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# June 2023 Newsletter

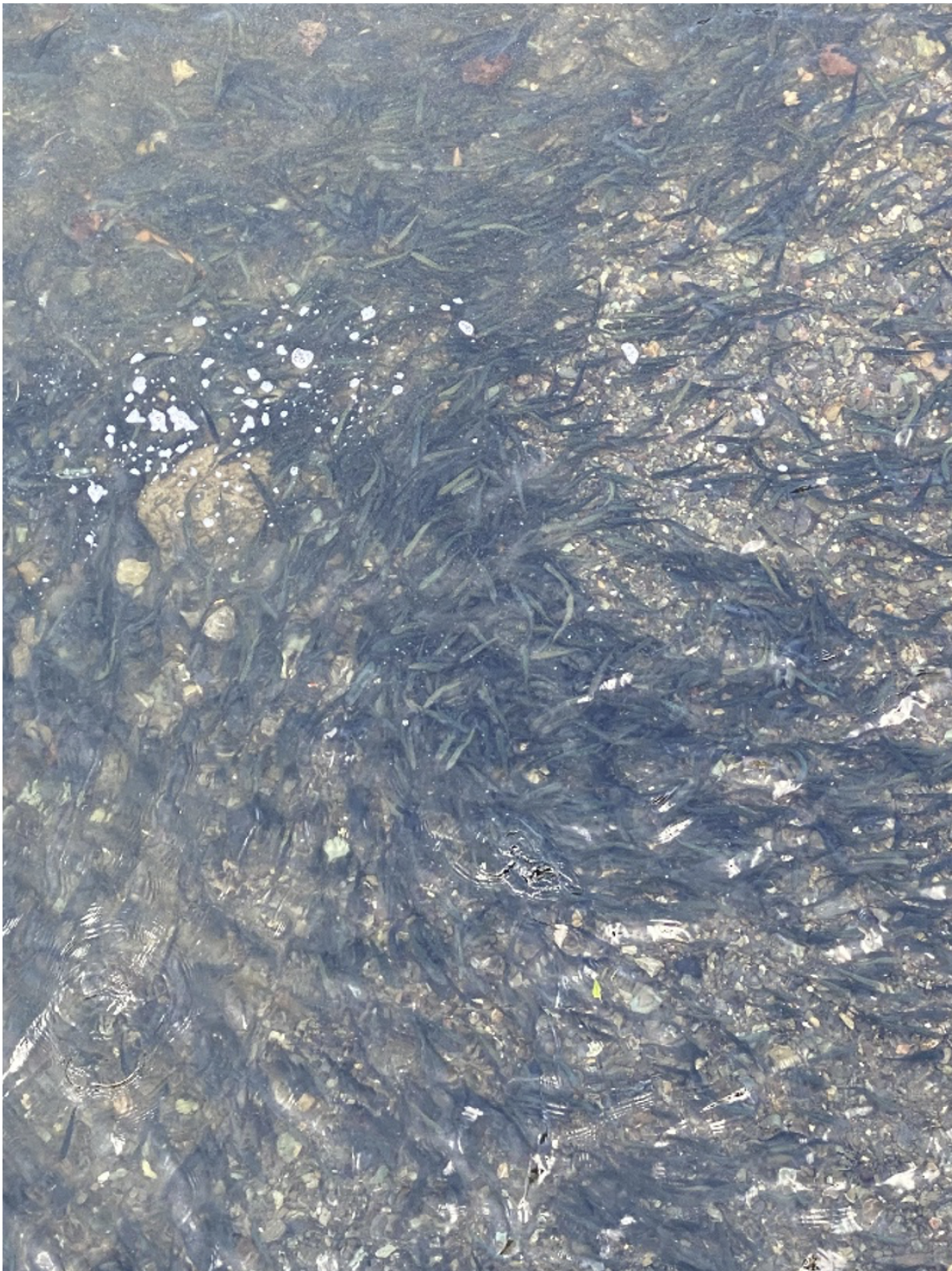


## Environment



### Tsáqwmaż - Saskatoon berry - (Amelanchieralnifolia)

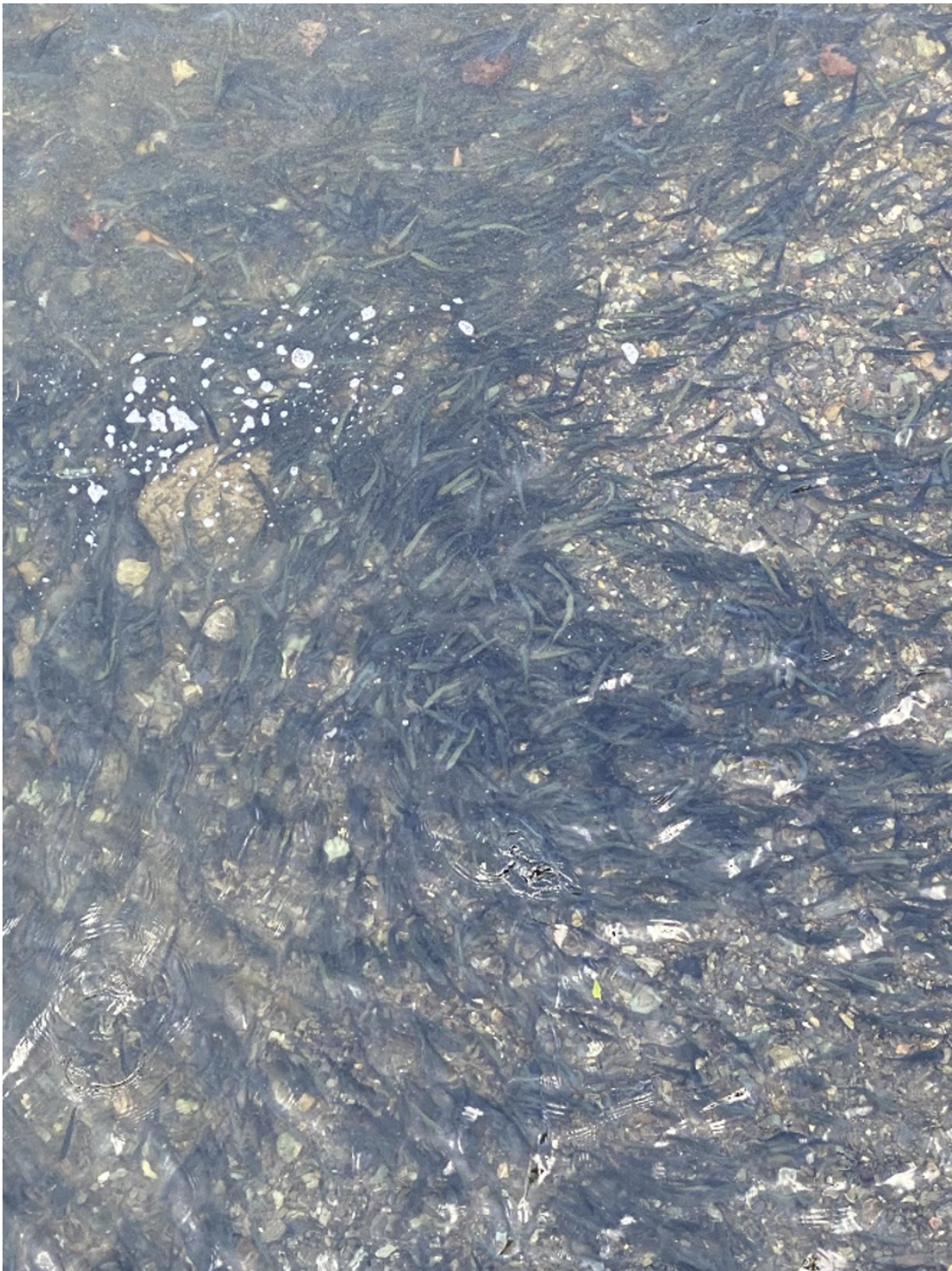
This month’s berry spotlight is out and blooming around the town of Lillooet. Tsáqwmaż, commonly known as Saskatoon berry or service berry, grows in sunny dry climates across British Columbia. The deciduous shrub grows to approximately 1–8 meters tall with green oval shaped leaves. The flowers are white with 5 petals and give way to a sweet, purple-hued berry within a few weeks of flowering. The berries are commonly consumed fresh or dried, and can be used to make juice, jams, or baked goods. In addition, the berry can be dried and added with meat to make pemmican, most common in the prairie provinces across Canada. If you (or anyone you know) has a suggestion for future segments of “Berry of the Month” please drop an email to either one of SGS Environment technicians at [nmorgenstern@statimcgs.org](mailto:nmorgenstern@statimcgs.org) or [nandrascik@statimcgs.org](mailto:nandrascik@statimcgs.org)



