

Glenwood Springs Hatchery

Raising Salmon to Support Fisheries, Orcas, and Conservation

A Salmon Run for Orcas Island

On a former fruit orchard overlooking Orcas Island’s East Sound, Long Live the Kings’ Glenwood Springs Hatchery is the site of something remarkable: **the creation of a Chinook salmon run where none existed before.** Beginning in a stream in 1978 with eggs from a state hatchery, the run has been propagated from returning adult fish since 1982—and because no wild Chinook originate in the San Juan Islands, this new salmon run serves commercial and sports fishers, along with Orcas, while posing no significant threat to endangered fish.



Just as importantly, the salmon at Glenwood Springs are **reared in natural, earthen ponds-unlike traditional hatcheries** that have concrete raceways. This results in **fish that are raised more like their wild cousins**, exposed to the same predators and natural elements.

Programs at Long Live the King’s Glenwood Springs **create opportunities for the public to interact with salmon in diverse ways.** Whether you’re a visiting student, a curious member of the community, or a fisher lucky enough to have a Glenwood Chinook on your line, peoples’ experiences with this long-term project create deep, **lasting connections with these beautiful fish.**

History of Glenwood Springs

<p>Jim Youngren begins raising salmon at Glenwood Springs.</p> <p>1978</p>	<p>Long Live the Kings (LLTK) is established as a non-profit organization and Jim Youngren becomes Chairman of the Board of Directors.</p> <p>1986</p>	<p>In partnership with WDFW and Orcas Island schools, LLTK begins supporting the Salmon in the Classroom program.</p> <p>2000</p>	<p>To support endangered resident Orcas, LLTK increases Chinook production and alters rearing strategies.</p> <p>2019</p>	<p>The Youngren family ensures the continued operation of the facility by selling Glenwood to the Holdings, who will steward the land into the future.</p> <p>2023</p>	<p>The Holding family completed the Willow Hall event space to hold business meetings, classroom activity, and events on the property.</p> <p>2025</p>
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<p>1983</p> <p>The first Glenwood Springs Chinook adults find their way back to Orcas Island and return to the hatchery.</p>	<p>1995</p> <p>LLTK starts a fall coho rearing program to boost recreational fishing opportunities.</p>	<p>2008</p> <p>In partnership with Friends of Moran State Park, LLTK starts rearing Kokanee to support Cascade Lake Kokanee fishing opportunities.</p>	<p>2019</p> <p>In partnership with King County, LLTK supports a captive rearing program to protect Lake Sammamish Kokanee.</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>801 adult Chinook returned to Glenwood Springs – the largest number in nine years, producing enough eggs to support the release of 800,000 juvenile salmon in spring 2025.</p>
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Context

Puget Sound Chinook salmon have declined to a fraction of their historic numbers. **Hatcheries produce around 80% of the adult Chinook that return to inland Washington waters.** These fish support treaty rights, fishing, cultural practices, and provide food for endangered Southern Resident Orcas. Hatcheries like Glenwood Springs are designed to minimize interactions with wild Chinook populations in freshwater habitats. At Long Live the Kings, we aim to both recover healthy wild salmon populations while supporting well managed hatchery production.

Projects

Sustainable Fisheries – Supporting marine and freshwater recreational fisheries through annual production of Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Cascade Lake Kokanee.

Bring Back the Big Ones – Experimenting with rearing and release strategies in an effort to return larger and more abundant Chinook to feed endangered Orcas and support fisheries.

Saving Kokanee – Rearing fish to help rebuild Lake Sammamish Kokanee from the brink of extinction.

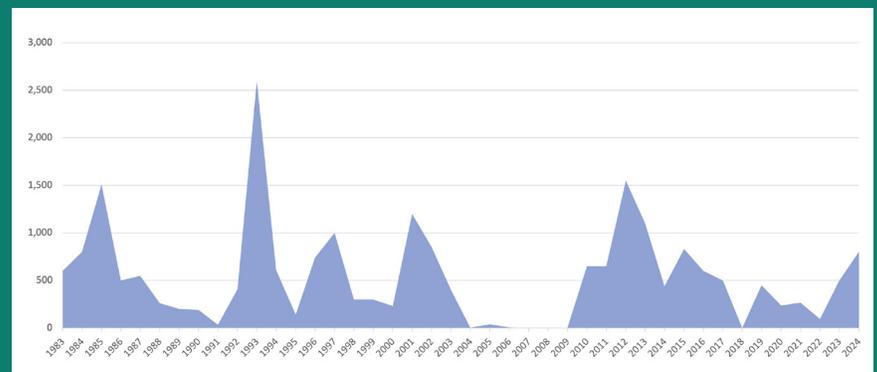
Salmon in the Classroom and Summer Camp Education – Supporting salmon education in local schools by providing salmon education by donating salmon eggs to local schools and providing hands-on learning opportunities.

Chinook Returns to Glenwood Springs

Variable strategies, ocean conditions, and other factors have caused Chinook returns to vary since the beginning of the program in 1983. Long Live the Kings is dedicated to improving our Chinook rearing program and took steps in 2007 to create more sustained adult returns.

Approximately ten percent of Glenwood Springs Chinook return to Glenwood Springs Field Station, and approximately four times that many fish are harvested in Washington State fisheries. Additionally, an unknown number of Glenwood Chinook provide food for Southern Resident Orcas and other natural predators.

Glenwood Springs Chinook: Adult Returns



Thank you to the Holding family, Orcas Island, and the broader San Juan Islands community for providing Glenwood Springs with your support and enthusiasm.