

Salmon Watching Protocol 2019—Furthest limit spot check sites

Major question answered: How far up our creeks do salmon go?

Summary: Visit assigned furthest limit site 1,2 and 3 days after each hard rain event between October 1st and December 31st. Spend 15 minutes at the site looking for fish.

Frequency: Variable and weather dependent. These sites should be visited sequentially on day 1,2 and 3 after every hard rain event.

Procedure: A hard rain event is defined as greater than ½ inch of rain in 24 hours or steady rain for more than 2 days (48 hours) in a row. Visit these sites when the rain event has passed and the water is clear again. This usually takes one to two days. Delaying 1-2 days will also give fish time to navigate up to these areas. Visit your assigned spot for 15 minutes and look for live or dead fish. You may walk along the banks of these sites a bit to increase your chances of seeing things. If this water is too murky to see any fish come back the next day.

If you see a dead fish: Besides recording it on your datasheet please call Kelly Keenan so that she can come out and take a tissue sample.

What to record: Your name, site name, date, creek, weather, days since last rain, number of dead fish, species, adipose fin; number of live fish, species, adipose fin; redd building or spawning behavior? If you see a fish or a redd please call us: Kelly Keenan—kellykeenan.vnc@gmail.com, 281-222-8282.

Upload data onto the sit spot data portal: vashonnaturecenter.org/salmonwatchers