

Hatcheries

Hatchery salmon have a complicated effect on wild salmon. For example, they tend to wander away from their original spawn sight, and invade other wild salmon's spawning streams. When the hatchery salmon mate with wild salmon, their genes can integrate into the wild salmon genes, and can create a lesser chance for genetic diversity. Typically in hatcheries, one male is used to fertilize hundreds of females' eggs, meaning that thousands of fry share the same male's genes. When the salmon breed with other salmon that have the same genes as them this can produce genetic problems that can affect the population. For example, their ability to reproduce is decreased and they are more vulnerable to sickness and premature death. This affects the Southern Residents by lowering the chances of the salmon being able to return to spawn, which means that the orcas have less food.

At first my motivation for my art was to get a good grade, but it changed after spending so much time getting frustrated and struggling with this piece. I wanted people to take my art seriously and make them want to learn more and understand what we are trying to say. Trying to get my artwork to a professional point that people would really stop and want to learn more became a big motivational factor. That strengthened even more when we went out on the boat and saw orcas. It was the first time that I ever saw in an orca in real life. They had done something with us that the boating tour people had never seen before, they went right up to our boat twice in a single day. I already felt like my art was important, but seeing the orcas made me an important message to everyone about these amazing killer whales.

Antonia

