

Summer Internship with Long Live the Kings, Seattle Washington

Long Live the Kings (LLTK) is an organization that was founded in 1986 by salmon enthusiasts dedicated to the cause of protecting wild salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest. LLTK works alongside the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA as well as many other NGOs in combined efforts to combat the threats that wild salmon and steelhead face in the developing waterways of the Pacific Northwest. LLTK has been working for many years to change the way that commercial hatcheries operate by installing hatchery reform as one of their main efforts.

LLTK has three operational hatcheries: the Lilliwaup Creek Hatchery, Glennwood Springs Hatchery, and the Hood Canal Steelhead project. Each rears fish taken from their spawning beds to allow for a better chance of their survival in the freshwater and marine habitat.

LLTK has many projects currently underway as well as projects in the development and research stage. As an intern, I was appointed the task of researching scientific journals for LLTK's newest project on Salmon Marine Survival. Most research that has been done on salmon and steelhead has been on their freshwater stages of life. However, very little is known about salmon in the marine environment and how they survive. It is LLTK's plan to study this more deeply giving a fuller understanding of the full life cycle of salmon and steelhead in order to better assist in their survival. In coordination with the University of Washington I conducted research on all the current information that exists for salmon species and steelhead marine survival. By pulling dozens of related papers and articles on marine survival, I helped create a library of data for LLTK to use as an aid with the planning of the approach method for the Marine Survival project. I attend several conferences in and around the Seattle area with my

colleagues on different salmon projects of other organizations and their results. This gave me a greater understanding of the true cooperation within the scientific community as well as the amount of care and devotion that these environmentalists have in protecting the environment.

My internship was truncated due to personal reasons, however even within the short month I worked with LLTK I learned much as well as contributed to the organization. LLTK is one of the most well respected salmon conservation groups in the world and I hope to be involved with them in the future.