

Get chummy during annual festival in Gig Harbor

Posted By [Brent Champaco](#) on September 21, 2009 at 11:21 am

The City of Gig Harbor will hold its annual Donkey Creek Chum Festival on Oct. 10. This year's mantra: It takes a fish to raise a village.

The city says that every year since 1972, the Gig Harbor Commercial Fisherman's Club has incubated salmon eggs at Donkey Creek, releasing over 1 million smelt into Gig Harbor Bay. Each fall, mature salmon find their way from the open sea back to Austin Estuary, fighting their way up the culvert and into Donkey Creek to spawn.

"In celebration of this annual event, the Fisherman's Club, the City of Gig Harbor, Harbor WildWatch environmental group, the Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Club and many other local organizations have teamed up with one goal in mind - saving the salmon for future generations," according to the press release.

"The second annual Donkey Creek Chum Festival is an opportunity to learn about how our water that surrounds us needs us to protect it"

The event takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Gig Harbor.

Here's the rest of the press release:

In addition the event will feature the award winning Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Team who will host teams from Portland, Renton, Seattle and British Columbia in an endurance race on Gig Harbor Bay. The public is encouraged to watch this amazing race from the new Austin Estuary Park beginning at 2 p.m. Awards Ceremony will follow at 4 p.m.

Through out the day the event will include:

- Multiple information booths by Gig Harbor and Pierce County environmental groups as well as local service clubs.
- Chum Burgers cooked up and served by Gig Harbor's own Fisherman
- Kayak Races
- Make your own Pressed Salmon Art – bring a blank t-shirt or buy one from the Kayak Team booth
- Additional games and projects for the kids

JOIN THE FUN at Donkey Creek Park on October 10th. This event is free!