

fish'al News

SUMMER 2023

Our U-Pick gardens
are ready for pickin'!

*Come harvest organic
veggies on the farm any
day from dawn to dusk.*



HOOD CANAL SALMON ENHANCEMENT GROUP



FROM
THE SALMON CENTER

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S T A F F

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Farm Manager

Trudi Timperman &

Sarah Mikkelsen

AmeriCorps
Sustainability Coordinators

Brett Larson &

Max Larkin

AmeriCorps
Environmental Educators

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



The mid-point of summer is always a great time for me to reflect on all that we have accomplished so far in the year toward our mission of restoring salmon populations through Education, Restoration and Research. I am excited to share this summer newsletter at a time when our summer camps have come to an end and our Summer Chum trap has been installed and we have already begun counting the adults moving upstream. At the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, we are so thankful for our many volunteers, partners, staff and supporters who make our work possible.

One reason I love leading this great organization is that I am extremely passionate about providing opportunities for young people to pique their interest and learn skills that will help them land natural resource careers in the future. In this newsletter, you will read about a few of HCSEG's Environmental Education events for school-aged kids that have taken place over the last 3 months and through this summer. Programs such as our GreenSTEM Summit, Students in the Watershed and summer camps give school aged kids the chance to be outside while learning about stewardship of our rivers and streams that are so important not just for salmon, but for countless other species that call these waterways their home.

In addition to the activities for school-aged kids at the Salmon Center, we provide many internship opportunities for young adults transitioning from high school into college. This summer we have been pleased to work with our StreamTeam Interns Grace Bidewell and Hunter Abad. These students have been learning from our biologist and project managers, developing skills that we hope will give them great experience to help find jobs working in the environmental field after graduation. Our Climate Resilience Interns Fletcher Angle and Cynthia Herrera have been working with our staff and partners at the Department of Natural Resources through the summer collecting valuable data in Puget Sound and Hood Canal nearshore and estuary environments.

Our restoration work continues to move forward on the Big Quilcene and Duckabush Rivers where we are completing the design work for major infrastructure improvements and replacements that will completely transform the available habitat for spawning and rearing salmon in these watersheds. We are thrilled to be working with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to restore the lower one mile of the Big Quilcene River and even more ecstatic to announce that the project team

has been successful in receiving funding to complete this restoration work starting in the summer of 2024. This very complex multiple benefits project has been over a decade in the making and it is wonderful seeing all of our hard work in planning, acquisition and design pay off.

As the end of summer draws near, we say goodbye to our AmeriCorps Sustainability Coordinators Sarah Mikkeltorg and Trudi Timperman and Environmental Educator Max Larkin. We wish them well on the next chapters of their lives and hope that our paths cross again the future. They all brought so much enthusiasm and commitment to our organization over the past 10 months. We are fortunate that our AmeriCorps Environmental Educator, Brett Larson has decided to stay on for another AmeriCorps term and will do a great job mentoring the new AmeriCorps members as they start in September and October.

Unfortunately, this summer has also left me with a heavy heart due to the passing of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Chairman, Jeromy Sullivan. Jeromy was a great leader in Puget Sound Salmon Recovery and overall an incredible person. His dedication to the restoration of salmon populations and passion for bringing people together will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and share the pride that I feel in our accomplishments and activity offerings. Thank you for your commitment and interest in the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group!

