

Salmon Watching Protocol 2019—Salmon Watching Sit Spot

Major question answered: What types of salmon and trout are present in our streams and where and when?

Summary: Visit a spot on the side of the creek to look for fish. Record findings in our online data Portal. Open to all volunteers.

Frequency: Twice a week for 15 minutes each time. From October 1-December 31.

Equipment: Data sheet, 2 pencils, fish ID card, camera.

Procedure: Arrive at your site and stand quietly in one place where you can observe the water for at least 15 minutes. Particularly if your spot has reflective water, sunglasses may increase your chances of spotting something. Wear dark clothing so as not to scare the fish. Also remember to listen. Sometimes you can hear a fish approaching before you see them. Timing your visits for one to two days after hard rains will increase your chances of seeing things. However, if you arrive and the water is high and murky bag it and come back another time. It will be hard to see anything in muddy waters.

What to record: When you are at your site record the following: date, start time and end time, number and species of dead fish encountered, number and species of live fish encountered, whether fish have an adipose fin or whether it has been clipped, any other information on other wildlife that you see.

If you cannot identify the fish you see with confidence then note the approximate size and any other identifying characteristics in the notes and mark it as unidentified.

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

IF YOU SEE A DEAD FISH: Besides recording it on your datasheet, we would like to take a DNA sample. Call Kelly Keenan and tell her where to locate the fish so she can take a fin sample.

SPAWNING: If you see a fish, or more than one fish displaying spawning behavior or a fish resting or guarding a redd PLEASE CONTACT US. Kelly Keenan at kellykeenan.vnc@gmail.com, 281-222-8282.