

CHECK OUT YOUR

# CHINOOK FRY

## 'ALL BUTTONED UP'



Which fry is it?



**KINGFISHER**  
Interpretive Centre



### LOOKS

Your salmon fry is approximately 3.5 cm long, from nose to the tip of the tail. Notice the pattern of dark bar like spots on the body of your fry. These are called parr marks and they help camouflage the tiny fish.



### FAVE FOODS

Your alevin has finally 'buttoned up', meaning the yolk sac has been used up and your fish is in need of real food! You might be wondering what baby salmon fry eat? Well, we know there is no pizza delivery to the Shuswap River, so the fry will be looking for something equally delicious - WATER BUGS! Yummy.



### FIRST THINGS FIRST

The first thing a new fry in the wild does is swim up to the surface of the water with their little vibrating tails - and they get a new name, "swim up fry". Once they break the surface, they take a big gulp of air, with a sideways snapping motion of their heads.

They go back underwater, keeping their mouth and gill covers tightly closed. The gulps of air help fill their swim bladder to keep them floating in the water!

Learn Some

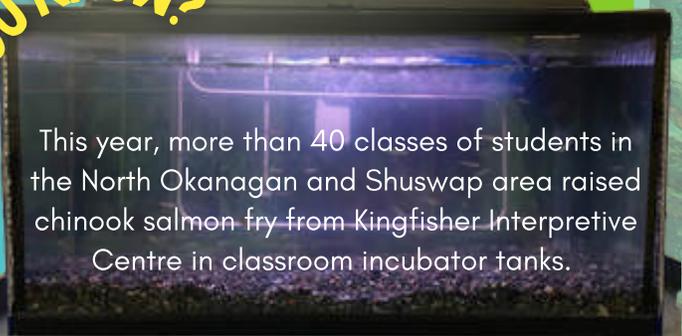
### SCIENTIFIC TERMS

**Escapement.** The number or proportion of fish surviving (escaping from) a given fishery at the end of the fishing season and reaching the spawning grounds.

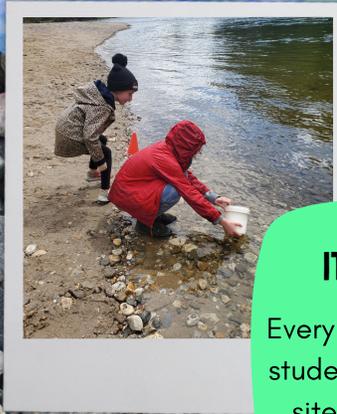
Salmon are **anadromous**. This means they start their lives in freshwater, migrate to the ocean (salt water) where they grow, then return home to their natal, or birth, streams to spawn and die.

### DID YOU KNOW?

This year, more than 40 classes of students in the North Okanagan and Shuswap area raised chinook salmon fry from Kingfisher Interpretive Centre in classroom incubator tanks.



# 2022 FRY RELEASE



## ITS TIME. GET READY. FOR THE FRY RELEASE!

Every spring Kingfisher Interpretive Centre welcomes back kids, students, teachers and parents to participate in field trips. The site is teeming with life, enthusiasm and excitement for the prospect of releasing chinook fry into the river!

A typical day at Kingfisher Interpretive Centre includes a fry release of the salmon that were raised in school tanks, and a rotation of outdoor learning stations. This season the stations include a forest walk, watershed learning, and a close-up look at aquatic invertebrates (bugs!). This year there are over 40 classrooms participating.

\*We hope to have resources by next season to offer the salmon fry release experience to our Sponsor a Salmon participants. Your continued support of our programs is greatly appreciated as we work to expand our outreach.



# KINGFISHER

Interpretive Centre

## HOME Sweet HOME



*Early Memories of a Fry...*

**A quick recap of the life of your salmon fry**

The process of growing your little salmon fry all started at the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre hatchery last fall, by harvesting eggs from spawning Chinook females then fertilizing them with milt from a male Chinook. The eggs were closely monitored for survival and water temperature is recorded daily through the winter months as they hatched and developed through the stages of alevin to fry.



**In May and June the chinook fry raised at the hatchery will be released into the Shuswap River**

*Shuswap River*

**Kingfisher, BC**

Your newly released Chinook salmon fry will quickly adapt to its new home in the Shuswap River, where it will spend 3 to 4 months before heading towards the Pacific Ocean. Now that your fry is in the river, it will start to memorize its new home through scent! Factors such as the type of rock soil in the river bed, plant life and other aquatic organisms, all contribute a certain quality and unique scent which salmon can recognize as home. When they return from the ocean, they are able to identify the place they were born and will spawn there.



