



Adams Lake Indian Band

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PRESS RELEASE

The Adams Lake Indian Band is pleased to announce an important salmon restoration program that is being undertaken on Adams Lake. As Kukpi7 Cliff Arnouse has stated “the Salmon that returned to the Upper Adams River and Adams sustained our community for thousands of years and is imperative that we see this run returned to its former glory”. Project Partners include B.C.’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Secwepemc Fisheries Commission, Okanagan Nation Alliance and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Funding is supplied through the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF).

The goal of this project is to support Secwepemc leadership in the restoration of the Upper Adams early summer run sockeye to a sustainable level and improve opportunities for sustainable use. Adams Lake is very low in nutrients and as a result, is classified as an ultra-oligotrophic lake and is near the lower boundary of the trophic classification scale. This ultra-oligotrophic classification is consistent with the collapse of the Upper Adams River sockeye run over a century ago, as the lake no longer receives the input of marine derived nutrients on an annual basis to sustain its historical productivity. Nutrients, in the form of agricultural grade liquid fertilizer, will be applied to the lake using a boat to assist in restoring historical lake productivity and rebuilding early summer run sockeye escapement. Fertilizer additions will start in mid-April, 2021, and be applied weekly in a designated treatment area of the lake until late August. The program began on April 1st 2020 with an extensive one year lake pre-fertilization monitoring program. The project will continue until March 31st 2024. The data from this year’s monitoring will be used as a baseline for the future work to be completed on the program.

The program is the result of a proposal submitted by Kukpi7Cliff Arnouse of the Adams Lake Band. The program will run for four years with background lake quality data collected in the first year and fertilization additions conducted in the succeeding three years.

Project activities will include conducting extensive monitoring of Adams Lake limnology (study of inland aquatic ecosystems) in support of nutrient enrichment

activities to increase juvenile salmon food availability and support the restoration of degraded lake rearing habitat for Upper Adams Lake Sockeye through the addition of lake limited nutrients (nitrogen/ phosphorous).

“The sustainability of this culturally and ecologically important species hinges on our ability to listen, work together and apply innovative techniques to increase wild Sockeye salmon production in BC,” said Fin Donnelly, B.C. Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture. “I thank Kukpi7 Cliff Arnouse and the Adams Lake Indian Band for implementing this important project and look forward to monitoring its progress over the next four years.”

The B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund is a joint federal-provincial fund and one part of the B.C. government’s commitment to develop made-in-B.C. solutions to support wild salmon.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

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