Mendy Harlow

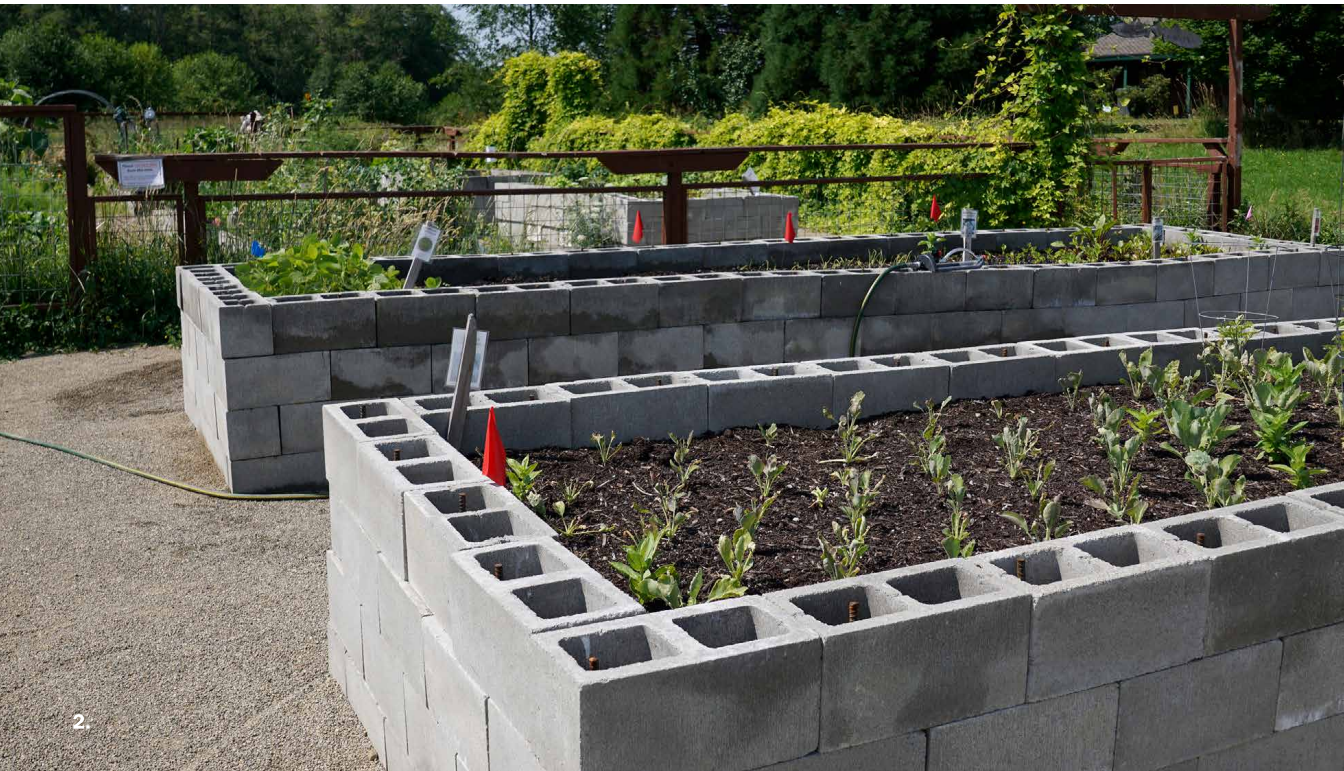


Accessible Community Garden Beds



We just completed construction of two new raised accessible beds in our community garden at the Salmon Center. These beds provide members of our community garden with limited mobility to more comfortably harvest produce and work in the garden. If you would like to join our community garden and request an accessible bed, please reserve one when we announce community garden plot openings next February/ March (the plots are currently spoken for this season). We have also conducted trail work within and around the community garden to make these pathways more accessible.

These new garden beds were built thanks to the generosity of community donations during our annual SeedMoney Campaign.





The Salmon Center Community Gardens are located behind the main office and in front of the dog park. Please remember not to pick anything from this garden - these are personal plots!

Farm Stewards Summer Camp

HCSEG just wrapped up another fun season of Farm Stewards summer camp! Camp is for kids ages 7-11 and takes place outdoors at the Salmon Center. Camp is full of engaging activities that teach kids about pollinators, organic gardening, salmon, nutrition and so much more! Campers dehydrated and pickled vegetables from our Farm at Water's Edge Garden, worked with our farm's honeybees and - perhaps most importantly - ran around in the sunshine with new friends.

If you have a kid ages 7-11, or know someone that has children who might be interested, make sure not to miss out on next year's Farm Stewards Summer Camp!





Explore the Fjord Summer Camp

Kids ages 11-16 joined HCSEG for another season of adventure for our Explore the Fjord summer camp. For 6 Fridays from July to August, campers spend the day with HCSEG and program partners on various excursions around the Hood Canal watershed. Adventures include kayaking, hiking, exploring tide pools, and visiting local parks, beaches and nature preserves! HCSEG provides participants transportation from the Salmon Center to each camp location and guide them through that day's activity, while also encouraging campers to independently explore, ask questions, and engage with their local ecosystem.

Don't miss out on Explore the Fjord next summer! Both Explore the Fjord and Farm Stewards Summer Camps are \$5 per day, with financial assistance available upon request.



