

We Found Salmon

Did you know that the 7th grade class with the help of the Copper River Watershed Project has been monitoring Odiak Pond? The 7th grade class would like you to know that what we found in Odiak Pond can affect our community and other things around the Pond. We did this monitoring project for the year because we wanted to see if it was a good place for salmon to live. During monitoring project we tested the temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and phosphates in the pond water from November to April. Also we collected trash every month and tallied it. We found more than 89 plastic wrappers at the pond. At the end of April, we also set fish traps to see which types of fish live in the pond. We also sampled macroinvertebrates, which are the bugs the fish eat.

When we measured the temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH, we found that they were at healthy levels and similar to the data collected by last year's 7th grade class. In April we tested an area of water that was rust colored to see if it was healthy or not. We found a lot of iron in the water, which at high levels can hurt things living in the pond. We did find very high levels of copper in this area of the pond. Also in April, with scientist helping us we set out fish traps so see what fish were living in the pond. We found hundreds of stickleback. What was most exciting was that we found Coho (silver salmon) in the traps. Finding the salmon was very exciting because salmon are so important to Cordova. It was too bad that we were only there for one period. We also measured the macroinvertebrates. We found caddis flies, dragonfly larva, and worms, all of which are good for the fish. There was also good water quality in parts of the pond.

We need to keep monitoring Odiak Pond in the future because the habitat will continue to change over time due to natural and human influences. I enjoyed monitoring because it was so much fun to see what is living in the pond and how we can help the salmon.



