

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Photo © Yan Kaczynski



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the snowline inches down the mountains surrounding my Terrace home, I'm thinking about the cycles and changes that define our environment here in the Northwest. Salmon returning to spawn. Bears gorging on berries before heading for their dens. Snow falling, melting and piling up again, feeding our rivers.

The old adage about the constant nature of change applies to our organization, too. This year, we bid farewell to Greg Knox, SkeenaWild's founding Executive Director, after 18 years of extraordinary leadership. Greg's thoughtful and well-informed approach to challenging issues has been an invaluable asset to our work, helping build SkeenaWild into northwest B.C.'s leading salmon conservation voice. We're grateful to continue working with him as SkeenaWild's newest Trustee and Board Chair and in his new role as BC Program Director at the Wild Salmon Centre, strengthening an already deep partnership.

I'm both humbled and excited to take the reins of SkeenaWild as its new executive director. This organization has been part of my life for nearly 20 years, and I'm exceptionally proud of what we've built

together. Most of all, I feel honoured to lead such a talented team of conservation professionals – people who work every day to give wild salmon, ecosystems and communities a fighting chance.

I wish I could say I was taking on this role at a time when our work was getting easier – alas, that's far from the case. These are challenging times, with growing pressures from DFO budget cuts, deregulation, and industrial fast-tracking that threaten wild salmon and communities more than ever.

But salmon are resilient, and so are we. What gives me hope is all of you: our supporters, neighbours, partners, community leaders, local nations, scientists, and educators who are committed to building a future where people and salmon continue to thrive together. It's going to take all of us, and we're up for the challenge.

Thank you so much for your continued support. All hands on deck in 2026!

Julia Hill Sorochoan
Executive Director

SAFEGUARDING SALMON AND STEELHEAD IN A CHANGING SKEENA

The 2025 salmon season highlighted both the resilience of wild salmon and the growing pressures that will shape their future. Across the Skeena and Nass, returns reflected a complex mix of poor marine conditions, shifting productivity, and long-standing management challenges. SkeenaWild's science, advocacy, and partnership work are more important than ever.

Salmon Returns: A Year of Contrasts

~1.67 million sockeye returned to the Skeena, landing at the lower end of the preseason forecast and below the long-term average. Despite this, we saw food, recreational, and commercial fisheries proceed.

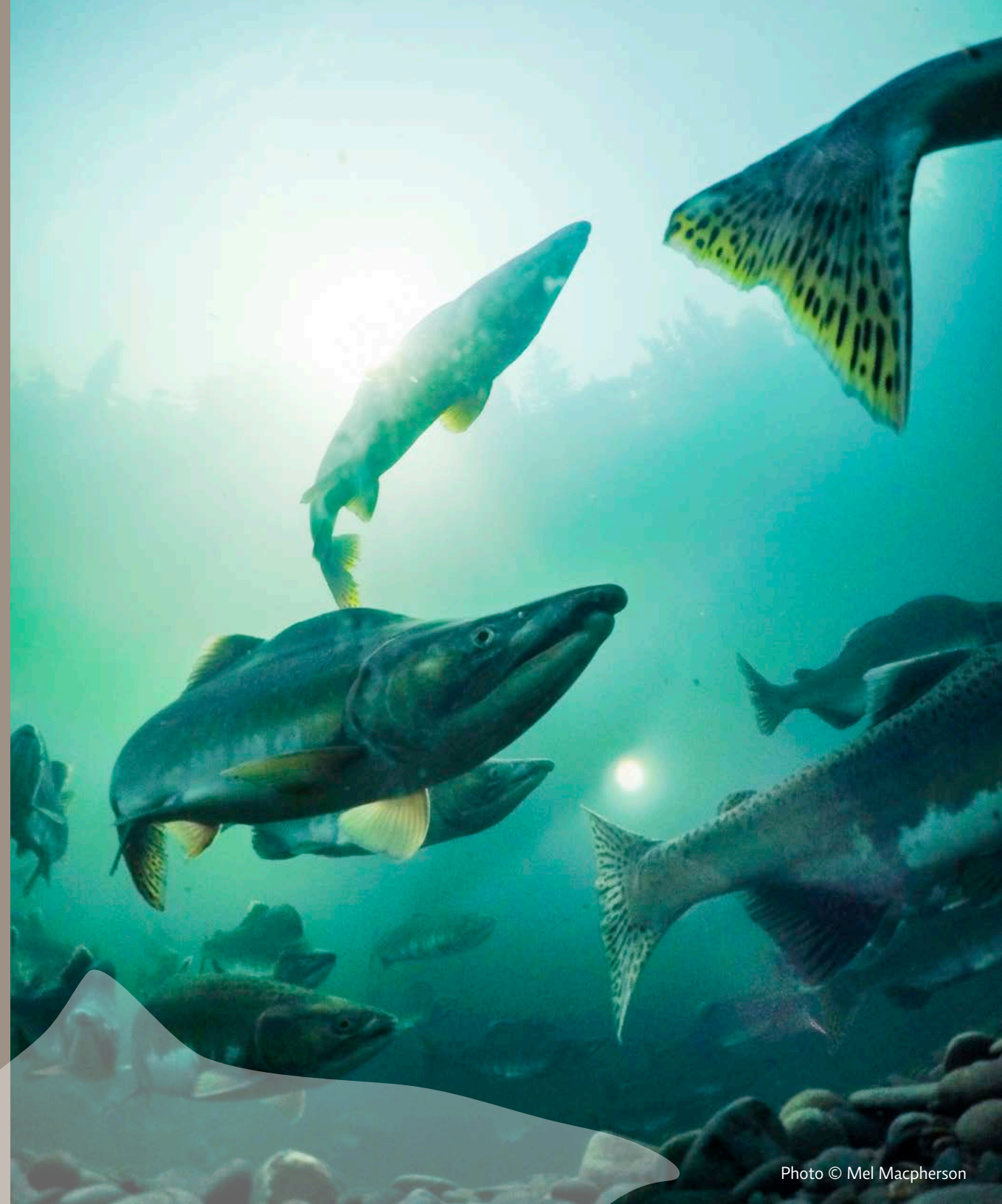
- Chinook returns showed a slight improvement over 2024 but remain critically low, continuing a trend of depressed abundance across the watershed.
- Chum followed a similar pattern to Chinook, with only marginal improvement from 2024.
- Coho returns were well below average, reflecting the lingering effects of poor cohorts from 2019–2022 and challenging ocean conditions over the past several years.
- Pinks returned in high abundance, with unusually early run timing. Escapements to the Kitwanga River were excellent, while the Lakelse River saw significantly weaker returns—an example of uneven recovery patterns across the watershed.

