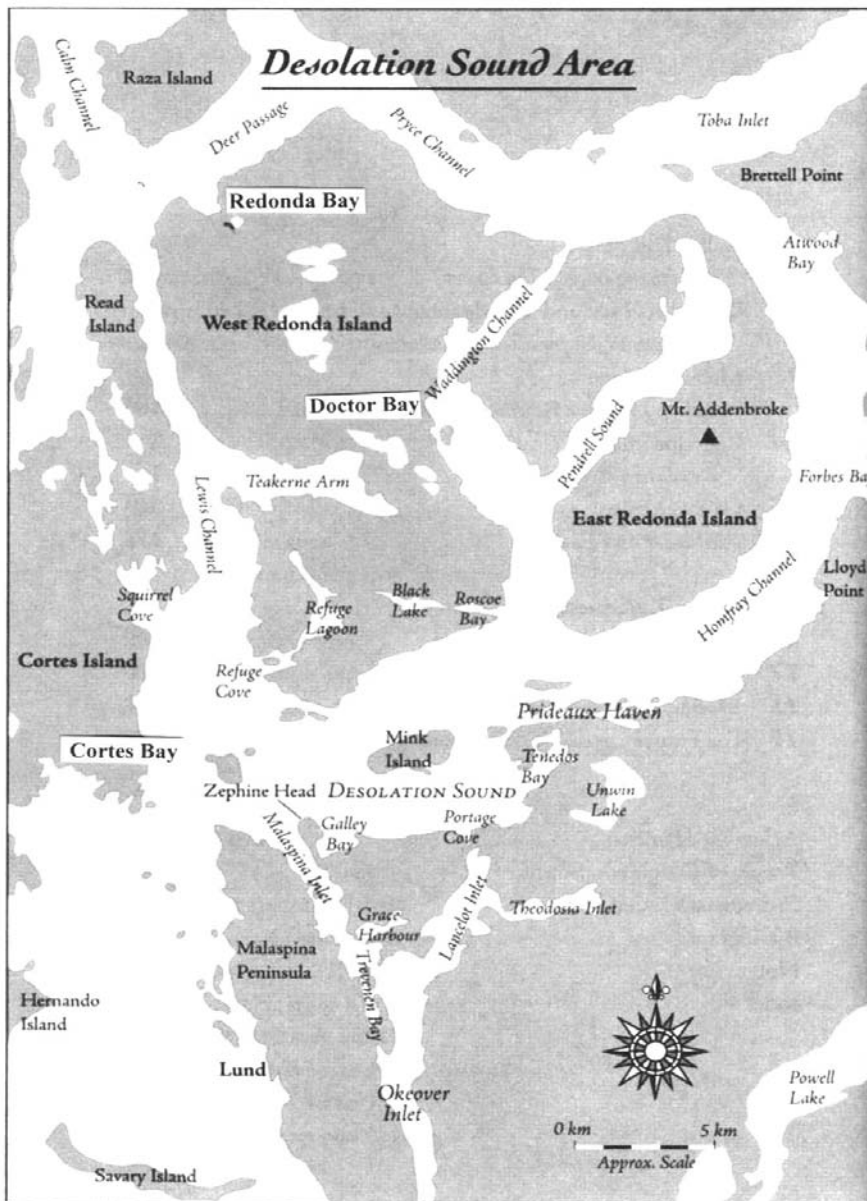


# DESOLATION SOUND SALMON ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY

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## OCCASIONAL BULLETIN:

Brood stock capture, Doctor Bay, Waddington Channel – October 15/08



October 15<sup>th</sup>. 08: The sky lightly overcast the sea calm. Sunny breaks by 11:00.

Delia Becker arrived from Twin Islands to the Cortes Bay dock at 10 in a speed boat loaned by Mark Torrance to pick up Bobo, Judy and Thor Ellingson . The plan for the day was to travel to Rob Smeal's set-up at Doctor Bay in Waddington Channel for the

attempt to capture brood stock from Coho currently schooled there. Although now wild, they may be descendents of Sakinaw Lake eggs we reared to smolts there and implanted in Refuge Lagoon. We have been given permission, and a grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, to take brood stock since our previous source of eggs had ceased due to the failure of the Sakinaw Coho run.



We scooted round the bottom of Cortes into Desolation Sound and picked up a fuel funnel, Bobo, and Megan, a sixteen year old student who lives on a big green barge. The funnel was to top up the xxx gallons of gas needed for this trip. Our fuel consumption is, of course, an issue for such an ecological based expedition. After exiting Refuge we sped thru the passage between West Redonda and Martin Island and crossed the sound on a silken sea.



The summer boats were gone and we had the magnificent clouds strung across the mainland mountains to ourselves.

Turning northeast we entered Waddington Channel [ photo #7] which separates East and West Redonda and passed Pendrell Sound where Scott was collecting oyster seed.



