning areas for herring, sand lance (or candlefish) and surf smelt — important food for salmon. Many of the salmon that migrate to Kitsap waters are chum, but coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout also spawn in Kitsap waters. These fish journey from fresh water to salt water and back again and are arguably the most important cultural icon of our region.

Pollution in Puget Sound and impacts to salmon habitat and streams have combined with sometimes adverse conditions at sea and resulted in the listing of Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Hood Canal summer chum salmon and, most recently, steelhead trout as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Substantial restoration efforts are under way (in Chico, Barker and Dogfish creeks, for example), but there are also things you can do to help restore populations of these remarkable fish.

kitsapsalmontours.org

Here are easy changes you can make in your daily life to help protect

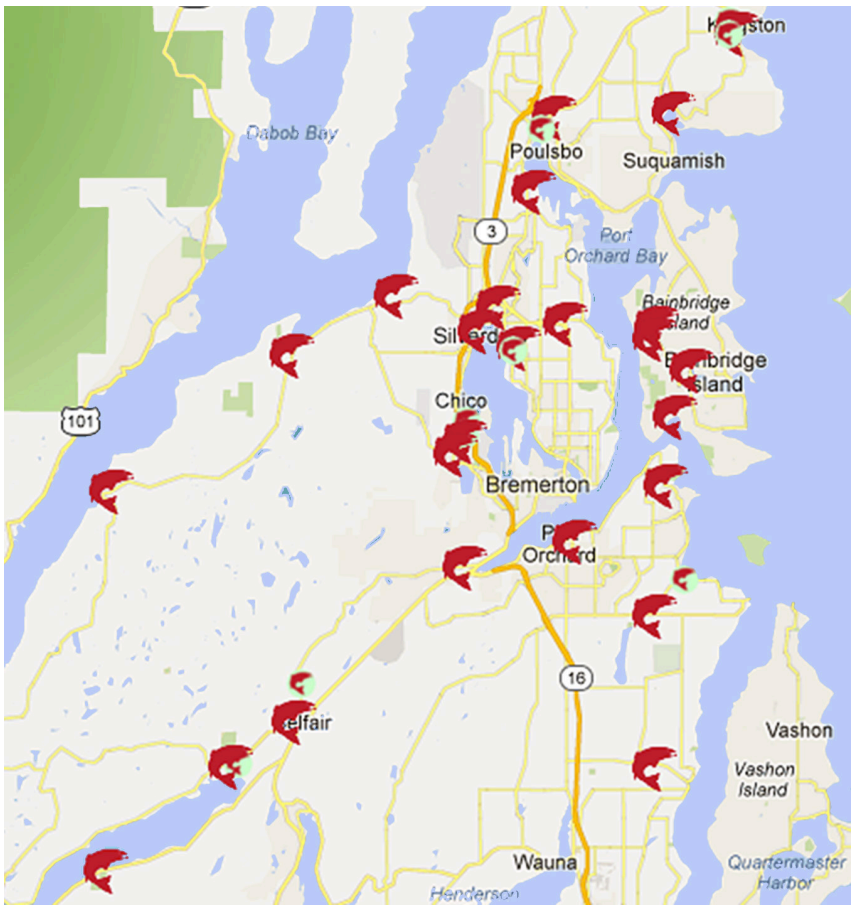
START WITH ONE CHANGE OR TACKLE THEM ALL!

Water conservation helps protect stream flows and water quality.

- Fix leaky faucets, toilets and hoses.
- Clean downspouts and gutters by hand instead of using a hose.
- If you're due to replace appliances, use ultra-low-flush toilets or tumble-action clothes washers.
- Instead of using a hose, sweep sidewalks and driveways and compost sweepings or put them in the garbage.

Energy conservation reduces the demand for power and, in turn, lessens the use of resources — and can save you money!

- Keep your home thermostat low.
- Set your water heater's thermostat between 120 and 130 degrees.
- Insulate your water heater and hot water pipes.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with fluorescent lamps, which use one-quarter of the energy and last many times longer.



- Turn off the lights whenever you leave a room.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.

Stormwater runoff from roadways, driveways and other hard surfaces can pollute and alter stream habitats.

- Disconnect gutter downspouts that run stormwater directly to streets and streams. Instead, adopt techniques to direct runoff through the soil.
- Consider installing a rain garden, rain barrels or a cistern.
- Use automatic car washes or wash your car on grass instead of paved surfaces.
- Maintain vehicles to eliminate leaks and ask for alternatives to copper brake pads and lead tire weights.
- Never dump oil or other chemicals down storm drains. Take toxic substances to safe disposal and recycling facilities.
- Use sand, kitty litter or other absorbent materials to cover any small oil or chemical spills, and collect and properly dispose of these materials.

YARD AND HOME CARE

- Pick up pet waste and put it in the garbage.
- Control invasive weeds and consider native alternatives in gardening.
- Remove weeds manually.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow directions and use sparingly
- Maintain your septic system.