Steelhead: Continued Strain on a Legendary Species

An estimated 12,100 summer-run steelhead returned to the Skeena, which is the eighth lowest return in 70 years. Although 2024 offered a modest reprieve from the steep declines we've seen since 2018, the long-term trend remains deeply concerning. Three of the lowest steelhead returns on record have occurred in just the past five years—an unmistakable signal of a species under sustained stress.

Nass Region Trends

The Nass mirrored many Skeena patterns: very poor Chinook returns, below-average sockeye, coho, and steelhead, and another year of strong pink salmon abundance. Nass chum, however, were a positive outlier with above-average returns based on early-season escapement counts.



STANDING UP FOR BC SALMON IN ALASKA

Driving change through data, diplomacy, and public pressure

Alaskan interception continues to be one of the most significant pressures facing Skeena and Nass salmon and steelhead—and one of the most challenging to address. Yet the past year marked meaningful progress. Thanks to steady advocacy, strong partnerships, and a commitment to science-based solutions, SkeenaWild helped elevate this issue to the highest levels of binational decision-making.

A Challenging Year in Southeast Alaska

Pink salmon harvests in Southeast Alaska were much poorer than expected for an odd-year cycle, mirroring 2024 catches. That meant interception impacts on B.C.-bound salmon were likely similar to recent years: still significant, still under-recognized, and still demanding transparent reporting and stronger accountability.

Elevating Interception to a Top Priority in Treaty Negotiations

Renegotiation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty began in early 2025 and will intensify heading into 2026. Through years of persistent campaign work, SkeenaWild and our partners successfully made Alaskan interception Canada's top priority at the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). Our advocacy is ensuring Canadian commissioners are informed, engaged, and aligned with the concerns we've raised for years.

SkeenaWild remains deeply connected to the PSC through our involvement with the Marine Conservation Caucus and partner organizations, ensuring northern B.C.'s wild salmon continue to have strong, credible advocates in these critical negotiations.

Uniting Salmon People

There is strength in British Columbians' shared concern for the future of wild salmon. This year, we built a collaborative new campaign, Salmon United, designed to bring our voices together and amplify a simple, powerful message: our salmon need to make it home. Salmon United will serve as a collaborative platform for a unified call for sustainable, science-based management across the Pacific coast.



Photo © Jeffrey Wickett



Photo © Steven J. Kazlowski





SUPPORTING A NEW ERA OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES





As climate change intensifies, marine conditions shift, and salmon productivity declines, it is clearer than ever that status quo fisheries management is no longer sustainable. This year, SkeenaWild continued to champion a new approach grounded in science, Indigenous leadership, and the shared goal of ensuring salmon can thrive for generations.

Building a New Framework for Sustainable Fisheries

We’ve developed a proactive, inclusive Sustainable Fisheries Framework designed to guide all fisheries in the Skeena. Built with partners across the region, the framework identifies three essential elements that every sustainable fishery must demonstrate:

Selectivity: The ability to target specific species while releasing non-target fish with very low long-term mortality (e.g., less than 10 percent).

Reliable In-Season Monitoring and Adaptability: Tools and processes that accurately track returns in real-time allow fisheries to adjust as conditions change.

Transparent, Independent Monitoring and Enforcement: Oversight that meets international best practices and builds public trust.

We will continue to apply this framework to Skeena fisheries. Alongside our partners, we highlight successful examples such as the robust North Coast recreational creel surveys and offer support where fisheries improvements are needed.

Strengthening Monitoring, Compliance, and Accountability

SkeenaWild continues to advocate for high-quality, transparent monitoring in every fishery. This year, we:

Supported partners in calling for electronic monitoring after DFO abandoned its 2024 pilot project without follow-up.

Prepared a 2026 campaign to spotlight chronic compliance issues in the commercial fishery.

Worked with Marine Conservation Caucus partners to advance scientific understanding of Fisheries-Related Incidental Mortality (FRIM), and urged DFO to integrate FRIM and total mortalities into management and recovery plans.

Promoted the funding of electronic monitoring and AI tools for in-river selective fisheries.

Modernizing monitoring systems is essential for credible, conservation-focused fisheries management. We will continue to push for the transparency and accountability salmon deserve.



Advancing Selective Fisheries Across the Region

Selective fishing remains a cornerstone of our work. This year, we supported a range of Indigenous-led, community-driven projects that demonstrate the promise of modern, low-impact harvest technologies, which reduce impacts on vulnerable populations like Steelhead, Chinook, and Chum.

Kitselas Fish Wheel

Kitselas First Nation expanded its fish wheel program in Kitselas Canyon with the addition of a second wheel. While technical issues limited the success of an economic fishery this season, the selective fishery again delivered food fish for the Nation while lowering impacts on non-target species. The wheels are also an important component of Kitselas’ youth training and education program. Our team continues to provide support alongside partners, including K5T, the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, and the Steelhead Society.

Lax Kw’alaams Floating Fish Trap

In 2025, Lax Kw’alaams, in partnership with Wild Fish Conservancy, piloted a floating fish trap on the lower Skeena. The trap was deployed in mid-July and used for a catch-and-release research fishery. If successful, this promising technology could be expanded to other systems.

Lake Babine Fisheries

SkeenaWild continued to support selective fisheries led by the Lake Babine Nation and Talok Fisheries. Increased stock assessment capacity—particularly in Babine Lake—is already strengthening harvest precision and improving economic outcomes. Lake Babine Nation operated the largest commercial sockeye fishery in BC this year, harvesting nearly 192,000 enhanced sockeye near the Fulton spawning channels. By avoiding fence harvests, they significantly reduced impacts on wild Babine sockeye. The Nation is now exploring the addition of a passive fish trap for 2026.