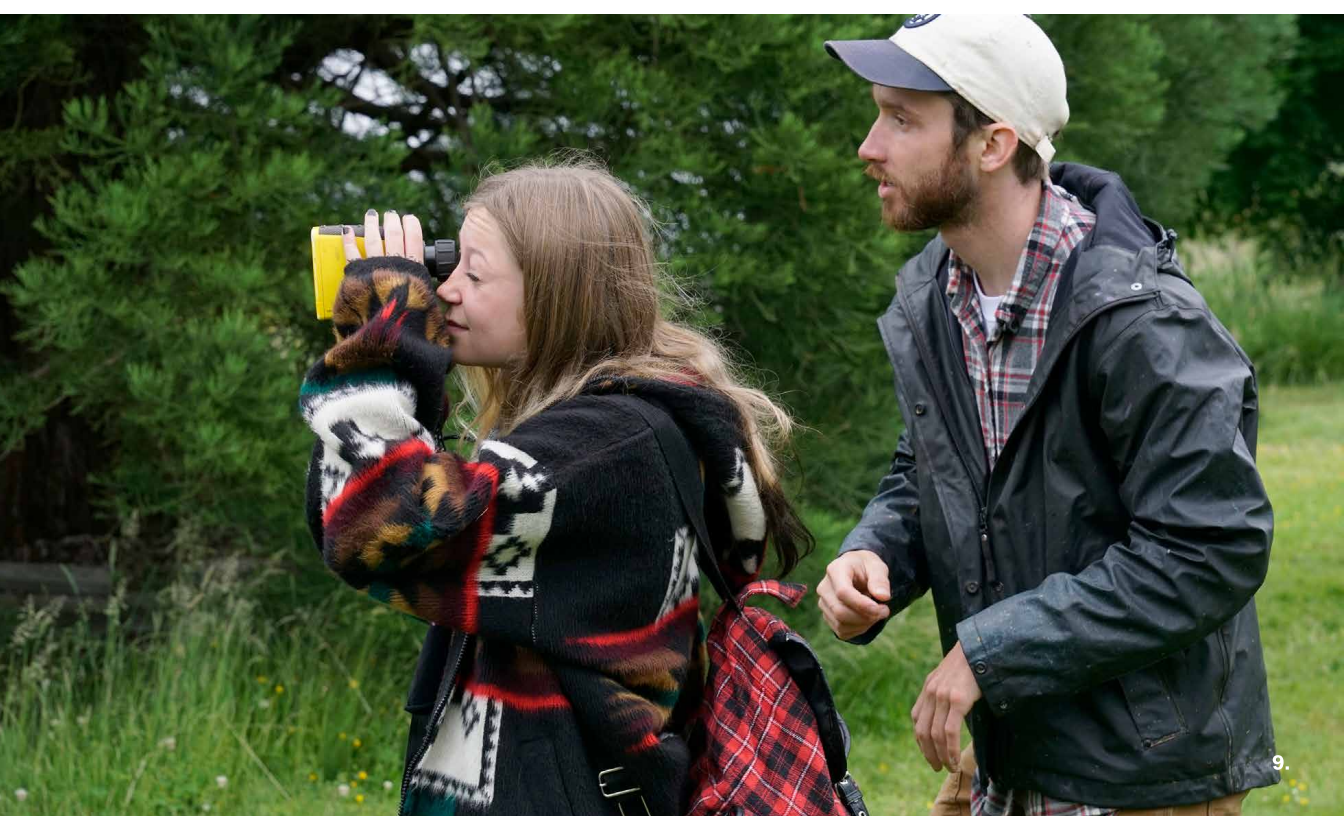


The GreenSTEM Summit

Last June HCSEG hosted our annual GreenSTEM Summit at the Salmon Center. During the summit, 69 5th and 6th grade students from Chimacum Elementary School came to the Salmon Center to learn about salmon, native plants, salmon and other local wildlife, shellfish, watersheds and more! HCSEG's GreenSTEM partners provide students engaging, hands-on activities focused on these various STEM topics. The summit was ended with a guided nature "scavenger hunt" on the Union River Estuary Preserve.

This dynamic, annual outdoor learning summit would not be possible without our dedicated partnerships. For the 2023 GreenSTEM Summit, HCSEG was joined by the following organizations: Kitsap PUD, Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Washington Department of Resources, Washington Department of Ecology, WSU Extension Mason County Small Farms Program, and Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division of Keyport.





Remembering Jeromy Sullivan

This July we lost an irreplaceable advocate for our Pacific Northwest salmon and member of our Puget Sound community, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Chairman Jeromy Sullivan.

