Syilx and Salmon – Past, Present, Future

American Fisheries Society – WA/BC Chapter
March 20, 2018, 13:20 - Kelowna
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Okanagan Nation Alliance

- Formed in 1981 as an inaugural First Nations government
- Represents 8 member communities
- Territory extends over 69,000 km²
- Operates through 4 primary departments, plus Okanagan Aquatics Enterprises.

*Mandate: conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of indigenous fisheries (anadromous and resident) and aquatic resources within ONA Territory*
Salmon are intrinsic to the Syilx culture and diet (First Foods)
Okanagan Salmon
From near collapse to recovery

Reference period trend in Okanagan River sockeye salmon escapement
Starting to see benefits-economic and recreational fisheries
Changing attitude on “river fish” in Canada
Moving fisheries inland

Its not just a sockeye “Sharing a Story”
“Certification”
Traditional/responsible trade
Columbia Salmon Reintroduction

Phase I: Pre-assessment planning for reintroduction and fish passage.

Phase II: Experimental, pilot-scale salmon reintroductions and interim passage facilities.

Phase III: Construct permanent juvenile and adult passage facilities and supporting propagation facilities. Implement priority habitat improvements.

Phase IV: Monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management. Continue needed habitat improvements.
Columbia Salmon Reintroduction

Key Activities-support Phase I assessment

- Through bilateral government to government relationship identified/confirmed agency contacts
- Capacity modeling (life history matrices, GIS habitat suitability)
- Donor Stock Selection (Genetic, Demographic, and Disease profiling)
- Risk analysis of management modeling scenarios (adults vs juveniles strategies, downstream impacts, harvest, climate)
Columbia Salmon Reintroduction

Timelines/next steps

• Coordinate assessments with US (Risk Assessment, Habitat Intrinsic Potential, ONA Workplan)
• Look at Phase 2 pilot reintroductions summer 2018 (i.e. trap and transport)
• Look at ceremonial releases in upper Columbia
• Fish in Schools (FinS)
Columbia Salmon Reintroduction

Outreach / Support

• Share the message
• Invite support and buy-in
• Continue to inform
Questions?

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