ADVANCING SCIENCE FOR SALMON RECOVERY

Cutting-edge research, community partnerships, and long-term insights to guide conservation

Science is the backbone of SkeenaWild's work. This year, our research program continued to highlight the forces shaping salmon populations—from thousand-year-old fishing practices to modern genetic changes, shifting freshwater habitats, and emerging climate impacts. Through partnerships with First Nations, universities, and conservation scientists, we are building the knowledge needed to protect salmon for the long term.

Understanding 1,000 Years of Salmon Harvesting and Genetic Change

In partnership with Simon Fraser University, UNBC, and Lake Babine Nation, SkeenaWild Science Director, Dr. Michael Price, continued research on ancient salmon bones excavated from Smokehouse Island on the Babine River. These bones, some over 1,000 years old, are helping us ask—and answer—key questions about past harvest practices and long-term changes in salmon populations.

Evidence of selective harvesting in Lake Babine Nation's traditional fishery

New research shows a historical preference for harvesting sockeye and Chinook—and avoiding pink salmon. Even more striking, the ancient fishery shows a selective focus on male sockeye, a simple but powerful

conservation practice that helps protect productivity. This aligns with traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable harvesting approaches seen in Indigenous fisheries around the world.

Declining genetic diversity over the last millennium

Early findings reveal a substantial decline in genetic diversity (measured by the number of unique haplotypes) in Babine sockeye over the last 1,000 years. While more analysis is needed, this change underscores the cumulative impacts of overharvesting, habitat degradation, enhancement practices, and shifting climate conditions.

Continuing Long-Term Sockeye Rebuilding Research

This year marked SkeenaWild's fifth season of research supporting the sockeye rebuilding plan in Wet'suwet'en territory. This work continues to deepen our understanding of how sockeye use the Upper Widzin Kwa (Morice) system and how they are responding to a changing climate. Field observations have shown a broader distribution of spawning activity than previously recognized, encouraging signs of recovery in some areas, and notable shifts in juvenile development and migration timing. Together, these findings provide important insight into how freshwater conditions and climate-driven changes influence growth, behaviour, and long-term survival—knowledge that is essential for effective rebuilding.



Rebuilding Wild Salmon Populations in Wet'suwet'en Territory

SkeenaWild is collaborating with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Fisheries and Wildlife Department to develop rebuilding plans that identify priority actions to address key pressures, fill knowledge gaps, and support recovery plans for: Widzin Kwa (Morice River) and Widzin Bin (Morice Lake) sockeye; Widzin Kwa Chinook; and Zymotez (Copper) sockeye.



Supporting the Upper Widzin Kwa Indigenous Protected Area

Findings from the sockeye rebuilding program have directly informed Wet'suwet'en-led efforts to advance an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in the Upper Widzin Kwa. Our analysis identified key areas of ecological importance that remain unprotected and are vital to the future resilience of salmon. After presenting these recommendations, Wet'suwet'en leadership decided to move forward with protection planning and stewardship development for the region. This work represents a significant step toward safeguarding climate refugia, headwater habitats, and the broader ecological systems on which wild salmon rely.



Wild Babine Sockeye Rebuilding

SkeenaWild successfully pushed DFO to allocate rebuilding resources to the North Coast, which led to the launch of a wild Babine sockeye rebuilding plan, co-managed by DFO and the Lake Babine Nation. This work lays the foundation for long-term recovery, rooted in local knowledge, rigorous assessment, and place-based stewardship.



20 YEARS AFTER THE WILD SALMON POLICY: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

2025 marked the 20th anniversary of Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon (also known as the Wild Salmon Policy), a landmark commitment to conserving the genetic diversity and sustainability of wild Pacific salmon through a precautionary approach. This anniversary has offered a vital opportunity to reflect on progress, identify persistent challenges, and, importantly, identify how the Wild Salmon Policy should evolve and adapt in order to deliver on its promise of restoring and maintaining healthy, diverse salmon populations for generations to come.

To mark the 20th anniversary of Canada's Wild Salmon Policy, SkeenaWild's Science Director, Dr. Michael Price, helped organize a Special Collection of expert perspectives for the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences on the implementation, successes, and shortcomings of the Wild Salmon Policy. Contributors include academics, DFO scientists, conservation practitioners, and Indigenous leaders.


SkeenaWild's science team co-authored three articles examining fisheries management, policy implementation, and salmon monitoring under the Policy. Together, the results show that slow and inconsistent implementation, coupled with DFO's continued failure to reform

high-risk mixed-stock fisheries, has limited the Policy's ability to reverse salmon declines. Compounding this, the erosion of monitoring activities essential to the Wild Salmon Policy has left nearly half of recognized salmon populations without enough data to assess their status. This loss of population-level information severely undermines scientists' ability to detect biological change and threatens the Policy's core goal of conserving salmon diversity.

Read more:

- **From policy to practice: declines in monitoring and Pacific salmon conservation in Canada**
- **Gaps in policy implementation obscure conservation progress after two decades under Canada's Wild Salmon Policy**

We are now convening a focused, solutions-oriented workshop with contributors to the Special Collection and key leaders involved in shaping and implementing the Wild Salmon Policy. This workshop will translate the Collection's insights into clear, actionable recommendations to guide stronger, more resilient implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy over the next two decades.



CLIMATE RESILIENT SALMON HABITAT MAPPING: BUILDING A SKEENA SALMON PROTECTION PLAN

Climate change is rapidly reshaping northern B.C.'s watersheds, threatening the productivity of Pacific salmon through warming waters, glacial retreat, and increased hydrological variability—pressures intensified by logging, mining, and other land uses. While some habitats are becoming less suitable, retreating glaciers may also create new opportunities. Salmon have long adapted by shifting where they spawn and rear; their future survival will depend on access to a diverse network of climate-resilient habitats.

