

October 2019 Flyer FBSES

Your friendly neighborhood Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society volunteer spends a lot of time at the hatchery, but sometimes duty and devotion to salmon calls him away. To places like Campbell River or the wild and rugged West Coast of Vancouver Island.

The Nitinat River Hatchery is way out there, a long drive from Fanny Bay via Port Alberni and the Carmanah Main, and is a Department of Fisheries and Oceans operation that has a target this year of 35,000,000 chum eggs to raise to fry and release. That number is going to take a lot of work and five FBSES volunteers have spent four days there being part of it.

And another seven will have put in days at Quinsam River Hatchery in Campbell River. Both of these operations are super size, as opposed to us, who are more slider sized or maybe mini-donut size, but they're happy to have the help, and FBSES gets rewarded with Pink salmon eggs from Quinsam, which we raise to fry and release to populate Wilfred Creek.

At Nitinat, volunteers get put up in a bunkhouse—important advice from one of last years' trippers: "bring ear plugs" -- it could be that some of your fellow workers snore—but there is a real chef for the cookhouse meals and lots of local colour. Quinsam is a day trip and bring your own lunch, but at both, the work is real and intense at times.

Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement sent Ship Point residents Doug Barnes, Randy Lousier, Rudy Spotzl and Helmut Geiger with former resident Frank Lines to Nitinat, and members Jens Johansen, Bruce Shearer, Larry McDonald, Bill French, Finn Keim and John Whitman, to Quinsam, and Doug Barnes went there too.

October is the start of a lot of things fishy at the hatchery. Beside egg takes out of town, there will be fin clipping days, lots of preparation for our own chum and coho brood stock, and releases of rescued wild fry into their native streams now that the rain is here and its safe to go back in the water. You can be part of it, or visit. Work party days are Wednesday and Saturday mornings, and there's always www.fbses.ca