Jeromy Sullivan was raised in Little Boston on Port Gamble Bay. He was first elected to tribal council in 2005 and served as chair of the tribe for over a decade. During this time he was a devoted advocate for the restoration of Port Gamble Bay, leading one of the biggest cleanups of its kind along Puget Sound's shores, removing thousands of creosote pilings and contaminated sand from the site of a former mill.

Photo Credit: Jordan Stead / The Emerald Collective

Photo source: High Country News

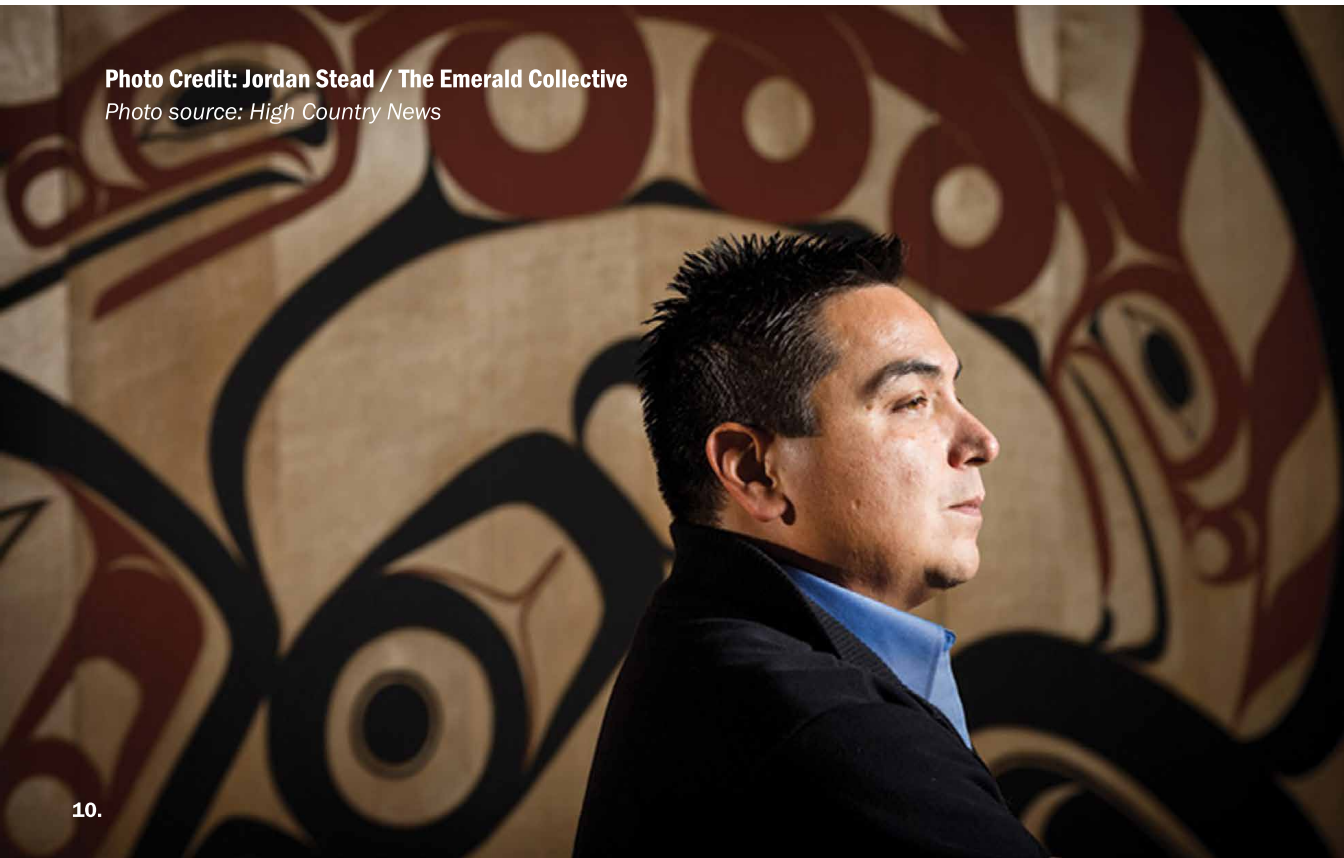


Photo Credit: Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Photo source: Bainbridge Island Review



In 2018, Governor Jay Inslee appointed the tribal chair to the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board, a state board that awards grants for projects like culvert removals or estuary restoration aimed at restoring salmon populations. While serving on the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Sullivan advocated for research and projects to restore fish passage at the Hood Canal Bridge, a place where mortality rates of some juvenile fish reached 50%. This spring, he saw his advocacy come to fruition in the form of a massive fish guidance structure. In recognition of his work, Sullivan was awarded the Billy Frank Jr. Natural Resources Protection Award. (*Kitsap Sun*, July 2023).

