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# Stz'uminus Community Herring Event

## SUMMARY REPORT



28 February, 2024



## Summary Report for Pacific Salmon Foundation

This event was held on February 23, 2024 at the Stz'uminus First Nation community centre. The event celebrated traditional foods, provided education through Traditional Knowledge on the cultural importance of herring, and provided the first official screening of the video *Shewut: Hul'q'umi'num Knowledge of Herring*, featuring knowledge holders from Cowichan Tribes, Penelakut Tribe, and Stz'uminus First Nation. Approximately 90 people of all ages attended.

The video was created in 2022 in collaboration with Q'ul-Ihanumutsun Aquatic Resources Society (qars.ngo), Kingtide Films, and Trailmark Systems. It is about the cultural value of herring and its harvesting and preparation methods. Nearly all participants in the making of the video attended the event.

Ray Harris, a Stz'uminus knowledge holder and fisherman, introduced the video, and spoke about the importance of herring. He emphasized that participating in the sourcing, preparation, and sharing of traditional foods builds strong communities.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation was acknowledged and thanked for funding the event, as well as Q'ul-Ihanumutsun Aquatic Resources Society for organizing, and Trailmark Systems and Kingtide Films for producing the video. The knowledge holders, food harvesters, volunteers, and cooks were honoured and thanked for their contributions.

Event attendees gave positive feedback on the video and the event itself. Additionally, they shared a hope for more opportunities like this one and emphasized that herring is a vital resource that should be protected.

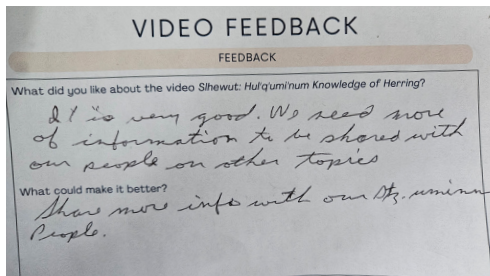




## Community Employment & Knowledge Transfer

Members of Stz'uminus First Nation were hired to harvest and prepare herring using traditional techniques for the event, as well as other traditional foods of salmon, clams, crab, prawns, and fry bread. They shared their techniques with youth volunteers, who proudly helped to prepare and serve the food to attendees.

Additional members of Stz'uminus First Nation were employed to organize and administer the event, and they shared instruction and knowledge to youth volunteers on how to host cultural events according to community protocols and customs. The youth assisted in these protocols and customs, including gift giving, honouring guests, and holding door prizes.



## Prep for Future Engagement Opportunities

Paper forms were circulated to attendees to gather feedback on the video and suggest ideas for future productions, and recruit participants.

Sign-up sheets for free workshops on the preparation of herring and building a herring rake were posted, and many people signed up to be contacted to attend these events.



## Cultural Celebration

The Young Wolves dancers performed songs and dances, inviting the audience members to participate in the final dance to close the night.