Our project identifies and advances protection for future climate-resilient habitats for Pacific salmon and other at-risk species, including mountain

caribou and whitebark pine. Building on a pilot study in the Widzin Kwa (Morice River) sub-basin, we are collaborating with scientific partners and Indigenous knowledge holders to integrate glacial and hydrological modelling, salmon monitoring data, and traditional knowledge to pinpoint unprotected areas most likely to sustain biodiversity under future climate conditions.

DEFENDING THE NORTH COAST TANKER BAN

SkeenaWild worked hard for years alongside First Nations and northwest B.C. communities to defend our rivers and our coast from the risk of oil spills posed by the now dead Northern Gateway Pipeline. A key legacy of that work was the passage of the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act, a federal law that since 2019 has protected the North Coast from oil tanker traffic.

Shockingly, in November, 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced a memorandum of understanding with the Province of Alberta that weakens key environmental regulations and lays the groundwork for a new oil pipeline and oil tanker traffic to the North Coast. It includes the federal government agreeing to grant an exemption to the oil tanker moratorium for such a project.

Making matters worse, the agreement was negotiated without input from coastal First Nations, who have long defended the coast from oil tankers and whose communities would bear the worst impacts of an oil spill. In October, SkeenaWild joined Coastal First Nations at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs’ Annual General Meeting, where chiefs unanimously passed a renewed resolution in support of the tanker moratorium—a powerful reaffirmation of longstanding Indigenous leadership on this issue.

Ever since the first oil port proposal in the early 1970s, there has been a strong social consensus among northwest B.C. residents and First Nations that the potential economic benefits of bringing oil to our coast are not worth the risk to the region’s marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. Already, we are seeing people from all walks of life come together to push back on this threat to our region.

SkeenaWild, alongside community partners, will play a key role in defending our coast. We invite you to join us in standing up for our rivers, our coast, our communities, and our economies dependent on an oil-free future.



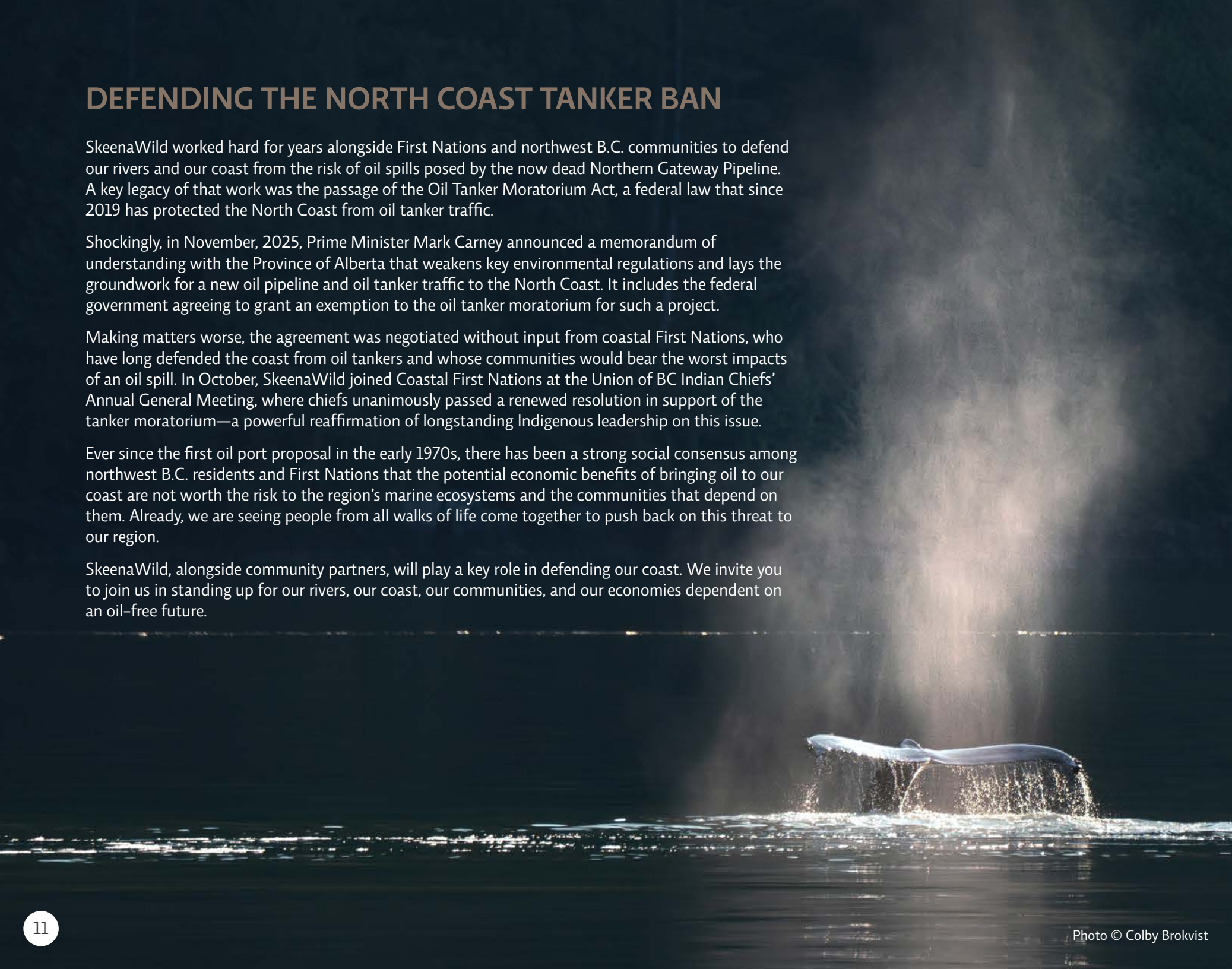
Planning the Salmon Nation Summit

May 7–8, 2026
Prince Rupert

Together with partners and Indigenous title holders, we are planning the next Salmon Nation Summit, scheduled for May 7–8, 2026, in Prince Rupert. The 2016 summit galvanized action to protect the Skeena estuary from industrial port expansion. The upcoming gathering will build on that legacy by:

- Affirming support for the oil tanker moratorium
- Showcasing new science
- Strengthening coastal partnerships
- Advancing the case for permanent Environmental Sensitivity Area designation

The Summit will play a key role in elevating public understanding, political momentum, and regional collaboration for estuary protection.



