

The 13<sup>th</sup> Tofino Saltwater Classic fishing derby will be held this July 7-9, 2023 in Tofino, British Columbia.

On behalf of the Tofino Saltwater Classic fundraising derby, I would like to say 'thank you' for your past support of our event. An important part of our fundraising event is our silent/live auction. Last year we raised a total of \$75k and since the inception of the TSC derby in 2010, we have raised just over \$725K in 12 years. We had to put the derby on hold in 2020 due to the pandemic.

All funds raised go directly back into local Tofino community initiatives and it is tough to put into words the impact these funds have had. We have contributed to 18 different programs since inception with the majority of the initiatives being grass roots programs that impact the youth of Tofino.

Two of our largest beneficiaries are the Wickinannish community school and the Tofino Salmon Enhancement Society. At the school, the funds have had a profound impact on the healthy lunch program that was launched in conjunction with the start of the derby. Every student at the school has access to a healthy nutritional lunch. There has been a direct correlation between eating healthy and increasing grade point average because the students are more attentive and energetic. This program has been an overwhelming success. Additionally, we also support the literacy program by buying books for students each year.

The TSES is instrumental in helping raise Chinook, Chum and Coho salmon for release into local Clayoquot Sound rivers. They catch the brood stock in the Fall and rear the eggs to salmon fry until they grow large enough to be released in the Spring.

The Tofino Saltwater Classic has been called Tofino's largest fundraiser and has been embraced by the entire community. The support from volunteers, businesses and participants is the main reason the event continues to have a positive impact. I am extremely proud of what the TSC derby has accomplished to date and look forward to many more years of making a difference.

Thank you,

**Brendan Morrison**