

Adult Atlantic Salmon release location

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Thu 8/15/2024 9:00 AM

To: Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

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Hello Josh,

I am a fisheries biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and coordinate landlocked Atlantic salmon process at the Winooski One Fish Lift in Winooski. As you may know, the salmon that are captured at the lift are driven upstream and released back into the Winooski River to provide a fishery and to hopefully spawn and reproduce. In recent years we have released these fish at the Beeken Rivershore Preserve parking access managed by the Richmond Land Trust along Cochran Rd. However, due to the recent flooding, the condition of that parking area has deteriorated and isn't a suitable location any longer.

We are looking for a new release location, ideally within the Richmond area, that would allow a pickup truck with a water tank in the back to drive close to the river and release the fish through a long piece of tubing. We have a video showing this technique with smaller steelhead we stock (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOGnkKHs2iY>). We have found it works well with larger adult salmon as well, although ideally we have a much shorter run than shown in this video.

I'm reaching out to ask if we could have permission to release these fish at the Volunteer Green off Bridge Street as shown roughly in the image below? I believe there had been a chained off and solid road/path at the corner of the parking lot leading toward the river and a sloped bank that would provide us a very convenient location to release the salmon. Additionally, the section of river along the park here is where we have historically found the densest concentrations of salmon redds where fish have spawned, so it would be ideal from that perspective as well.

The lift operates from September 15 to November 15 so we would be transporting salmon during this time. The frequency may vary depending on whether we have salmon or not captured in the lift, but typically we process and transport fish each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the early afternoon.

Please let me know if this would be an option or if you have any questions or concerns I can address.

Thanks,

Lee



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The Agency of Natural Resources supports telework, and there are times when I may be working from another office location. I am available to connect by phone and email. I am also available to connect in-person upon request.