

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

Thousands of students at 68 schools participated this year in Salmon in the Schools - Seattle (SIS-SEATTLE). They reared coho, chum, or chinook salmon from eyed eggs and released their fry in local creeks and Lake Washington.

In the process, they learned about life cycles, ecosystems, the importance of salmon to Pacific Northwest commerce and culture, and what they and their families can do to improve habitat and water quality. Skill development included observation, data collection and depiction, and research and reporting.

Teachers and tank volunteers engaged students in feeding their fish, checking water temperature, testing water chemistry, and monitoring tank equipment. They tied this study into science, math, social studies, and other emphases, and many schools cultivated a building-wide "salmon climate" that extended learning to many grades.

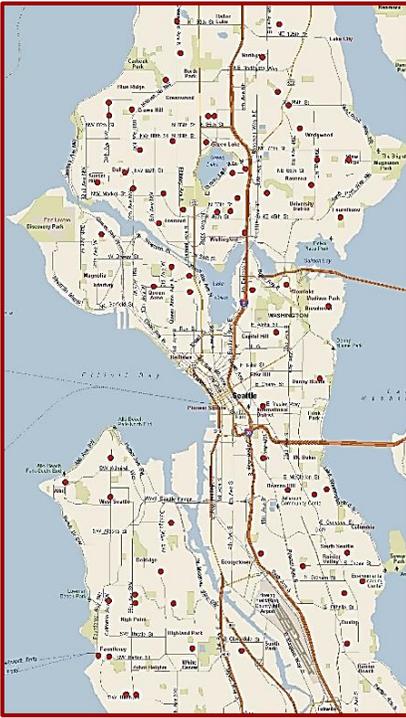
COORDINATION

SIS-SEATTLE is a coalition of agency representatives and environmental advocates who guide the program and provide resources to schools throughout the city. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) initiated the program in 1991 and, after 20 years, it transitioned to local coordination. WDFW continues to issue permits, track releases, and tie our programs to others across the state.

A technical specialist (funded by Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Parks and Recreation) and volunteers were readily available to troubleshoot equipment problems and help teachers and school volunteers confidently manage their tanks. Coordination started with being sure tanks were ready for eggs from these area hatcheries:



Hatchery	No. of Schools
WDFW hatchery on Issaquah Creek	30
WDFW hatchery on Soos Creek	14
Suquamish tribal hatchery on Grovers Creek	24



Public and private schools throughout the city participated in SIS-Seattle this year.



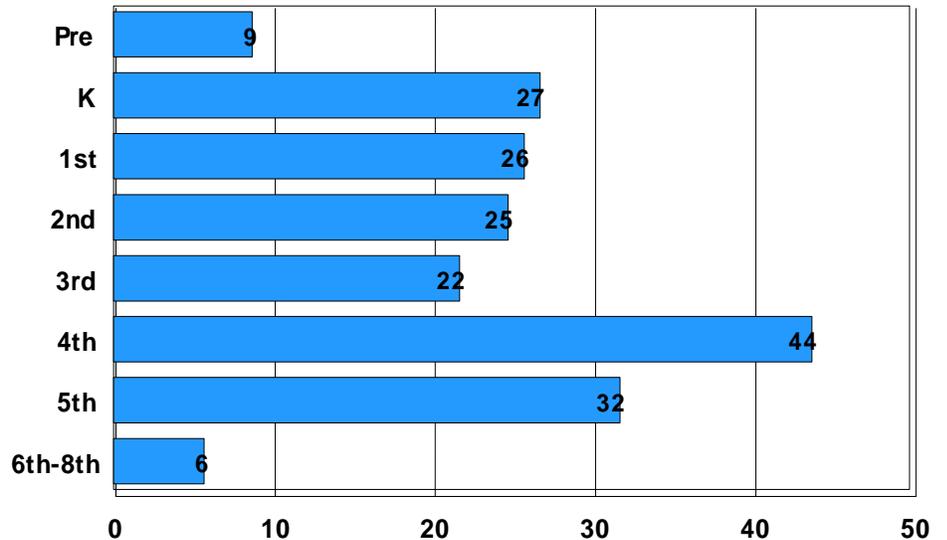
Egg drop at Wedgewood Elementary

PARTICIPATION

Students in 68 public and private schools throughout Seattle were engaged this year in salmon-centered learning. Most tanks were in a common area so that multiple classrooms/grades could witness fish development and activity.

