

MULTI-MILLION UPGRADE FOR QUINSAM HATCHERY



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Savard said detailed assessment and design work is taking place this fiscal year, leading to a cost estimate by the end of March.

"Then from there, in successive years, we would allocate funding to do that capital upgrade work," he said. "It's time to upgrade both the buildings and the fence on the river and have a look at the rearing ponds and also, in doing that, incorporate new technology wherever we can into the facility as well."

Savard said it's too soon to say how much the upgrade will cost.

"We won't know until after we've done the detailed design work but we're estimating several million dollars," he said.

With the Quinsam Hatchery slated for a multi-million dollar upgrade, manager Dave Ewart stands next to one of the facility's big successes, a channel cut in the river's bedrock about 13 kilometres upstream from the hatchery. The channel, or fishway, is the largest in a series of three that opened the upper river to spawning pink salmon in late 2005. The results have been particularly impressive this year, another example of the hatchery's many enhancement successes. See page 4 for more.

Photo: Dan MacLennan

By DAN MacLENNAN

After decades of vital work to restore and enhance salmon runs on Vancouver Island, the Quinsam River Hatchery is finally in line for a multi-million-dollar upgrade.

"It's been a long time since we spent any substantive money on the facility and because of that the facil-

ity Enhancement Program director told the *Courier-Islander* Wednesday.

"Through our capital planning process we've identified Quinsam as a priority facility to do some upgrade work. That's looking at upgrading the buildings, the infrastructure that's there, looking at the cement rearing ponds, there's the counting fence on the river itself, looking at the whole

Quinsam River Hatchery has worked to restore and maintain salmon runs on the Quinsam and Campbell rivers. Staff have directed their efforts to countless programs throughout the region. The hatchery has become a cornerstone of salmon enhancement efforts in the South Coast region, supplying salmon eggs, experience and expertise to projects throughout

also in the hatchery-based enhancement concept.

"The Quinsam Hatchery has done a lot of good work over the years, not only in the Quinsam/Campbell system but the facility is providing a variety of different things for us including all of the work that's gone on down in the Campbell River estuary," Savard said.

