



NEWS RELEASE

Interpreters share the story of the Sockeye salmon's 6000-km journey to the ocean and back

September 23, 2024- Did you know that the Okanagan River is one of only two remaining Sockeye Salmon Spawning grounds in the Columbia watershed? Join Lee McFadyen, Ella Braden and Victoria Ritchie to learn about the many salmon spawning enhancement projects along the Okanagan River and the fascinating life cycle of ocean-going fish. The 2024 run is the largest sockeye run since records have been kept, a direct result of the ONA initiatives.

Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA) and the Okanagan Nation Alliance are hosting two “Celebrate Our Salmon” open houses in the South Okanagan on the Okanagan River. The first open house is **Sunday October 06th** at the **Okanagan River Restoration Initiative site just North of Oliver**. The second open house will also be on Sunday October 6th in Penticton at the Okanagan Lake dam at the south outlet of Okanagan Lake.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the return of sockeye salmon coming home after a 6000-kilometre journey to the ocean and back. Interpreters will be on hand to talk about the life cycle of the sockeye salmon, the challenges these fish face as they travel through different habitats and the efforts to restore spawning habitat in Oliver and Penticton.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance fishery department is anticipating that 670,000 sockeye will return to the Columbia River with 80% of those heading to the Okanagan water north of Osoyoos, according to Richard Bussanich, ONA's head fish biologist. There should be ample opportunity to witness salmon spawning.

The events run rain or shine. For more information contact Ella Braden at 250 809 6774 or ecostudies@osca.org.

Oliver –Sunday October 6th 10:00am to 12:00 pm
Okanagan River Restoration Site
Parking at Oliver Visitors Centre, 6431 Station Street
The site is an easy 1 km walk north along the
bike and hike path. Wheelchair accessible.

Penticton – Sunday October 6th 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Okanagan Lake Dam at the south outlet of Okanagan
Lake. Near the Rose Garden and Loco Landing
Adventure Park. 75 Riverside Drive.