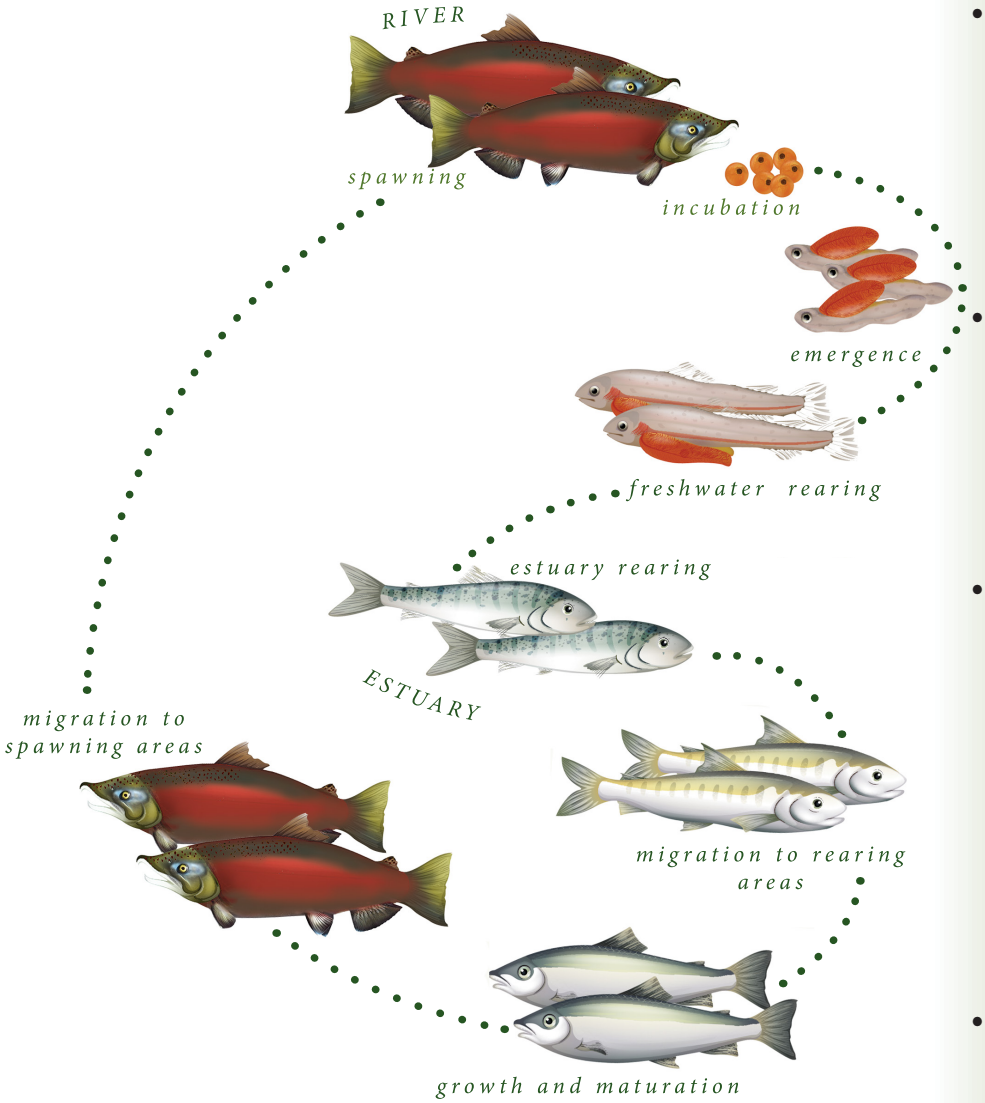
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- Instead of discarding old items, find new uses for them.
- Give used items to people who can reuse them.
- Send materials to recycling centers, thus helping to conserve resources.

Life cycle image was adapted from An Ecosystem Approach to Salmonid Conservation, Part 1, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, page 63, December 1996.

salmon from the effects of habitat loss and pollution.

GENERALIZED SALMONID LIFECYCLE, SHOWING FRESHWATER AND OCEAN COMPONENTS

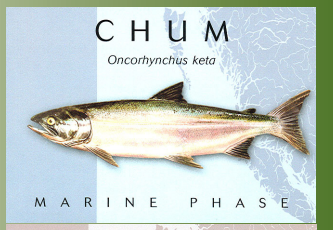


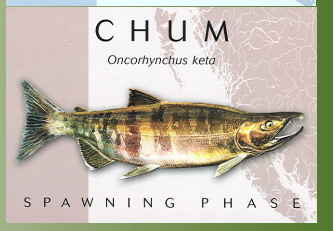
SOME GREAT ADDITIONAL LINKS

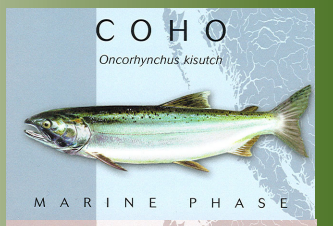
- The ***Kitsap Sun*** has a wonderful interactive map of salmon sites in Kitsap County. kitsapsun.com/salmon.
- For information about local coordination with state and federal salmon recovery efforts, visit westsoundwatersheds.org.
- For information about habitat restoration and protection efforts on the Great Peninsula, visit: hws.ekosystem.us.
- King County has a lot of great information on salmon and trout, including an identification guide. Go to kingcounty.gov/environment and search for "salmon and trout" at the top of the page.
- For salmon-friendly tips for different aspects of your life, go to salmonnation.com and click on "participate".

