

Peninsula Streams Society
9860 West Saanich Road
Email: peninsulastreams@gmail.com
Phone: (250) 508-8456

Media Advisory: For immediate release: January 10, 2024

Discovery of Lethal Levels of Tire Wear Toxin in Gabo Creek Sparks Urgent Call for Action by Peninsula Streams Society to Protect Salmon Habitat

[Victoria, January 10, 2024] – Peninsula Streams Society (PSS), a non-profit organization dedicated to [restoring and protecting local watersheds](#), is raising the alarm over the recent detection of lethal levels of 6PPD-Quinone (6PPD-Q) in Gabo Creek, a salmon-bearing tributary of the Colquitz River Watershed in Greater Victoria.

6PPD-Q, a chemical compound derived from a preservative used in extending the lifespan of automotive tires enters streams from roadway run-off and stormwater inputs. It has been shown to be lethal to coho salmon and potentially hazardous to other aquatic organisms. Initial sampling efforts by the Peninsula Streams Society's [Water Quality Monitoring](#) volunteers revealed 6PPD-Q concentrations lethal to juvenile coho in Gabo Creek. "These results highlight a growing threat to our watersheds and we need to take immediate action to ensure harmful contaminants like 6PPD-Q are removed from stormwater before entering our waterways" expressed Kyle Armstrong, Executive Director for Peninsula Streams Society. "Green Stormwater Infrastructure such as rain gardens offers an effective filtration solution, collectively we need to scale up and prioritize their adoption". The sampling is part of a larger effort led by the [BC Conservation Foundation's Aquatic Research and Restoration Centre](#) and [Vancouver Island University's Applied Environmental Research Lab](#) that engages community groups to monitor for 6PPD-Q in Vancouver Island watersheds. This project, funded by the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, is aimed at identifying major sources of 6PPD-Q, better understanding how concentrations change over time and space, and informing mitigation strategies to protect salmon. This site on Gabo Creek and other sites across Vancouver Island will continue to be monitored to identify which streams are most vulnerable to 6PPD-Q.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact Peninsula Streams Society at peninsulastreams@gmail.com or 250 508 8456.

About Peninsula Streams Society:

Peninsula Streams Society, established in 2002, dedicates itself to the restoration and protection of Greater Victoria's aquatic ecosystems, aiming to cultivate thriving habitats for native species in both freshwater and marine environments. Through comprehensive research, innovative projects, restoration initiatives, public education, and land stewardship efforts, the organization works tirelessly to realize this vision. Central to their mission is the revitalization of salmon populations through stream restoration and habitat conservation, executed in collaboration with local stakeholders and stewardship groups. The society equips associated stewardship groups with technical support, training, and resources,

relying on the dedication of volunteer members who contribute thousands of hours annually to restoration projects. Additionally, Peninsula Streams Society conducts environmental education programs in local schools, engaging over a thousand students yearly with entertaining indoor and outdoor activities designed to raise awareness about the diverse natural habitats in the Greater Victoria region.

Contact:

Kyle Armstrong, Executive Director
Peninsula Streams Society
Email: PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com
(250) 508-8456