FORESTRY AND LAND USE PLANNING

Supporting Indigenous-led stewardship and shaping land-use decisions that protect salmon and their watersheds

Across the Skeena and Nass regions, some Gitxsan are leading transformative land-use planning processes. These plans strengthen stewardship, protect sensitive ecosystems, and help guide responsible development. In 2025, SkeenaWild continued to partner with the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office to support land-use planning initiatives that protect community values and provide clarity and certainty for forest licensees operating within their territory. Our team provides coordinating capacity, and scientific, mapping and technical expertise. Our on-the-ground, collaborative approach helps ensure salmon, wildlife, and communities remain at the centre of land-use decisions.

This year, we worked with the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office to implement the Upper Nass Land Use Plan and develop new plans for the Upper Skeena, and Babine Gitxsan administrative areas.

Highlights

- A major outcome of the Upper Nass Land Use Plan is the creation of the Wii Minosik Protected Area, which adds more than 5,000 hectares to the region’s protected lands and strengthens connectivity with the adjacent Damdochax Protected Area. Options for provincial recognition of the IPCA designation are now being explored.
- For both Babine and Upper Skeena, our focus has been on biodiversity chapters and climate change considerations.
- Updated maps showing current and proposed development for each Babine Wilp are supporting stewardship decision-making and will guide monitoring efforts by the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office and Land Guardians.
- Our team participates in the Wildlife Working Group and the Mining Working Group, providing technical support and science-based recommendations. These working groups inform wildlife management, habitat protection, and mineral development considerations across all three active Gitxsan-led land-use planning processes: Upper Nass, Upper Skeena, and Babine.





MINING

DRIVING REFORM AND DEFENDING NORTHERN WATERSHEDS

Both the Province of B.C. and the federal government are promoting rapid mining expansion as a key response to U.S. tariff pressures and as a pathway to strengthen Canada's economy. This shift has resulted in accelerated project timelines, weakened oversight, and significant risks for salmon-bearing watersheds across northwest B.C.

SkeenaWild is responding with the full depth of our team's expertise. In 2025, we provided scientific analysis, challenged harmful decisions, and advanced policies that protect salmon, water, and communities. At the same time, new commitments from the provincial government to co-develop land use plans with First Nations in high-interest mining regions present important opportunities to secure long-term protections and improve standards for those mines that do proceed.



Red Chris Mine: Research, Public Accountability and Growing Impact

SkeenaWild poured through ten years of monitoring data from the Red Chris Mine in northern B.C. What we found was deeply troubling. There are major gaps in data collection and transparency, and the mine's toxic tailings are leaking into the environment at rates much higher than predicted.

Now, despite major environmental concerns, the federal and provincial governments have announced they intend to fast-track the expansion of the Red Chris Mine. SkeenaWild's Director of Policy and Habitat Protection Adrienne Berchtold appeared on CBC's The National to explain the problems at Red Chris and discuss why fast tracking raises significant concerns.

In 2026, SkeenaWild will continue to push for rigorous standards, oversight and accountability to ensure future impacts from Red Chris and other mines are avoided.

Advancing Provincial Mining Policy Reform

Building on the findings of our Red Chris Mine Assessment and our leadership in the BC Mining Law Reform Network (BCMLR), SkeenaWild is actively engaging with provincial ministries to push for stronger mining laws and accountability.

Our goal is clear: modern mining policies must uphold environmental safety and protect salmon from the cumulative impacts of industrial activities.

Bill 15: Speaking Out Against Fast-Tracking

With the passage of Bill 15, the Province now has a legal pathway to fast-track environmental assessments for mines and other industrial projects. SkeenaWild has submitted multiple public comments during the bill's implementation phase, raising concerns about:

- Weakening environmental safeguards
- Overreliance on industry-hired technical professionals
- Increased risks to salmon and water quality

Research shows EAs are not the leading cause of mine operational delays. Economic factors, like commodity prices and investments, are the primary reasons mines do not reach operations on time. On average, mines in BC complete the EA process in under four years, which is already faster than many other provinces, territories, and federal assessments.

We will continue to challenge policies that undermine transparent, science-based decision-making.

KSM Judicial Review: Challenging Outdated Approvals

In the fall of 2025, SkeenaWild appeared before the BC Supreme Court to challenge the Province's decision to deem the massive KSM mine "substantially started." This designation locked in the mine's outdated Environmental Assessment Certificate for the life of the project, despite major concerns about the project's impact on the Unuk and Nass River watersheds.

A decision is expected in approximately six months. A successful ruling could:

- Change how future Substantial Start decisions are made
- Require more rigorous, up-to-date assessments
- Strengthen environmental oversight for major industrial projects

MINING

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS DECISION-MAKING ON MINING

Land Use Planning and Management

Expedited one-year land use planning processes are now underway across Tahltan, Taku River Tlingit, Kaska, and Gitanyow territories. New land use plans will be co-developed by First Nations and the Province of British Columbia. This initiative represents a rare and important opportunity to secure long-term protections for some of the most critical salmon-bearing transboundary watersheds in northwest B.C.

SkeenaWild is supporting these planning tables alongside academic partners and a coalition of environmental organizations. Together, we are developing science-based recommendations that prioritize the protection of existing salmon ecosystems, identify emerging and climate-resilient habitats, and strengthen mining standards in areas where industrial development may still occur.

Our recommendations include:

- Improved mining policy and practices in plan areas open to mining to minimize tailings impacts, habitat degradation, strengthen monitoring, improve cumulative effects assessment, and enhance assessments, permitting, and mitigations.
- Deferral zones where new development would be paused until reclamation of legacy mine sites is proven successful.
- Special management zones to provide enhanced management requirements in areas outside protected areas.
- Improved protections for emerging and future salmon habitats that are essential for the long-term persistence of wild salmon.
- Support for Indigenous-led land visions that uphold ecological integrity while enabling sustainable economic activity.

SkeenaWild will continue to contribute technical expertise, mapping analysis, and formal submissions throughout these processes. Our goal is to ensure the final co-developed land use plans reflect the best available science and create the watershed protections that wild salmon—and the communities that depend on them—need to thrive.



