

The Water Ship News

February 2021

The Water Ship News is a monthly e-newsletter for teachers, students, and community members who are interested in salmon, watersheds, and our local ecosystems. Each edition features community events and learning resources submitted by stewardship organizations, educators, community members and more. *If you would like to unsubscribe, just reply to this email letting me know.*

Thank you for your passion for environmental education!

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Teacher & Student Learning Opportunities – *this issue features some fantastic resources from local groups and educators. Please bookmark them and share with others in your communities!*



Coastal Insights Education Series

An introduction by Maureen Vo of Raincoast Conservation Foundation

“Our new education series will use Two-Eyed Seeing as a guiding framework for learning. Two-Eyed Seeing (*Etuaptmumk* in Mi'kmaq) is a principle coined by Mi'kmaq Elder Albert Marshall that describes the co-learning journey of different knowledges and cultures working

together. Specifically, it embraces “learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of mainstream knowledges and ways of knowing, and to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.” Our stellar line-up of guest speakers are some of the leading experts in their fields showcasing Indigenous and scientific work on BC’s coast. I am honoured to be co-creating and co-delivering this new series with Peter Underwood, who is a passionate, young W̱SÁNEĆ leader from the Tsawout First Nation located on Vancouver Island. He will be sharing W̱SÁNEĆ perspectives and knowledge learned from Elders and Knowledge Holders on the topics we discuss.”

The program is **free** and is aimed at students grades 4-12 as well as anyone else who is interested. [Click to learn more.](#)

- 1.) **Feb 10** - Lesson – Welcome to the Salish Sea
- 2.) **Feb 24** - Spotlight: Why Blending Indigenous and Western Knowledge systems is vital to inform and fuel conservation

Check the website for sessions #3 to #6.



Get to know the Cowichan Lamprey with an interpretive program! Did you know there is an amazing fish species found only in the Cowichan watershed and nowhere else in the world? With funding from DFO we are offering free ZOOM classes for schools to learn more about the Cowichan Lake lamprey and its habitat. To schedule a class contact Genevieve at twinflower4@gmail.com, offer only available until March 31st. Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @cowichanlamprey! [Click to download the poster!](#)

The Best Water Ways Learning Suite

An Introduction by Stephanie Cottell of the Cowichan Land Trust

The Best Water Ways Watershed Literacy, Stewardship, and Restoration place-based learning resources are a suite of six Educator Guides with activity plans, and a Learner's Guide for each session. These resources can be used in a multitude of ways to facilitate learning about your local watershed, and how it can be protected and restored. They can but do not have to be used in a linear way, as they are designed to be adaptable to your needs and context. Best Water Ways includes a complete educator's guide as well as these exciting sessions:

- 1.) Watershed Detectives
- 2.) Wading In
- 3.) Mapping our Watersheds
- 4.) Watersheds in Distress
- 5.) Watershed SOS
- 6.) Riparian Restoration Workshop



[Click to explore the guides](#)



Join Ocean Networks Canada and the Royal BC Museum for an educators' professional development workshop to learn all about orcas through an inquiry approach! Bring ocean literacy and stewardship topics into your classroom with the resources we'll share featuring:

- Inquiry ideas and provocations for classes (Gr 4-6 and 7-9)
- Key information about orca ecotypes
- Hydrophone data activity
- Debate activity
- Researcher profiles
- Online resources



Contact Lauren Hudson at lhudson@oceannetworks.ca to book a 1.5 hour educator professional development workshop for your school district.

Salmon in the Community



Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary is thrilled to welcome 100 Coho eggs to our Nature House! Through the incredible volunteerism of retired environmental educators, Lenny Ross and Angus Stewart, we now have a beautiful salmon tank and educational

space. Here you'll find materials to learn about the salmon life cycle (including an opportunity to graph data!) as well as connect the health of these animals to the larger watershed. If you can't make it out to visit in person (Nature House is open M-F 9a-3p), follow us on social media (@SwanLakeNature) #SalmonSundays and grow along with us.



Courtesy Cara Gibson



The salmon station in Ms. Bushell's class at McKenzie Elementary

Interesting Videos

Sneaky otters at the Colquitz River fish counting fence [Click for the video.](#)

A simplified video on the latest theory about Sea Star Wasting Disease [Click for the video.](#)

Dissecting a Salmon with the Pacific Salmon Foundation [Click for video](#)

If you have questions about any of the above resources or events, please reach out directly to the organizer.

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Best Fishes!