## April 2023 Chinook Fry Release

On April 26, SGS Environment participated in the chinook fry release at Seton Portage. These same chinook fry received PIT tags back in March 2023 at Tenderfoot Hatchery which the Environment team assisted with. Joined by the crew from Tenderfoot Hatchery, as well as students from Tsal’alh Primary school and community members, nearly 14,000 chinook fry were released into the waters of Seton Portage. The fry arrived from the facility at Tenderfoot, located in Squamish. The fry were contained in a tanker truck, carefully transported under professional supervision with staff from DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans). Upon arrival, the crew set up a tube that connected the tank to the fresh waters of Seton Portage. SGS Environment, alongside excited students and community members watched as the fry completed another step of their lifecycle upon entering the water system. The chinook fry will spend up to two years in freshwater, before migrating down to the ocean waters off the coast of BC. There, they will spend up to 4 years in saltwater, before making their grand journey back to their spawning grounds in the upper portions of the Fraser River. Using their PIT tags, Tenderfoot Hatchery and their DFO partners will be able to track how many chinook fry return to the waters around Lillooet. SGS Environment would like to thank everyone who came out and participated on release day and wish the safest and healthiest of journeys to our Chinook friends.









## May 2023 Drone Training

This May, members of SGS Environment and Heritage department completed their advanced drone training certification. Justin James from 11 Alpha Drone Ground School came up for the day to instruct on the basics of advanced drone flying. The training included the overview of flight manuals and Transport Canada flight regulations, followed by a brief introductory to hands-on drone flying where members passed their flight review testing. Equipped with Justin’s knowledge and guidance, SGS Environment and Heritage completed Transport Canada’s Advanced online exam to obtain their pilot certification for Small Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) within Visual line-of-sight (VLOS). With this certification, SGS plans to utilize drones in their upcoming projects. Implementation of drones can be useful for non-invasive observations of wildlife (bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer), aerial flyovers of roads, and surveys of water systems. SGS would like to thank Justin James for his time and expertise, and we hope to get out utilizing this new skillset for the 2023 field season.

As mentioned above, the drone licences are planned to help with our bighorn sheep surveys to detect for Movi within local herds in St’át’imc territory. The 2022 original documentary called Transmission can now be viewed for free at the following website: <https://movifree.org/film>. Have a look and maybe you’ll recognize a face or two in the film!





# GIS

Talicia has been working closely with the Heritage and Environment departments on several projects this Spring. GIS support for the Heritage team has been focused on producing maps for BC Hydro projects, these maps have been used for notice of intents (NOIs) and reports. Talicia has also been updating data and preparing tablets for fieldwork for the crew. GIS support for the Environment team includes administering the Lightship program, producing maps, data management, field trips, tablet preparation for fieldwork, and attending meetings. Talicia attends meetings for a few working groups: Lajoie Technical Working Group, McKay Fire Rehab Planning, and the Fraser RiverBighorn Sheep Working Group. She also frequently attends Esri webinars and has completed drone pilot training for advanced operations in May.



## Current Job Opportunities

Job postings



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