



EVENT PLAN

2020 Gulf of Alaska Expedition Send-Off

Date: March 11, 2020

Media Event: 10 – 11:30am

Location: Point Hope Shipyard – Victoria, B.C.

Event Description:

Dignitaries from DFO, the Government of Canada and Province of B.C., and members of the private sector, NGOs and academia will be sending off an international team of 12 scientists working with Dr. Richard Beamish and Dr. Brian Riddell (Pacific Salmon Foundation) to conduct a second research expedition in the Gulf of Alaska. This expedition is part of the International Year of the Salmon initiative led by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.

On March 11, the chartered Canadian fishing vessel *Pacific Legacy* will set sail for the high-seas region of the Gulf of Alaska for one month to study the winter ecology of salmon. This research will build off the first Gulf of Alaska Expedition that took place during March 2019. The study is a continuation of the international scientific effort to identify mechanisms and environmental factors that could determine the annual abundance and condition of Pacific salmonids in the Gulf of Alaska. It also seeks to establish greater international research capacity for understanding the consequences of future environmental conditions and is being used to study the impacts of extreme climate events and ocean conditions.

Funding for the expedition was made available through government organizations, foundations, the commercial fishing industry and private donations. The British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BC SRIF) is a major funder of the 2020 expedition (\$500k) as well as a 2021 Pan-Pacific High Seas Expedition (\$3M over 3 years) being planned by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The Pacific Salmon Foundation serves as the financial administrator of the expedition in conjunction with its Salish Sea Marine Survival Program.

We acknowledge and thank the Lkwungen People, also known as the Songhees, Esquimalt, and Beecher Bay First Nations communities, for allowing us to live, work and play on their lands.

Why the Gulf of Alaska during Winter?

It is believed that the ‘readiness’ of juvenile salmon to survive winters in the Gulf of Alaska may be determined during the first months at sea. The stocks of origin of salmon that we encounter and identify using DNA and health data (energy, content, pathogens etc.) will increase our knowledge of this potentially critical period for survival and production of B.C. salmon. These discoveries will be the basis for forecasting and managing salmon populations in a rapidly changing environment.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Time	Details
10:00am - 10:02	Mark Saunders introduces himself as MC and introduces Indigenous representative and invites them to deliver a welcome
10:03 – 10:12	First Nations welcome (speaker TBD)
10:13 – 10:14	Mark thanks Indigenous representative and introduces Government of Canada representatives
10:15 – 10:20	Government of Canada representative speaks
10:21 – 10:22	Mark thanks Government of Canada representative and introduces Province of BC representative
10:23 – 10:28	Province of BC representative speaks
10:29 – 10:30	Mark thanks Provincial representative and introduces member of Indigenous community to speak
10:31 – 10:36	Member of Indigenous community delivers speech
10:37 – 10:38	Mark thanks Indigenous speaker and introduces Dr. Beamish and Brian Riddell
10:38 – 10:48	Dr. Beamish speaks
10:49 – 10:54	Brian Riddell Speaks
10:55 – 11:04	Mark Saunders hosts Q&A with attendees/media
11:05– 11:15	Mark organizes photo op/media scrum
11:16 – 11:17	Mark thanks participants and invites them to a tour of the vessel
11:18 – 11:35	Tour of vessel led by participating scientists
11:35	End of Event