

Rescuers help airlift thousands of salmon to safety

24th July, 2019



A team of rescuers is working hard to help airlift thousands of salmon in Canada to safety. The salmon are trapped in a section of the Fraser River in British Columbia, Canada. They have

been trapped in that part of the river since a landslide in June. The landslide blocked off the section of the river, which meant the salmon could not swim upstream to spawn (lay their eggs). Rescuers and conservationists have spent several weeks looking at ways to help the fish. They decided the best way was to fly the fish to the other side of the fallen rocks by helicopter. The fish will then be free to swim up to their breeding ground. Rescuers have been "working around the clock" to help the salmon.

Conservationists warn that if the fish cannot lay their eggs, the entire local salmon population will be at risk. Future numbers of the fish will drop to dangerously low levels. This would have an impact on many of Canada's First Nations indigenous people. They need the salmon for food and for cultural reasons. Salmon play an important role in many traditional ceremonies of people who have lived along the Fraser River for hundreds of years. Their way of life will continue thanks to the rescuers' help. The rescuers are also looking at other ways to help the fish. One said: "We expect over three million [salmon] to migrate north of that rockslide. With that number of fish, you have to find alternate methods."

Sources: bbc.com / cbc.ca / ctvnews.ca

Writing

We should do all we can to help animals in danger. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

team / rescuers / airlift / salmon / river / landslide / lay eggs / conservationists / clock / population / low levels / impact / indigenous people / cultural / ceremonies / methods

True / False

- a) Thousands of salmon are trapped in Canada's Columbia River. T / F
- b) The salmon need to swim downstream to lay their eggs. T / F
- c) Conservationists said helicopter was the best way to rescue the salmon. T / F
- d) Rescuers are using round clocks to help rescue the salmon. T / F
- e) The local salmon population could be in serious danger. T / F
- f) Salmon are important for Canada's First Nations indigenous people. T / F
- g) Three million salmon want to swim north up the river. T / F
- h) Rescuers are not looking at other ways to rescue the fish. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. team | a. caution |
| 2. trapped | b. a number of |
| 3. blocked | c. relocate |
| 4. several | d. whole |
| 5. best | e. caught |
| 6. warn | f. customary |
| 7. entire | g. most suitable |
| 8. indigenous | h. group |
| 9. traditional | i. native |
| 10. migrate | j. obstructed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of salmon?
- b) What should people do to help the salmon?
- c) How important are salmon?
- d) What do you think of the work conservationists do?
- e) Would you like to be part of the rescue team?
- f) What do salmon symbolize?
- g) Have you ever worked around the clock?
- h) What advice do you have for the rescuers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. A team of rescuers | a. be at risk |
| 2. The landslide blocked off the | b. their eggs |
| 3. lay | c. the clock |
| 4. The fish will then be free to swim up | d. north |
| 5. working around | e. section of the river |
| 6. the entire local salmon population will | f. traditional ceremonies |
| 7. Future numbers of the fish will drop to | g. is working hard |
| 8. play an important role in many | h. life will continue |
| 9. Their way of | i. to their breeding ground |
| 10. three million salmon to migrate | j. dangerously low levels |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is it to rescue the salmon?
- Should the money be spent on rescuing people instead?
- What do you know about Canada's First Nations indigenous people?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- How successful do you think the airlift will be?
- How else could the rescuers help the salmon?
- What questions would you like to ask the rescuers?

Spelling

- a tioesnc of the Fraser River
- since a dsnellidia in June
- the salmon could not swim pamsteur
- spent arlseve weeks looking
- the other side of the ellanf rocks
- swim up to their eibegrnd ground
- This would have an apmcti
- First Nations sgdionuine people
- many dalintiarot ceremonies
- We epcext over three million
- miagret north of that rockslide
- you have to find aalrenett methods

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. d	8. i	9. f	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Salmon

You think salmon is the best fish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fish. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goldfish, shark or tuna.

Role B – Goldfish

You think goldfish is the best fish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fish. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): salmon, shark or tuna.

Role C – Shark

You think shark is the best fish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fish. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goldfish, salmon or tuna.

Role D – Tuna

You think tuna is the best fish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fish. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goldfish, shark or salmon.

Speaking – Fish

Rank these with your partner. Put the best fish at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| • tuna | • salmon |
| • eel | • shark |
| • piranha | • swordfish |
| • stingray | • goldfish |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.