At Doctor Bay, just north of a small falls [photo # 8], the aluminum seiner, *Qualanimn*, captained by Charlie Basset and mate Glen Fair, and with Rob Smeal in the dozer boat, were looking for fish along the shore



This try was unsuccessful but they had already netted 12 Coho which had been moved to the outer net fish pen



They were handsome and energetic fish and the plan was to hold them until they were ready to spawn.



The largest was a vision of power as it snaked aggressively around the pen looking for an opening but even it had a couple of the white patches spawning salmon develop. As they ripen for spawning, salmon immune systems break down, they seldom feed and all energy is focused moving into fresh water, spawning and death. Some people find this a gloomy prospect but it is their expired bodies that feed the forest, bears, wolves, and martin. Eagles and herons as well as other creatures and in the decay of their remains provide the small grubs and insects that feed baby Coho.

Rob, who was trained at the Capilano Fish Hatchery, was pleased with the quality of the fish. Once they are ready, he'll be able to remove eggs and milt, fertilize the eggs and place them in trays. These would be tended, dead eggs removed daily, until the eyed egg stage. Once viable, the small fish would spend the rest of the year until April in the aluminum tanks fed from the Doctor Bay creek which also provides the power to run the establishment. It is the gift of this facility, and Rob's wish to improve wild salmon stocks, that has allowed us to raise smolts from eggs we were given by DFO Community

Advisor Grant McBain from Sakinaw Lake. Since this run's failure we have been unable to continue stocking Refuge Lagoon in the approved sequence.

The hope was that we had more females than males. A single female can produce hundreds of eggs and if the process was successful we'd have smolts for both Refuge Lagoon and Black Lake whose tiny resident run was in need of help.

I checked the aluminum trays up the hill by the stream and one is crammed full of good sized spring smolts swimming vigorously. Examined the bottom of the creek where it is suggested we make a fish trap to avoid the expense of the seiner to net fish in subsequent years. [ photo # 18] There was also discussion of building the fish ladder in Dr. Bay south creek falls to aid the fish. Grant has also asked if we would do work in at Lillian Russell Creek in Redonda Bay on the north end of West Redonda. since that creek has had many years of inappropriate modification by a long resident cannery and logging road.

I got up on the dodger of *Qualaninn* and Charlie scouted the bay trying to find a couple of fish who'd jumped. Our slow search lead to the usual upcoast pasttime of telling stories. Charlie explained how he'd been born at Hole in the Wall between Read and Sonora Island. His grandfather had gone to Read in 1910, married a Sliammon woman from Old Churchhouse – (Mushkin). His mate, Glen Fair he had known in school on Read. Glen was the son of Pansy Schnarr. She and her sisters Pearl and Marian were legendary for having pet cougars up in Bute and later on Read.

We set out for Roscoe Bay at the south end of West Redonda to see if Coho were schooling up to go into Black Lake but Roscoe Creek was quite low. Beavers have built a small dam in the old flume area we resuscitated last year but it's likely to be washed out in winter rains. There is a bigger one at mouth of lake. Grant McBain is sending up a hatchery box into which we will put eyed chum eggs from the Sliammon Hatchery to stock that watershed.



Roscoe Bay was full, as it regularly is, from surface to its depth, with white moon jellyfish. As the water was so still, the mix of a surface twig or leaf, faint ripples, the depth of suspended jellyfish and the reflection of the onshore fall coloured leaves created an image that resembled a ravishing mix of superimposed Monet and Seurat paintings.

Back out in Desolation we picked up a heavy duty, white, plastic drifting barrel one example of the endless drift of sea farm debris one finds and headed to Refuge. We dropped off Megan who would write up a report of the project for her school class, returned the funnel and returned to Cortes Bay. Wind was now kicking up whitecaps in the gulf.

**Work so Far**

- 1) hired crew to spread gravel behind dam for chum spawning area
- 2) removed old oil drums and dead batteries left by indigents on sinking barge near Lagoon Creek exit
- 3) captured brood stock
- 4)

**Work to be done 2008/09**

- 1) egg removal, fertilization, smolt rearing
- 2) Installation of hatchery box and chum eggs
- 3) second gravel load transported
- 4) Pacific Salmon Foundation report
- 5) monitoring of spawners in Refuge Lagoon and hatchery box in Black lake
- 6) Study of Doctor Bay fish trap potential and South Dr. Bay Falls fish ladder
- 7) Study of Lillian Russell Creek, Redonda Bay
- 8) new Pacific Salmon Foundation grant application

## SALMON PEOPLE



Rob Smeal, Corrine Corry and Scott Remple at meeting of Desolation Sound Salmon Enhancement Society, Twin Islands, Oct. 1, 2008.



En-route Doctor Bay

Delia Becker driving boat



Robert (Bobo) Fraser, DSES treasurer  
Salmon in net. Thor Ellingson, Delia Becker, Rob Smeal, Monica Schultons and Megan



Megan studies the salmon