

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN

## *kt c̓p̓alk̓ stim̓* Initiative Broodstock Update

October 2020 ▶ ▶ ▶ [www.okanagannation.com](http://www.okanagannation.com)



If you had been down to *q̓awsitk̓<sup>w</sup>* (Okanagan River) you may have noticed many of the waters red with sockeye salmon. These salmon are part of the Okanagan Nation Alliance's (ONA) Sockeye restoration efforts — reintroducing *sc̓win* (Okanagan sockeye) back to their historic range — including to *t̓iw̓c̓an* (Skaha) Lake and *kt̓us̓anitk̓<sup>w</sup>* (Okanagan) Lake. These efforts are part of the ONA CEC's ongoing commitment to care for Syilx lands and resources, including responsibility to our sacred waters and the food sovereignty that they provide.

As part of this initiative we will be conducting *broodstock* — which involves beach seining and collecting eggs and milt from adult *sc̓win* for rearing at the *kt̓ c̓p̓alk̓ stim̓* Hatchery and release in the coming year. In 2004, ONA began stocking *t̓iw̓c̓an* (Skaha Lake) (and *kt̓us̓anitk̓<sup>w</sup>* (Okanagan Lake) in 2017) with hatchery-reared fry and monitored their growth, survival, and interactions on kokanee populations. From 2014 forward ONA has been rearing the fry for release at the *kt̓ c̓p̓alk̓ stim̓* Hatchery.

The ONA Fisheries Team will begin pre-season collection at *q̓awsitk̓<sup>w</sup>* (Okanagan River) on October 7, with full-season collection taking place from October 13 to the end of the month. The current run forecast estimates that we could see one of the highest returns of sockeye since the reintroduction program began in 2004.

We will provide further updates as the broodstock season proceeds, including the numbers on how many eggs are harvested this year for salmon conservation.

### Broodstock During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The ONA is committed to reducing exposure of both the staff and public to COVID-19.

Due to the pandemic broodstock and hatchery school tours have been canceled during the 2020 season. The ONA has reduced the size of crews and beach seine nets to prevent the spread of the virus amongst staff.

### For more information contact:

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**For pre-season, in-season and post season updates or feedback:**

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