SKEENAWILD IN THE NEWS

VANCOUVER SUN

 **CBC LISTEN**

 **NORTHERN
THE VIEW**

VANCOUVER SUN

 **CBC**

**PeaceArch
news**
VOICE OF WHITE ROCK AND SOUTH SURREY

Opinion: Canadian negotiators must stand strong as salmon treaty talks begin in Vancouver

Vancouver Sun, January 14, 2025

Conservation group says report on Red Chris Mine offers cautionary tale

CBC, March 31, 2025

Community spirit shines as Prince Rupert marks Earth Day

Northern View, April 29, 2025

Can B.C. pull off twin goals of expanding northwest B.C. mining while preserving conservation area?

Vancouver Sun, Sept 21, 2025

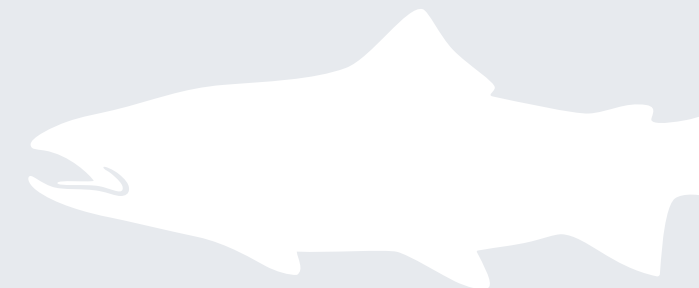
Why this BC mine is high on Canada's investment list

CBC The National, November 6, 2025

Carney's \$550M fisheries cut has 'devastating consequences for salmon': SkeenaWild

Peace Arch News, November 6, 2025

For more news coverage, visit our website: skeenawild.org



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our amazing SkeenaWild Education Program continued to grow this past year. We reached more people than ever through our diverse offerings. The result? More awareness and more impact. Our educators held classroom workshops, youth camps, and community events throughout the region. We forged exciting new partnerships. We shared watershed science, Indigenous knowledge, and salmon stewardship with thousands of people across the Skeena. Our goal is to nurture a generation of confident, informed stewards deeply connected to salmon, people, and the places we call home.

Expanding Educational Resources

We’re constantly growing our library of locally relevant, accessible learning tools tailored to the Skeena region. This year, we developed new lesson plans, presentations, posters, stories, and hands-on activities and delivered them far and wide.

We’re also proud of our incredible partnerships (old and new) that expand our reach and strengthen our impact. We partnered with artist, Monika Lovenmark to create new visuals that bring watershed science to life. Through collaboration with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, our environmental educators are weaving Indigenous languages and knowledge with contemporary science to ensure our educational materials reflect the true richness and diversity of the Skeena.

School-Based Learning

This year, SkeenaWild delivered:

- 38 K–12 classroom workshops across 15 schools
- 4 university-level workshops at Coast Mountain College

- 23 outdoor workshops, including the long-running and highly popular Howe Creek program
- A new partnership with the Howe Creek/Eby Street Hatchery allowed students to observe and feed salmon, deepening their understanding of the freshwater life cycle.

We also piloted three new field-based workshops that connected students directly to salmon, habitat, and hands-on restoration:

- Mid-Skully Creek Restoration – In partnership with Kitsumkalum First Nation, Lakelse Watershed Stewards Society, and DFO, students participated in fry counts, habitat surveys, water testing, and riparian planting.
- Exploring the Skeena Estuary – Students circumnavigated Lelu Island by kayak, learning about the estuary’s vital role as nursery habitat for all five Skeena salmon species.
- Salmon in Action: Life Cycle Unfolding – At Gruchy’s viewing platform, students observed active spawning and explored the salmon life cycle firsthand.

Youth Camps

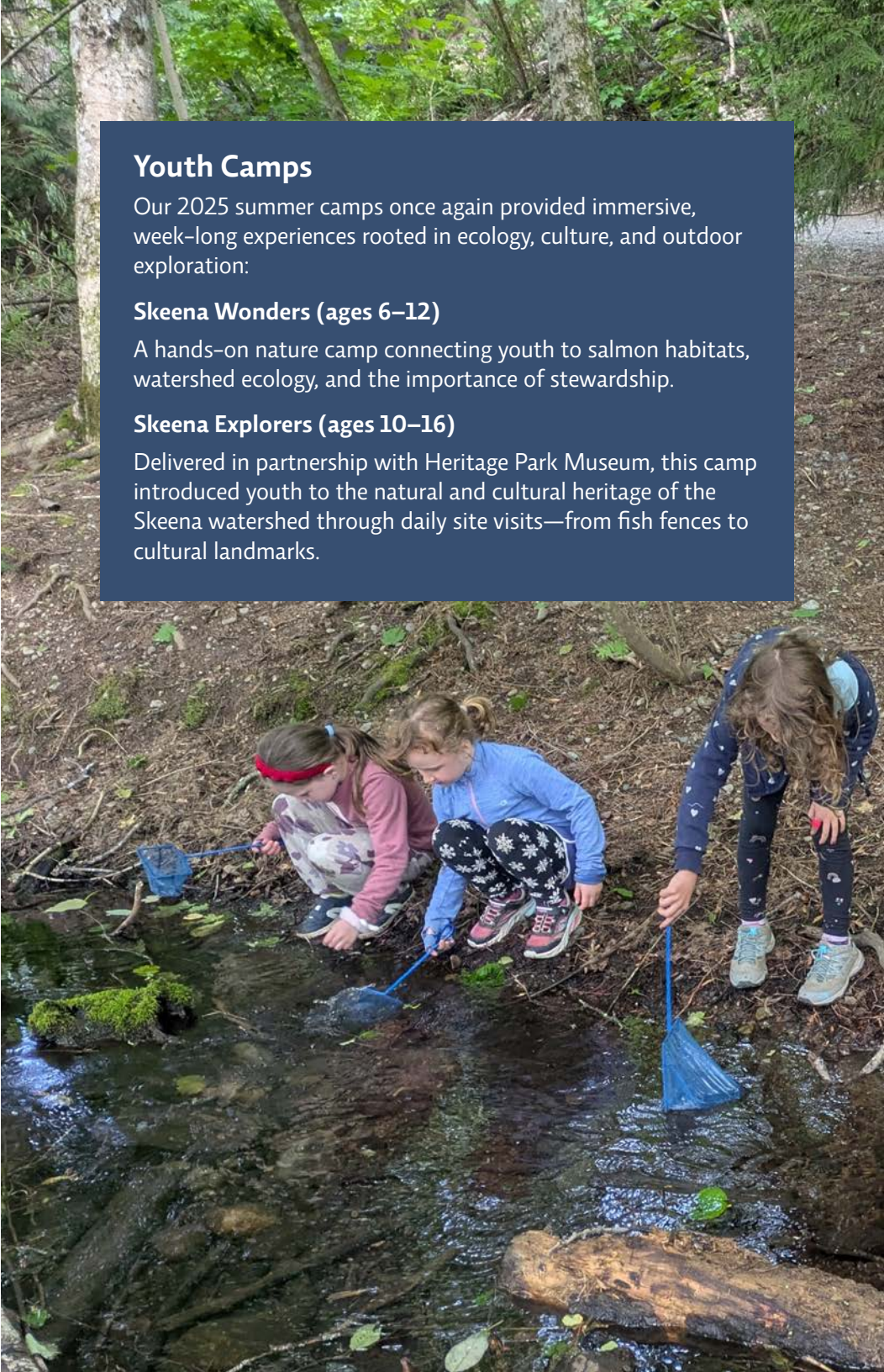
Our 2025 summer camps once again provided immersive, week-long experiences rooted in ecology, culture, and outdoor exploration:

