

Fish Farmers Support Local Salmon Enhancement Hatchery



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The Gillard Pass Fisheries Association recently received a much needed donation to assist in their Chinook salmon enhancement efforts. Marine Harvest Canada has donated 6 three metre circular rearing tubs and other equipment which is now installed and are rearing 200,000 Chinooks. These wild salmon will be returned to the Phillips River and will help in rebuilding sustainable local stocks.



Volunteers install 6 circular tubs donated by Marine Harvest Canada.

Rupert Gale, the Program Coordinator of the Gillard Pass Fisheries Association expressed his thanks to Marine Harvest Canada for the donation, "This represents a significant improvement to our facility and we look forward to improved performance and salmon returning to the Phillips River in the near future".

The Gillard Pass Fisheries Association (GPFA) has been operating for 25 years and has released over 2 million Chinook fry into the Phillips River. The mission of the GPFA is to recover salmon stocks in the Stuart Island area with an immediate goal to rebuild the Phillips River Chinook population to a healthy self sustaining level. The program operates with one paid staff and a host of dedicated volunteers.



New circular tubs ready to receive 200,000 Chinook fry.

Marine Harvest Canada (MHC) is a local salmon farming company which employs over 500 staff on the North Island. "Marine Harvest Canada is pleased to assist the GPFA achieving its goals", says Ian Roberts, Communications Manager for MHC. "Our company has always been active in local salmon enhancement projects as we all share a lot by way of knowledge, equipment and resources.

Many of our staff come from a fish enhancement background, so it makes sense for us to share and support each other".

"Due to rapid technological advancements in the fish farming business, outdated equipment that is still of great value to fish enhancement societies becomes available", Roberts adds. "If other associations are interested in seeing if we can assist them, I encourage them to contact us through our website at www.marineharvestcanada.com."