Thank you Chairman Sullivan for all that you've done for Washington State's salmon recovery efforts. We will continue to work relentlessly to carry out the legacy of stewardship you've created.

The 23rd Season of the Summer Chum Trap

We are entering the 23rd season of our Summer Chum Trap program! From mid-August to mid-October, the Summer Chum Trap on the Union River is operated 24/7 by community volunteers. These volunteers collect data on the returning adult salmon to support monitoring research for threatened Hood Canal Summer Chum. This highly anticipated volunteer event is a great opportunity for groups of friends, individuals, and even families with kids! HCSEG provides all training, gear and equipment - no experience necessary!

Volunteer slots fill up FAST! So visit pnwsalmoncenter.org to get one before they're gone. For the 2022 season this project was supported by over 115 community volunteers.





Duckabush Estuary Education Tours

From July through mid September, HCSEG and WDFW are hosting a series of Duckabush Estuary Education Tours. Each tour features a special guest biologist who will provide a deeper dive into the different worlds of plants and animals that depend on the Duckabush Ecosystem.

Join us on our last tour on September 13th to learn how the Duckabush Restoration Project can benefit all the different species that call it home! Come prepared with water, sun protection, and comfortable walking shoes. The tour series will wrap up with a special salmon celebration event after the September 13th tour! Learn more and register at pnwsalmoncenter.org.



An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Duckabush River, showing a winding river channel and a large, flat, brownish-yellow delta plain. In the background, there are several mountain ranges, some with patches of snow, under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows the river's edge and some marshy areas.

Duckabush Tour Schedule:

One tour left!

Wednesday Sept. 13th / 3-4:30pm

*Please meet at the WDFW Duckabush River
Access, Brinnon, WA 98320*

Salmon Social

Wednesday Sept. 13th / 5pm

**Olympic Canal Tracts River Kitchen
Brinnon, WA**

Join us in celebrating the annual return of
the salmon, and get official updates on the
progress of Duckabush Restoration Project.

Yoga & Herbs in the Garden

Join us at the Salmon Center for a new yoga series every Tuesday from 5-6pm, led by Michelle Pugh from Joonbug Yoga! Classes will begin with 45 minutes of yoga postures and breathing exercises, with the last 15 minutes of class introducing herbs and an informational hand out to support the body, mind and spirit's overall health and wellbeing. Classes will be held outside during the warmer months, and then moving indoors during the fall and winter.

You can sign-up for a single class, or purchase a month pass to get one class free! Learn more and sign-up at pnwsalmoncenter.org/yoga.





