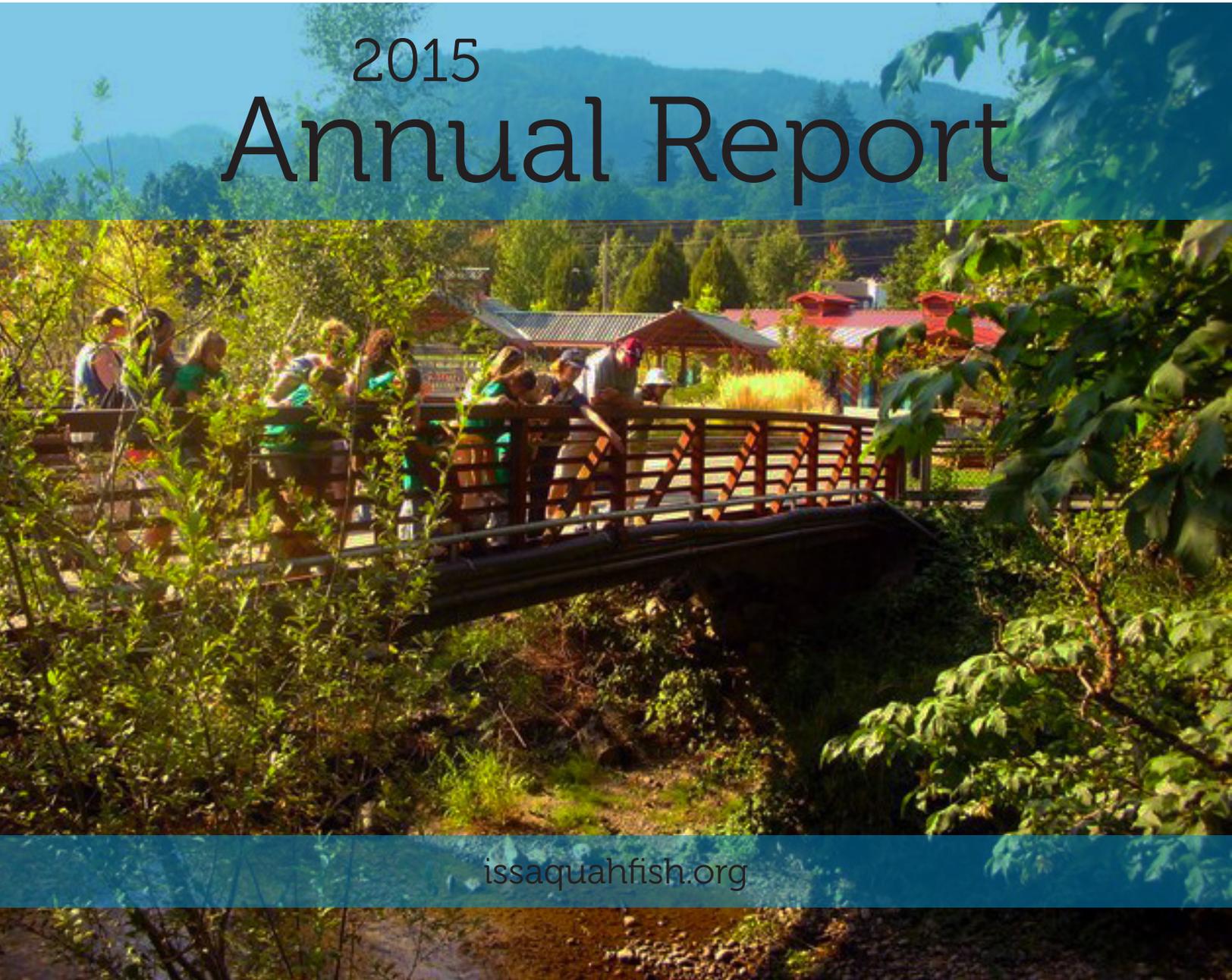




FRIENDS OF THE  
ISSAQUAH  
SALMON  
HATCHERY

2015  
Annual Report





### **Staff**

**Karen Kane**

Executive Director

**Rachel Martin**

Program Coordinator

**Greg Lynch**

Interim Volunteer Coordinator

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

**Eileen Barber**

Treasurer

**Tracy Meloy**

Secretary

#### **Members at Large**

**Larry Franks**

**Warren Kagarise**

**Stuart Linscott**

**Marcy Lynch**

**Mary Lou Pauly**

**David Phinney**

**Kelly Richardson**

**Richard Sowa**

**Suzanne Suther**

## Our Mission

FISH's mission is to advocate retaining and improving the historic Issaquah Salmon Hatchery and to promote watershed stewardship through education.