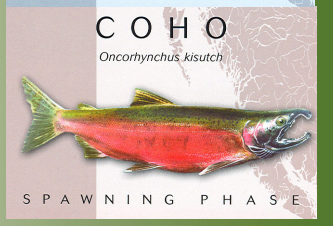
SALMON SPECIES IN KITSAP COUNTY

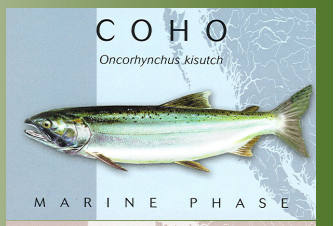
- **Chum** (also called dog salmon) usually live three to five years and are the most abundant salmon in Kitsap streams. They are found during the fall, with peak populations in late November.
- **Coho** (or silver salmon) live two to three years, returning to Kitsap streams shortly before the chum first arrive in the fall. Coho populations also peak in late November.
- **Chinook** (or king or blackmouth salmon) live up to seven years, but most return to spawn after three or four years. Chinook are found in only a few Kitsap locales, including Curley, Blackjack, Gorst, Barker, Clear and Dogfish creeks, during late August and September.
- **Steelhead** are the sea-run versions of rainbow trout and do not die after spawning but may return to the ocean and spawn more than one time. They are found throughout the winter months (until late April) in Chico, Curley, Gorst, Barker and Blackjack creeks. Other systems, including Liberty Bay tributaries, Steele Creek and Hood Canal, have habitat that support steelhead.

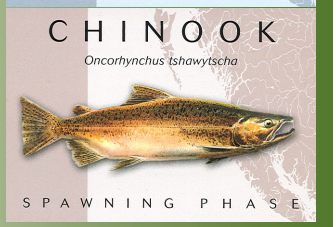


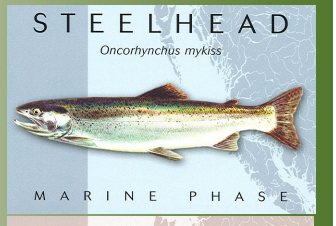


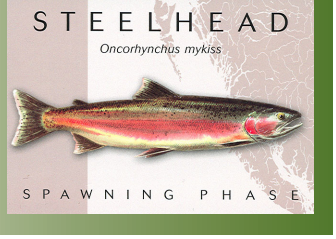












Illustrations courtesy of Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

Get Involved! Protect Salmon Habitat in Your Own Back Yard

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

City of Bremerton
bremerton.wa.gov

City of Poulsbo Parks & Recreation
cityofpoulsbo.com/parks-recreation

Clean Water Kitsap
cleanwaterkitsap.org

Great Peninsula Conservancy
greatpeninsula.org

Keta Legacy Foundation
ketalegacy.org

Kitsap Poggie Club
kitsappoggieclub.com

Kitsap County Parks Department
kitsapgov.com/parks

Kitsap PUD
kpud.org

Kitsap Stream Stewards
extension.wsu.edu/kitsap/nrs/water-stewards/stream-stewards-2

Suquamish Tribe
suquamish.nsn.us

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
wdfw.wa.gov

Washington Sea Grant
wsg.washington.edu

WSU Kitsap County Extension
extension.wsu.edu/kitsap

Produced by Washington Sea Grant
wsg.washington.edu
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Here are some of the groups helping to protect and improve salmon streams and habitat in Kitsap County. Many of these groups and the sponsoring organizations welcome volunteers.

Bainbridge Island Watershed Council
biwatershedcouncil.org

Clear Creek Task Force
clearcreektrail.org

Cowling Creek Center
suquamish.nsn.us/home/departments/fisheries/finfish/cowling-creek

Friends of Miller Bay
friendsofmillerbay.org

Hood Canal Coordinating Council
hccc.wa.gov

IslandWood
islandwood.org

Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
midsoundfisheries.org

Poulsbo's Fish Park
cityofpoulsbo.com/volunteer-opportunities/

Puget Sound Partnership
psp.wa.gov

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
pgst.nsn.us

The Salmon Center
pnwsalmoncenter.org/

Stillwaters Environmental Education Center
stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org

Kitsap County sponsors several citizen stewardship committees associated with County Parks

360.337.5353

parks@co.kitsap.wa.us

kitsapgov.com/parks/pages/volunteer.aspx

- *Banner Forest Stewardship Committee*
- *Chico Salmon Park Stewardship Group*
- *Hansville Greenway Stewardship Committee*
- *Illahee Forest Preserve*
- *Friends of Guillemot Cove*