

# Nanaimo River Fish Hatchery

## Presents

### Life in H<sub>2</sub>O

**Life in H<sub>2</sub>O** is the culminating activity for elementary school classes that are participating in the Classroom Incubation Program. Classes who are not participating in the incubation program can also participate and are given fry from the hatchery to release. Students come for either a morning (9:15 to 11:15) or an afternoon (11:45-1:45). When the students arrive, they are welcomed to the hatchery and then are split into 2-3 groups to begin a rotation through 2-3 stations. **This program runs April 22-May 10.**

#### Station 1 – Aquatic Insect/Invertebrate Study



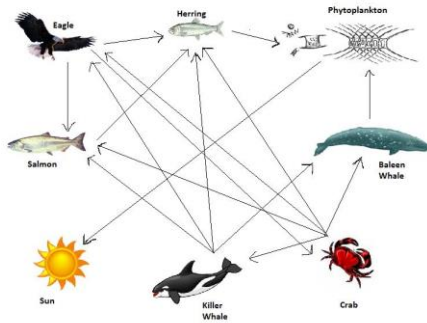
Students will have a hands-on experience with various aquatic insects that live in the waters around us. They study why these insects are important to salmon and our river's ecosystem. Within the touch tank children will be able to catch a bug to look at with magnifying glass and study its characteristics.

#### Station 2 – Forest Walk/Fry Release



Students hike along the trail and talk about the various native plants and how they contribute to the rivers eco-system. At the end of the trail the children will get a chance to release classroom incubation or hatchery supplied fry into the stream.

## Station 3 – Salmon Game



Students will learn about the life cycle of the salmon and the dangers they face. This is an obstacle course type game.

As the program takes place outside, children must come dressed for the weather. It is often muddy on the trails at this time of year and is always colder at the hatchery than in town. Jackets can always be taken off, but they cannot be put on if they are not there. As children like to see what is happening, group sizes are important. A group of 30 students makes for the best program, but we understand that due to rising costs, those schools that must use buses to get the students to the hatchery tend to bring two classes. We require a minimum of one adult per rotation group.

**When booking, please provide three date and time choices, as well as the age group and the class size. Also, if you could provide a cell phone number in which you can be reached, if we need to get a hold of you the day of.**

To book, contact Judy Wickland at:  
[education@nanaimoriverhatchery.ca](mailto:education@nanaimoriverhatchery.ca)