## Our Vision

FISH strives to be an organization that partners with local schools and systems to support science curriculum development; develops and nurtures strong community partnerships; builds an active and thriving membership; represents itself in the educational and political arenas with partners in common areas of interest; and achieves its mission in a fiscally responsible manner.

## About Us

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) is a tax-exempt, charitable organization incorporated in 1994 under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions, grants and bequests are tax deductible. Our tax identification number is 91-1640245.



# Executive Director's Message

When visitors come to the hatchery, they experience a sense of wonder about the miracle that takes place here each fall.

They leave this place more eager to take care of our environment. They change their habits in ways big and small. And they bring friends and loved ones back here to share with them what they have learned.

Every day, FISH educates our community about the miraculous journey of salmon, serves as stewards of our watershed and advocates for the historic heart of our community — the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery.

We cannot do it alone.

We rely on a dedicated network of volunteers, members, donors and partners to achieve our mission.

We truly appreciate our partners in the Issaquah community and throughout the Puget Sound region. It is a privilege to provide this life-changing experience to all of you.

As we end another year and spawning season, I want to thank all of you for your continued support.

Keep the salmon coming home.

Karen Kane



# Our History

In 1992, state budget cuts threatened the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery with closure.

In response, the citizens of Issaquah organized an effort to restore funding and maintain the hatchery.

The grassroots effort convinced the state Legislature to keep the hatchery open and to rebuild it as an education facility.

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) was formed as a not-for-profit organization in December 1993 to support the hatchery.

FISH enjoys a unique public-private partnership with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), which operates the salmon production process at the hatchery.

WDFW provides space for FISH to operate salmon education and outreach programs. FISH staff and docents act as interpreters and ambassadors for the hatchery, WDFW and salmon in the Lake Washington Watershed.

In fact, current hatchery operations would be nearly impossible without the volunteer workforce.

Our recent history offers a preview of the bright future ahead.

In 2010, FISH took over Salmon in the Schools when WDFW could no longer fund the program. The regional program encompasses 155 schools where students raise and release salmon fry.

In 2013, FISH partnered with local businesses, the City of Issaquah, King County and the State of Washington to replace a Great Depression-era dam and upper intake. The outdated structure limited access to more than 10 miles of upstream spawning habitat.

Another success is FISH's participation in a regional effort to restore the native Lake Sammamish kokanee salmon.

FISH provided educational talks on kokanee, as well as the ongoing work in Lake Sammamish and its tributaries. The effort successfully showed residents what they can do to help maintain and improve kokanee habitat.

In 2014, FISH was awarded a rare Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership Interpretive Plan implementation.

FISH received the honor due to the unique circumstance of having a hatchery in a major metropolitan area and a robust environmental education stewardship opportunity in an urban environment. Nationwide, fewer than 10 sites received the award.



# Board's Message

Our community is known for its natural beauty, a deep dedication to preserving our environment and its iconic salmon.

That's why a group of citizens came together more than two decades ago to form Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery. Through our successful effort, we simultaneously preserved a piece of our community's history and established a legacy for future generations.

Preserving that legacy requires the tireless efforts of our FISH volunteers and staff, our Department of Fish and Wildlife partners, our members, government agencies and donors.

As you can see, we work hard every day to engage community members of all ages and backgrounds

to share the annual miracle of salmon. Our efforts at the hatchery, in local classrooms and in cooperation with other organizations enable us to touch thousands of lives.

In the year ahead, we will enhance our efforts to educate people about our watershed, and continue our work to preserve and protect Issaquah's iconic salmon.

Throughout this process, we will seek new opportunities, partners and volunteers.

We invite you to join us on our journey. With your help, we know the future for FISH will be a bright one.

FISH Board of Directors



# By the Numbers

In Issaquah, the salmon hatchery is the heart of our community.

The hatchery is not only a community gathering place, it is also a living, breathing link to Issaquah's past and a place where we come to experience the wonder of our environment.