Yoga & Herbs in the Garden

Tuesdays

5-6pm

At the Salmon Center

Sign-up at:
pnwsalmocenter.org/yoga



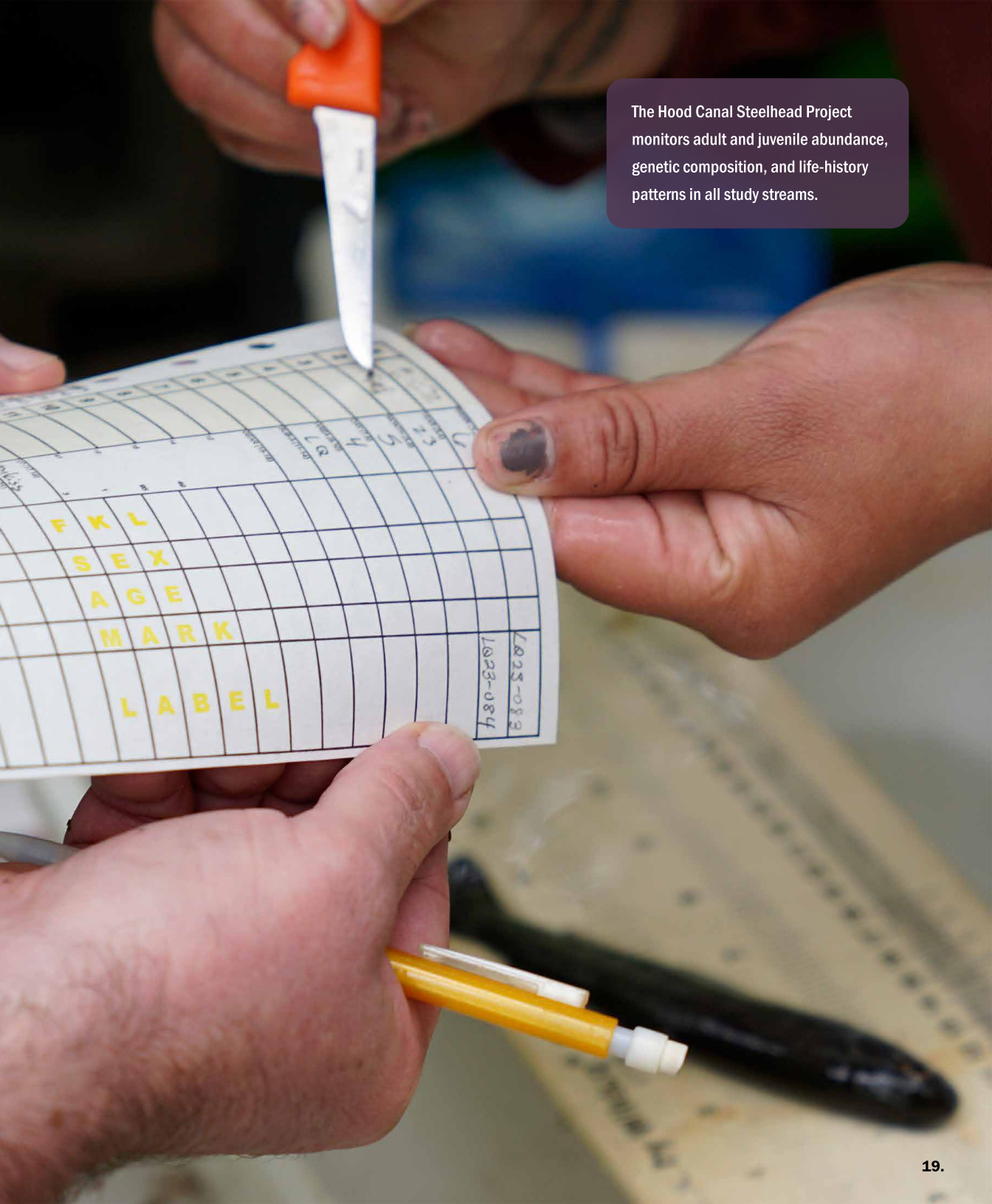
Support the Hood Canal Steelhead Project

The Hood Canal Steelhead Project needs your help! We are currently working to raise \$6,000 to directly support monitoring trips to check steelhead traps on the Little Quilcene, Dewatto and Tahuya Rivers. During each project season we make 128 trips to these trap locations. Through monitoring we can discover barriers to the growth of our wild steelhead populations and make moves to address them. For example, this project's monitoring has revealed the devastating impacts of the Hood Canal Bridge on steelhead mortality, leading to the Long Live the King's Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem Impact Assessment and progressive moves to find both long and short-term solutions for this barrier.

Learn more about this project, donate and show your support for this boots on the ground steelhead recovery effort on our website pnwsalmoncenter.org!



The Hood Canal Steelhead Project monitors adult and juvenile abundance, genetic composition, and life-history patterns in all study streams.



The Salmon Center U-Pick Gardens

The Salmon Center U-Pick gardens have fresh, organic produce that is ready for pickin'! All produce is available by donation only and the gardens are open to the public every day from dawn to dusk.

Our U-pick kiosk is located outside the Salmon Center's main office door. Here you will find maps of the garden, info on what is ready for harvest and you can use our sanitation station and pick up a bag to use for harvest. When you are done harvesting, please return to the kiosk to weigh your items and record them in our records sheet. If you choose to leave a donation you can do so in the provided envelopes. Donations for produce from the U-Pick Garden help cover costs of production and enable us to provide low-cost educational programs to all members of the community.



**Come Visit the
U-Pick Gardens:**

Every Day from Dawn to Dusk

The Salmon Center
600 NE. Roessel Rd.
Belfair, WA. 98528



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www.pnwsalmoncenter.org

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WAYS TO SUPPORT HCSEG



VOLUNTEER

Our projects are only possible with help from our dedicated volunteers.



DONATE

Donations are tax-deductible and help support our many projects and programs.



MEMBERSHIP

Support our outreach and education efforts through an annual membership.