Skeena Wonders (ages 6–12)

A hands-on nature camp connecting youth to salmon habitats, watershed ecology, and the importance of stewardship.

Skeena Explorers (ages 10–16)

Delivered in partnership with Heritage Park Museum, this camp introduced youth to the natural and cultural heritage of the Skeena watershed through daily site visits—from fish fences to cultural landmarks.





Salmon Futures Tour

Dr. Michael Price toured the northwest this fall sharing his knowledge accumulated throughout his doctoral and post-doctoral research exploring the future of Pacific salmon – how humans and climate change are reshaping their survival, and what conservation can do to sustain them.

Dr. Price is an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University and Director of Science for SkeenaWild Conservation Trust, where he works to advance evidence-based approaches to wild salmon conservation and recovery.



Garbathon

Our annual Earth Day Garb-a-thon, hosted in partnership with the Terrace Beautification Society, SkeenaWild, the City of Terrace, the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, and the Northern Branch of the Steelhead Society of B.C., saw an incredible community turnout.

Community members of all ages came together to clean up streets, parks, and riverbanks across Terrace. Throughout the day, we heard countless stories of people spontaneously joining in after seeing others picking up trash, and some participants even arrived with heavy machinery to tackle large-scale challenges such as abandoned vehicles.

At least 200 people participated on the day of the event, with many more contributing earlier in the week within their own neighbourhoods. A dedicated crew also worked throughout the day to clean up illegal dump sites, diverting waste away from nearby rivers and creeks. The collective effort was a powerful reminder of what's possible when a community comes together to care for the places we love and protect the environment for both people and wildlife.



Skeena Salmon Arts Fest

For the sixth consecutive year, SkeenaWild helped organize and sponsor the annual Skeena Salmon Arts Festival. This locally curated, place-based Indigenous art collective directs significant investment into community-driven public art projects across the region.

This year's festival featured new murals, banners, sculptures, and the much-loved travelling art collective exhibition, which toured communities throughout the Northwest during the summer and fall. Interactive QR codes were added to the Terrace murals, offering viewers deeper insight into the stories, artists, and cultural meaning behind each piece.

The festival continues to generate energy and excitement across the region, celebrating Skeena salmon and the cultures, histories, and communities that are intrinsically connected to them.



SWFF

The SkeenaWild Film & Photo Festival returned for its 14th year, continuing to grow in both reach and calibre of talent. The festival launched in Terrace with two sold-out screenings and toured to community-hosted events in Kitimat, Smithers, Prince Rupert, and Haida Gwaii.

Audience response was overwhelmingly positive, with a diverse range of photo and film submissions representing communities across the region and creators from all walks of life. Festival audiences and participants viewed the finalists and voted for their favourites, with category winners receiving cash prizes.

A condensed Best of the Fest program was also shared with local schools and screened at SIMA's Wintering Together festival during their Beyond the Slopes film night, extending the festival's impact through youth engagement and broader community outreach.

STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES

Our stewardship work continued to empower communities and protect sensitive habitats:

- Collaborated with Lakelse Watershed Stewards Society, BC Parks, DFO, and Transport Canada to strengthen boating regulations in critical sockeye and nesting bird habitats.
- Created plans for new educational signage around Lakelse Lake.
- Rescued 600 stranded salmon, steelhead and trout parr from dewatered areas
- Helped DFO's community engagement staff collect coho brood stock for the classroom lifecycle program

In 2025, SkeenaWild maintained a strong community presence, bringing salmon and watershed education directly into everyday public spaces. Regular engagement at the Skeena Valley Farmers Market, community celebrations, and hands-on events emphasized face-to-face connections, practical learning, and building lasting relationships. We engaged thousands of community members of all ages and helped deepen people's understanding of salmon ecology and the ecosystems that sustain us.

Outreach highlights:

- **Swim the Skeena** with the Terrace Aquatic Centre, transforming pool lanes into a learning journey along the Skeena River.
- Three **salmon trivia events** at the SIMA Festival and River Boat Days.
- **Youth engagement** at the Living Library in Smithers and Makers Day in Terrace, events focused on stewardship and conservation careers.
- **Family-focused engagement** during Easter, Earth Day, Canada Day, and BC Parks Day through public-facing booths and hands-on educational activities.
- **Salmon Pop-Ups** events in various locations throughout the summer, in collaboration with a Learn to Fish program, to connect salmon and people with practical skills.
- **The Ripple Effect** at Lakelse Lake, promoting boating safety in ecologically sensitive areas, specifically for juvenile sockeye.
- **Ocean Dialogues**, a public panel highlighting the Skeena estuary and science-based protection efforts.
- **Learn to be in Nature**, offering practical outdoor skills and place-based learning in partnership with many local organizations.
- **River Boat Days Escape Room**, engaging participants in problem-solving through salmon and river science.

