

Fish Counting Report by Tosh Harvey

For the previous two years I have been involved in counting the fish coming into the James Creek Watershed, in the heart of the children's forest. This river is the life blood of the forest and the fish are some of the nutrients that make this forest thrive. We have recorded data for 2016 & 2017, and continue to record this year's tally. Myself and other stream keepers go weekly to count the salmon who have visited our forest, both alive and dead. The salmon that mainly come are Chum, with one coho spotted last year.

This year I was fortunate enough to see a family of otters that inhabit James Creek and were feasting on the incoming salmon. I saw them running out of a burrow and plunge head first into the creek and disappear from view. Needless to say, I counted less live salmon that day.

On the first Sunday of November we went on our monthly Children's Forest Walk and the youth got the opportunity to explore the creek and fish count. 10 youth who were interested and 4 adults split into 4 groups and scanned the creeks for fish.

Last year we found 53 live chum and 87 dead and 1 coho.
This year to date we have found 8 live chum and 10 dead.

The numbers are down this year, but they are still the highest number of fish recorded for 2017 on Cortes. I feel a bit disappointed about the number of fish. I was hopeful that it would be a higher number. Nature is unpredictable and although we can try to understand the reasons why, we can never fully understand.

Thank you for attending our AGM today.