



THE PETER GRAY



PARR PROJECT

STAY CONNECTED



Peter Gray Hatchery Update



Jonesport Elementary teacher Jeanna Carver and her two daughters, stocking the fry raised in their classroom during the Fish Friends program that allows schools throughout Maine to raise and learn about Atlantic salmon.

****Please follow the hyperlinks throughout this update for more information****

Good morning all. I hope you and yours are well and thank you for reading this update about the [Downeast Salmon Federation's Peter Gray Hatchery](#) and the [Peter Gray Parr Project](#).

May is a busy time of year in the world of an [Atlantic salmon](#). In the river, and also in our naturalized conservation hatcheries, the [alevin](#) (or sac fry) have finished absorbing their yolk sac full of nutrients. At this time they swim up and out of the gravel of the [salmon redd](#) (nest) and start feeding on macro-invertebrates (bugs). In the [Peter Gray Hatchery](#), they will swim up and out of their specially designed [incubation boxes](#) that mimic salmon redds (see descriptions of the incubation boxes in the previous two month's [Peter Gray Hatchery updates](#)). Once they swim into the [dark-colored rearing tanks](#) they will start feeding on the macro-invertebrates that come through the hatchery as well as fish feed. From this point on they are free-swimming and will continue to grow and develop into "[little athletes](#)" through the summer.

At our stream-side conservation hatchery on the Pleasant River in Columbia Falls, we stock all the salmon out as unfed [fry](#) - salmon that have just absorbed their yolk sac. Until we achieve our plans of making that hatchery capable of raising Peter Gray fall parr, we employ as many Peter Gray tenants as possible for raising fry. This includes using unfiltered river water and the same style [Substrate Incubation Boxes](#) utilized at the [Peter Gray Hatchery](#). This year, 89,414 Peter Gray style unfed fry were stocked into the Pleasant River by DSF. These salmon were stocked when they were developmentally ready, the river was ready (bugs to eat available), and were stocked at multiple sites throughout salmon habitat.

If you are new to receiving these updates and would like to catch up on some you have missed, please visit our website [here](#). If there are any of your friends you think would enjoy this content please share with them or let us know their email address to add to the list! Be sure to visit and subscribe to DSF's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5ufWzE9qT6C5W3DZvclvjA>) for more videos about the Downeast Salmon Federation and all the work we are involved in.

If you like the work we are doing, please considering donating towards the continuation of the Peter Gray Parr Project. We hope this update finds you well and you enjoyed reading about the Peter Gray Parr Project. Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, in the pursuit of Atlantic salmon restoration!

Thank you for your time,

Zach

Fish Friends Program



Thank you to all the participants of this year's Fish Friends program. Peter Gray Parr Project staff mentored 10 local schools in 2020. I'd like to acknowledge the dedication of those participants. They included the Peninsula School, Jonesport Elementary, Rose Gaffney Elementary, Alexander Elementary, Shead High School, Washington County Community College, Cobscook Institute, Elm Street School, Scout Troop - Whitneyville, and Wesley Elementary.



During an unprecedented time of remote learning, some teachers took tanks home and teachers that checked on their tanks at their school all while developing remote learning opportunities for their students. We and the salmon you raised appreciate your efforts!







DSF's [Peter Gray Parr Project](#) Technician, Alex, stocking fry from our [Pleasant River Hatchery](#) into Eastern Little River.



DSF's [Peter Gray Parr Project](#) Technician, Mitch, stocking fry from our [Pleasant River Hatchery](#) into Eastern Little River.



Are you interested in making a Contribution Pledge Commitment to DSF? Click [here](#) for the Downeast Salmon Federation Contribution Pledge Form. Thank you!

You can also support the [Downeast Salmon Federation](#) by purchasing some swag! Hats, sweatshirts, and t-shirts can be found [HERE](#). Other ways to help are to become a [member](#)!



If you'd like to read more on the [Peter Gray Parr Project's](#) beginnings and future please read our [Parr Project Booklet](#).

There is a short Parr Project video on our website [HERE](#).



DSF is an accredited member of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization!



Thank you to the **Trout and Salmon Foundation** for your continued support of the **Peter Gray Parr Project!**

Thank you to the **Sarah K. de Coizart Article TENTH Perpetual Charitable Trust** for your support of the **Peter Gray Parr Project!**

**DSF's East Machias Facility
Home of the Peter Gray Hatchery**



Please support our work by **becoming a member** of the Downeast Salmon Federation. Together, we can restore sea-run fisheries in Maine.

www.mainesalmonrivers.org