World Rivers Day



In celebration of World Rivers Day, SkeenaWild, alongside What Matters in Our Valley and the Wet'suwet'en Fisheries Department, hosted a community river celebration in Telkwa. A large group of paddlers took to the Bulkley River, floating downstream to Telkwa in a shared show of appreciation for healthy watersheds.

The paddle was followed by a community barbecue featuring music, games, and prizes, drawing approximately 200 people. The event brought together families, river users, and partners to celebrate the importance of protecting rivers and watersheds for future generations.



SKEENAWILD TEAM 2025



Julia Hill Sorochan – Executive Director

Nathan Meakes – Assistant Director

Nita Back – Operations Director

Hup-Wil-Lax-A, Kirby Muldoe
Director of Community Relations and Partnerships

Dr. Michael Price – Director of Science

Kaitlin Yehle – Fisheries Director

Adrienne Berchtold
Director of Policy and Habitat Protection

Marie Blouin – Director of Community Education

Ella Almgren – Summer Education Program Assistant

Anika Urchuk – Summer Education Program Assistant

Oasis Cleveland – Summer Education Program Assistant

Dan Mesec – Director of Communications

Alice Arbuthnot – Communications Manager

Marlo Shaw – Content Creator

Sarah Railton – Forester / Lead Land Use Planner

Greg Taylor – Senior Fisheries Advisor

Natasha Nahirnick – Estuary Coordinator

Greg Knox – Trustee & Chair

Dr. Jim Pojar – Trustee

Dr. Jack Stanford – Trustee

Na'Moks, John Ridsdale – Trustee

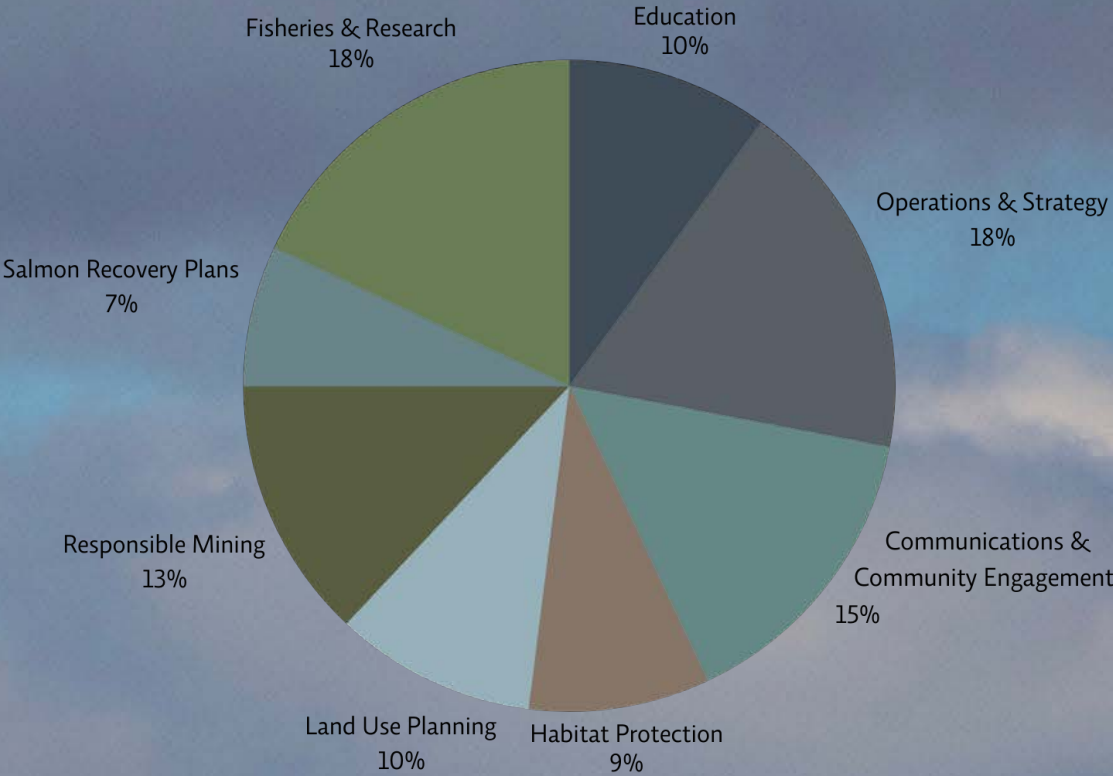
Carrie Collingwood – Trustee

Anne Hill – Trustee

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS

We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous philanthropic partners and donors, whose support comes from a wide range of communities, backgrounds, and interests. This diversity of giving reflects a shared commitment to defending the future of the Skeena Watershed and its resilient salmon populations. Your collective contributions fuel vital research, conservation of critical salmon habitats, and engagement in our communities. Thank you for standing together with us to defend the Skeena for generations to come.

IN 2025, SKEENAWILD INVESTED \$1,404,697 IN SALMON CONSERVATION IN NORTHWEST BC



YOU CAN HELP SKEENA SALMON

With your help, we can continue to help ensure the health and resiliency of wild salmon and steelhead populations in the Skeena Watershed.

DONATE

Your tax deductible donation will go directly towards defending wild salmon and steelhead populations in the Skeena Watershed.

[Donate now](#)

USE YOUR VOICE

Get in touch and learn more about how you can defend salmon.

[Take action](#)

JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

Join The Stream to stay informed of our programs and the latest news in the Skeena and how you can help.

[Sign up](#)

SHOP OUR MERCH

Support Skeena salmon and look good while doing it. We have SkeenaWild swag and merch for adults, youth and kids.

[Visit our online store](#)

CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM

Unit 103-4622 Greig Avenue,
Terrace, B.C., V8G 1M9
Phone: (250) 638-0998

Email: hello@skeenawild.org

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Youtube](#)

[X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#)

Learn more at skeenawild.org