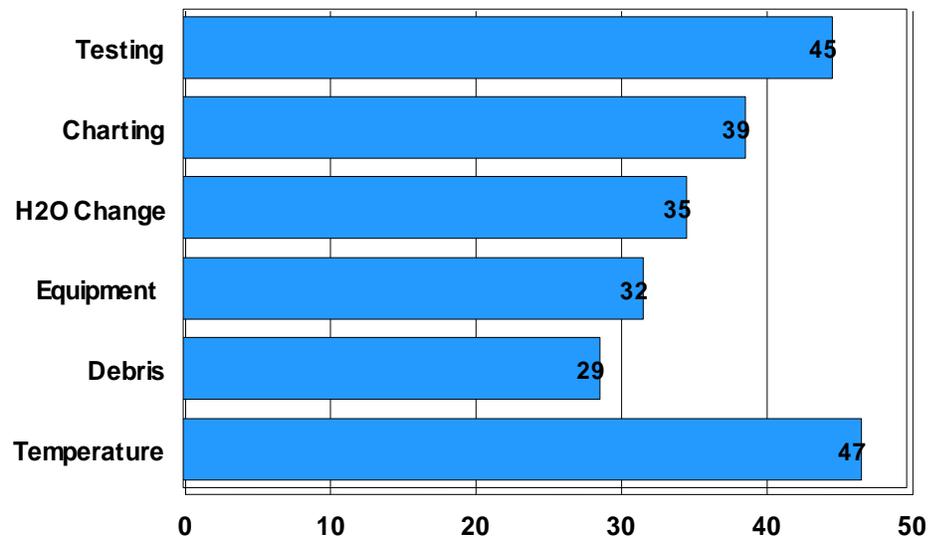
The majority of students rearing fish were fourth graders. Younger students at many schools were also significantly involved, often through reading-buddy programs.

PRINCIPAL GRADES INVOLVED



Teachers and tank volunteers supported students in keeping tanks healthy - checking water temperature, removing debris, making sure equipment was working properly, using test kits to monitor water quality, charting their data, and helping with water changes.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

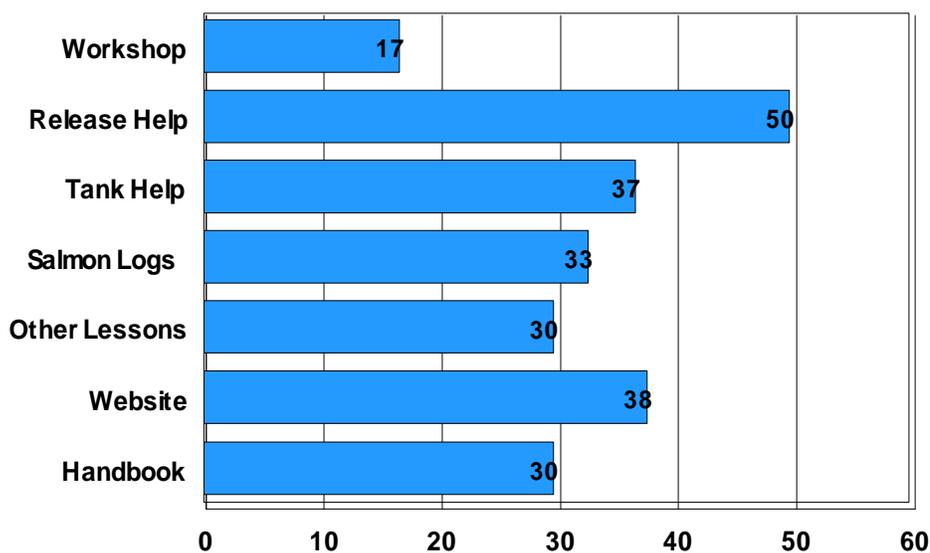


TEACHER & VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

SIS-SEATTLE offered many resources to support teachers and their tank volunteers, starting with an all-day workshop in the fall attended by 18 representatives from new and returning schools. At the same time, we provided all our teachers with an updated handbook that covered topics ranging from tank set-up to field-trip opportunities.