**KIC is located in the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwepemc**

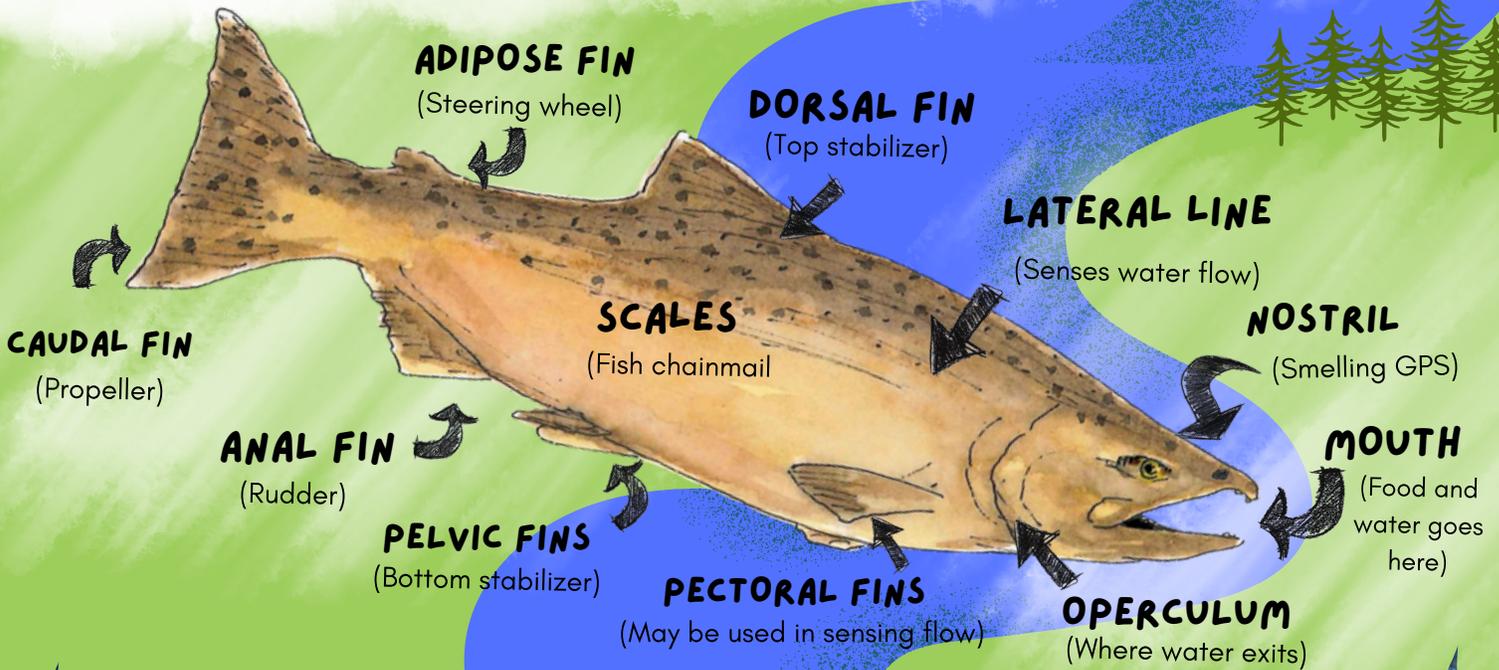
The Splat-sin (pronounced splat-seen) Nation are caretakers of the land and waters of the Shuswap watershed. Splat-sin culture teaches about our interconnectedness with the natural world, and to respectfully and wisely steward the land so it will remain healthy and rich for generations to come.



# EXTERNAL ANATOMY OF THE CHINOOK SALMON

Check out a cool video:  
[Online Education KICS \(kingfishercentre.org\)](http://Online Education KICS (kingfishercentre.org))

During the return journey to their home rivers, Chinook change appearance to greenish brown, with red or purple tones. Males have more colour and also develop a hooked 'kype' (upper jaw) to attract a mate. Female spawners have a wide body and blunt snout.



Adult Chinook salmon in the ocean are blue-green on their backs and heads, with silver sides and white bellies. They have dark spots on their upper bodies and caudal fin.

*Say this tongue twister 10 x fast!*

**"FRESH FRIED FISH"**



# Crossword

# SHUSWAP

# RIVER



### Down:

1. A bird that nests in burrows along earthen banks, diving to catch minnows with its heavy, straight bill.
2. The name for returning adult salmon when they come back to where they were born
3. A young salmon that is free swimming
4. The title for a species on which many other species rely
5. The largest species of Pacific Salmon (clue: *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
7. A process used by hatcheries to differentiate between live and dead eggs
9. These animals are on the hunt for spawning salmon and eggs
10. This large bird of prey relies heavily on salmon as a food source

### Across:

2. What to call a young salmon on its way to the ocean
6. The word to describe streamside zone, including the vegetation, soils, and other species
8. The process of breaking down nutrients to cycle into the stream
11. The name of a newly hatched salmon
12. The part of the female salmon used to dig the nest
13. The place or environment where a plant or animal naturally carries out their life cycle
14. The river bottom material essential for protecting eggs
15. the name of the salmon 'nest'



# COLOUR ME



## Streamkeepers

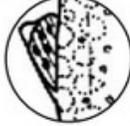
Each season Streamkeepers watch for spawning adult fish, and monitor the young fish populations in their local streams. They look for special characteristics to help them identify the species. Use these clues to help you identify each of these salmon fry – and one fish that isn't a salmon!



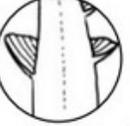
**Coho:**  
The leading edge of the dorsal fin is white, followed by black.



**Chinook:**  
The leading edge of the dorsal fin is dark, and the fin has a white tip.



**Rainbow Trout:**  
The dorsal fin is heavily spotted, and it has a white tip.



**Pink:**  
Pink fry have no spots or parr marks on their bodies.



**Chum:**  
Parr marks are narrow, evenly spaced, and located above the lateral line.



**Sockeye:**  
Parr marks are irregular in size and location.



**Cutthroat Trout:**  
Parr marks appear on the sides, but there are no spots on the back.

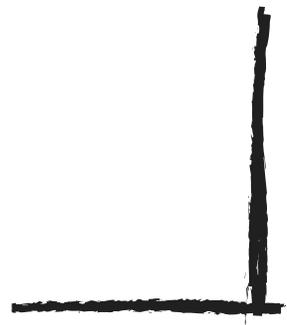


**Prickly Sculpin:**  
Non-salmonids have no adipose fin.

# WHAT DO.



*Mean to* **YOU**



Write a story, poem, or draw a picture in the frame above. Please send us your work and we may feature it in our final newsletter!