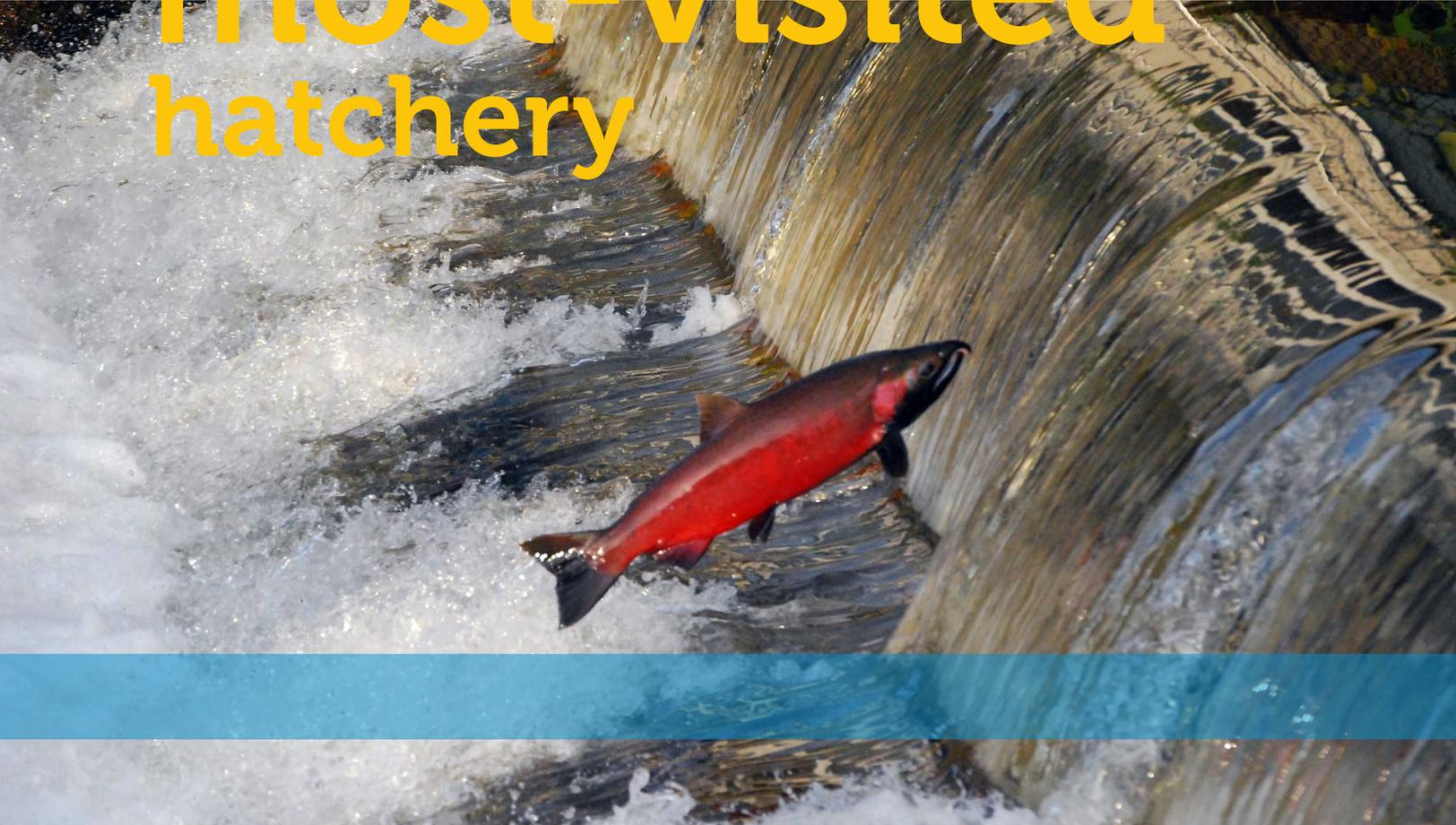
Culturally, it is the center of our community. Every October, the hatchery grounds serve as the nexus for Salmon Days, when Issaquah hosts more than 100,000 festivalgoers.

The hatchery is not only important during Salmon Days. With a steady stream of visitors year-round, it is the most-visited hatchery in Washington state.

Importantly, it is the only urban location in Washington where visitors can get nose-to-nose with a spawning salmon.

The hatchery provides a unique, hands-on outdoor laboratory for visitors to learn about watershed stewardship and cultivate a sense of wonder about salmon.

# Washington's most-visited hatchery



FISH uses the remarkable story of the salmon to teach students and hatchery visitors a broader environmental lesson.

Through in-class presentations, hatchery tours, summer science camp and outreach activities, FISH teaches students and the public about hatchery operations, salmon life cycle and habitat needs, and how to protect and restore our Pacific Northwest icon and enhance our watershed.



**9,310**  
guided tours for  
students and adults

**3,519**  
students educated  
in classroom  
presentations

**5,000**  
volunteer hours  
for education,  
tourism and  
spawning activities

FISH will continue to provide outstanding programs to the youth of our community and to the visitors who come to our hatchery from around the world.

FISH is pleased to respond to requests for presentations to communities, civic groups and college classes. We use these opportunities to provide history of the hatchery and create a sense of the value of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery to our region.

# 44,705

contacts logged by  
FISH volunteers

# \$112,750

estimated value  
of volunteers



# Financial Snapshot

FISH is fortunate to have broad support from a variety of funding sources, including government agencies, corporations, foundations and individual donors.

Our supporters enable us to sustain and enhance valuable educational programming for our community and our region.

**\$133,011**  
contributions and grants

**\$161,219**  
total revenue

**\$156,542**  
total expenses