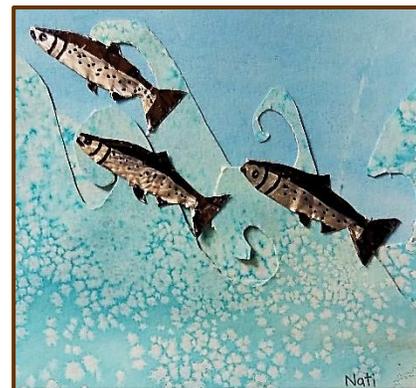
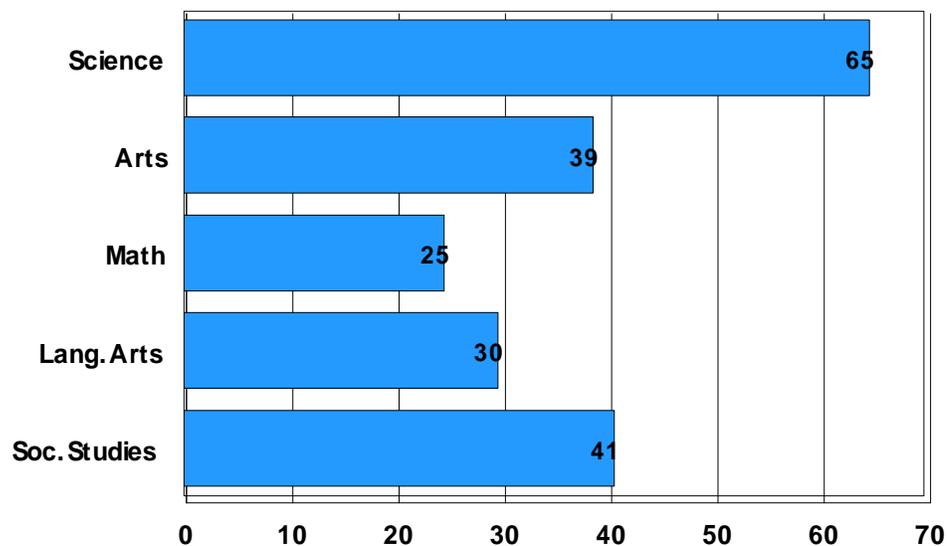
Throughout the year, teachers had access to dozens of lesson plans, most of which now align with Next Generation Science Standards. The resources teachers used most frequently this year were as follows:

PRINCIPAL SIS-SEATTLE RESOURCES USED



Teachers applied salmon-related study toward meeting learning standards in five principal curriculum areas:

LEARNING STANDARDS MET



One little guy released his fish and said to me: "This is the second-best day of my life." Of course I asked, "What was the first?" "The day I was adopted!" I have never heard the value of this program put more powerfully.

Dennis Hinton, long-time release volunteer, Fautleroy Creek

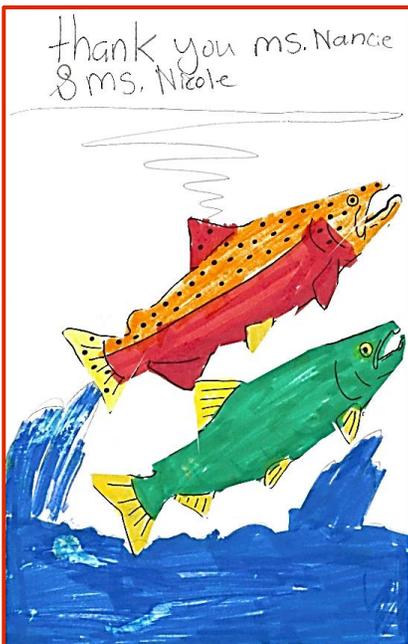


Dunlap Elementary release in Lake Washington



Bertschi students using an Ipad app to test pH

Can you tell me more about the salmon so that I can tell my family because my family wants to know about the salmon? Dunlap Elementary



