

Salmon Carcass Toss Boosts Other Species

Posted: December 26, 2003
By Richard Walker

EATONVILLE, Wash. –

More than 1,800 salmon carcasses from the Nisqually Tribe's hatchery were returned to local streams to provide an important food source for juvenile salmon and other species throughout the watershed.

To educate the community about the importance of the salmon's life cycle, the Nisqually Stream Stewards recruited volunteers for what the group billed as its first salmon carcass toss.



Flinging Fish was the last task to get a Water Badge for these Girl Scouts! Photo by Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

In the fall, Chinook and Coho salmon returned to the hatchery where workers spawned the fish then froze some of the carcasses until they can be transported to local streams.

A report by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife found that more than 137 species of fish and wildlife depend on salmon for their survival. Studies have shown that decaying salmon carcasses are a critical part of the food web in Pacific Northwest ecosystems.