

Chum in the Chase River

Hi Y'all:

So there were a couple of Coho went up the Millstone Staircase, and three otters were busy catching Chum for supper. No big deal.

Then I went to the confluence of the Cat Stream and the Chase River at Park Avenue and the world changed.

The Cat Stream was pretty murky (see pic), but as I was videotaping the two waters mixing, a Chum swam out of the murk and up the Chase River.

I followed it upstream and saw a female and two males spawning just about the confluence. A second female swam up the Chase River all by herself, and a third male joined the spawning trio. That was five chums up.

On my way back across the Cat Stream, I pondered if any fish would go up the murky water. Just then, one did exactly that. It swam up from the Chase River and into the concrete fishway then up the Cat Stream under Park Avenue. Why do they do that? The water was rank. No pride, I guess.

So we have Chum salmon up the Chase River above Seventh Street and into the Cat Stream for the first time in living memory. Interestingly, when Steve Toth and Bruce Murray surveyed the Cat Stream in 1993 for the Mal U-C project, they recommended re-introducing Chum into the Cat Stream to liven it up a bit for the Coho. There you go.

So those baffles under the railway worked, then. We did it in the nick of time, as they say. Thanks for seeing it through, Harry. And thanks to everyone who did it on the day. It was worth it. If we hadn't done it this year, it would never have been done at all. Ponder that.

Cheers,

Charles



Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2011 10:48 PM

Subject: Fw: Salmon enumeration in the Chase River

Hi Guys:

There were 1300 live Chum and 1667 dead in the Chase River today. That has to be a record escapement for the Chase in recent memory.

Those baffles were installed in the E&N Railway culvert in the nick of time.

It was really something to see fish up the river, just above the Cat Stream confluence.

I must have been very close to the upper limit yesterday. I will drop off the data sheets for DFO on Monday.

Thank you for your effort today. It was an epic walk.

We should all be very happy with the work we have done. It doesn't get any better than this.

Charles

