

**SKAHA SOCKEYE REINTRODUCTION: Broodstock Collection + Egg Take  
2018 ONAFD FACT SHEET**



**PROJECT:** Experimental Reintroduction of Sockeye Salmon into Skaha Lake

**MISSION:** To stabilize and rebuild the declining wild Okanagan Sockeye population, to return Sockeye to their former habitat and migration range, and to revitalize the Okanagan Nation salmon fishery.

**TASK:** Broodstock Collection + Egg Take

**LOCATION:** Okanagan River near Oliver

**TIME FRAME:** September 26-October 19, 2018, during pre- and peak- Sockeye spawning

**KEY MESSAGE:** As part of the Sockeye Reintroduction Program, ONA has been seining and collecting eggs and milt from adult Sockeye for rearing and release into Skaha Lake since 2004. Since 2014, ONA has been rearing the fry in the *kt c̓p̓alk̓ st̓im̓* Hatchery.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:** The Sockeye Reintroduction Program is a 12-year experiment designed to assess the feasibility of reintroducing Sockeye Salmon into their historic range, which includes Skaha and Okanagan Lakes. Since 2004, ONA has stocked Skaha and/or Osyooyoos Lake with hatchery-reared fry and monitored their growth, survival, and impacts on Kokanee populations. Results so far have been very promising; the program has been a success story.

**GOALS:**

1. Collect and take eggs from 2200-3300 ripe female and male Sockeye salmon (5-7.5 million eggs)
2. Follow best practices to maximize egg survival
3. Collect ovarian fluid and kidney tissue for disease testing
4. Biosample 400 adults for fork length, sex, DNA, and otolith marks

**ONA TEAM:**

- Broodstock Collection Lead – Ryan Benson + 15 crew
- Egg Take Lead –Dan Stefanovic
- Biosampling Lead – Lynnea Wiens and Sheena Hooley
- Disease Screening – Chad Fuller
- Hatchery Lead – Norm Johnson



**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

- Skaha Reintroduction Technical Sub-committee: MoFLNRORD, DFO, ONA (COBTWG)
- Funders: Grant and Chelan County Public Utility Districts (US)

**SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:** Due to the inherent hazards of the project (working with nets in a large river), safety is always the number one concern. All crew members have current First Aid/CPR and Swift Water Rescue certification. Essential safety gear includes: PFD, throw bag, first aid kit, cell phone, and knives. The crew must always keep safety in mind, and adjust field work to avoid excessively hazardous situations.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:****Q: What are you doing?**

**A:** (explanation based on above information. Most times, providing detailed information on the project and overall big picture prevents negative opinions.)

**Q: Why are you killing these fish?**

**A:** Adult fish will die soon after spawning. We are sacrificing relatively few for egg collection. It will not have a severe impact on the total population and the benefits far outweigh the costs.

**Q: Do you have permits/licenses to do this?**

**A:** ONA works in partnership with regulating agencies (MFLNRO and DFO) and they are aware of all our projects. ONA's salmon work is covered under a DFO scientific permit. Ultimately, ONA is working to study, manage and rehabilitate the fish community as whole.