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 2019-20, the SIS-SEATTLE leadership team

- maintained our **website** as a comprehensive resource for salmon teachers in Seattle.
- secured **state permits** for all participating schools.
- enhanced 14 **lesson plans** to align with Next Generation Science Standards.
- produced and posted a **video** of egg, alevin, and fry development as a learning option.
- updated our **handbook** for teachers and tank volunteers.
- conducted a **workshop** for new teachers, volunteers, and those seeking a "refresher" about tank care and lesson planning.
- made more than 115 **visits to schools** to deliver or install equipment or to check on fish health.
- **transported eggs** from hatcheries to 54 schools.
- **purchased** 5 chillers and 1 tank.
- **installed** 10 new chillers and filters at 10 schools.
- did 8 in-class **salmon dissections** at West Seattle schools.
- supported 62 **salmon releases** in the spring, 60 of which included directing a scavenger hunt or other habitat exploration.
- supported three **salmon search programs** in the fall.
- helped 19 schools with **transportation costs** for release field trips.
- invested dozens of **administrative and volunteer hours** in permitting, training, troubleshooting, and coordinating.

WHAT'S AHEAD

During the 2019-20 program year, we plan to

- update lesson plans as needed to align with a new science curriculum for Seattle Public Schools.
- continue to work with schools to upgrade equipment.
- encourage teachers to, at a minimum,
 - give students a broad overview of the importance of salmon in the Pacific Northwest and the challenges that they face
 - engage students in caring for their fish
 - extend the salmon project in some way to other students in their school.

We will keep program capacity at 75 schools and focus recruitment on

- upper elementary grades
- under-resourced schools
- schools able to enlist assistance with tank maintenance.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Again this year, the program relied on administrative time and on-the-ground expertise from these members of the leadership team:

Beth Miller, program manager, K-12 Stormwater Education Programs, Strategic Outreach and Communications, Seattle Public Utilities;
beth.miller@seattle.gov; 206-386-4621

Nancie Hernandez, technical support and area coordinator for Piper's Creek and Lake Washington
seasis.tech@outlook.com; 206-218-9738

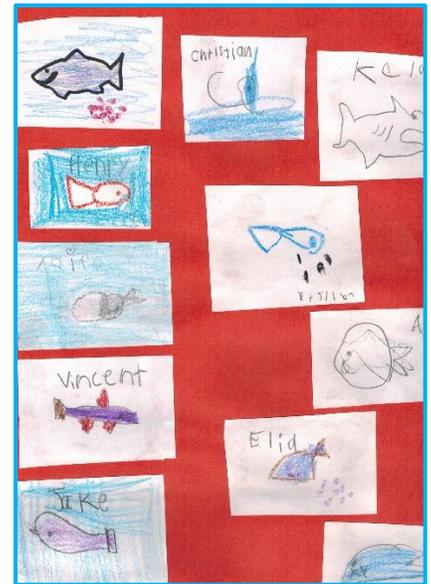
Phil Sweetland, database and technical support volunteer
phil_sweetland@msn.com; 206-938-4203

Judy Pickens, volunteer area coordinator for Fautleroy Creek
judy_pickens@msn.com; 206-938-4203

Rick Henry, Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project volunteer

Going forward, **David Koon**, will be representing the Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project on the SIS - SEATTLE leadership team; *dkoon14@gmail.com*; 206-819-7596.

Photos courtesy Nancie Hernandez, Peggy Cummings



We had the biggest fish ever this year! We are so lucky to have expert community volunteers!

**Kim Sheridan, director,
Fautleroy Children's Center**