



Fish Viewing in Urban Streams

Lower Mainland Region

Thirty-two Lower Mainland Region sites where you may go to observe fish during the spawning portion of their life cycle are identified in this brochure. These sites are representative of the hundreds of important small streams that provide critical, year-round fish habitat. Many opportunities exist for you to participate with local groups in projects involving the maintenance and enhancement of fish streams.

Urban Streams are Year-round Habitat

The spawning portion of the fish life cycle depends on very specific environmental conditions. All fish need clean water, the right amount of oxygen, and a narrow water temperature range. When adult fish return to spawn they need enough clean water and unobstructed river and streams for migration to their spawning grounds. Sometimes this basic need for clear waterways is overlooked. Small but important urban fish-bearing streams are lost or are in critical condition because streams are being used as dumps for old and other discarded items, are being culverted and covered over as part of city growth, or are losing streamside vegetation that is needed for maintaining viable habitat.

Very small streams provide critical habitat for juvenile fish to live and grow. Salmon fry will spend up to 1 year in local freshwater streams before they migrate to the sea, while young trout may inhabit freshwater streams for up to 3 years before migration. Therefore, stream habitat must be maintained throughout the year, not just during the time spawning occurs. What happens to the stream during the rest of the year will determine if spawning will occur, if the eggs laid will survive and hatch, and if the newly emerging fish fry will live.

Viewing Opportunities

Five species of salmon (sockeye, coho, chum, chinook and pink) begin and end life in freshwater streams and rivers, but spend most of their life in the ocean. These species are usually on a four year cycle, except pink salmon which have a two year cycle. The most spectacular of these five species is the sockeye salmon. Sockeye turn bright red during the spawning period. The Weaver Creek Spawning Channel is the best site in the Lower Mainland Region to observe sockeye.

Kokanee, salmon that spend their entire life in freshwater, may be observed at several sites. Migrating steelhead trout can be seen at the Coquihalla Canyon Recreation Area. Cutthroat trout usually spawn in the spring months. However, there is a rare population of coastal cutthroat trout that may be viewed at the outlet of Ruby Lake from mid October through November.

Spawning fish attract other wildlife species that come to feed on the dead and dying fish. The most spectacular of these species is the Bald Eagle. Three excellent places to view eagles are in the Squamish area and in the Harrison Bay area from November to January, and in the Fang Creek area from late October to December.

Fish Viewing Etiquette

Viewing fish demands courtesy and common sense. For the well being of fish, other wildlife, and their habitats please follow these guidelines:

Be Considerate of Fish and Wildlife - Where possible, use binoculars to view from a distance rather than approaching too closely.

Be Considerate of Habitat - Plants are an important part of fish and wildlife habitat. Please do not damage or remove them, and stay on designated trails or roads.

Be Considerate of Other People - Respect private property and the viewing activities of others.

Control Pets - Pets can harm fish and wildlife and can hinder viewing opportunities. Keep pets on a leash and do not allow them to enter streams when fish are spawning.

Throwing Rocks - Throwing rocks or other items into streams will disturb spawning fish, and may cause siltation that prevents eggs from hatching.

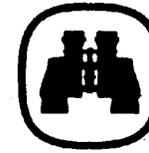
Remove Garbage - Please dispose of all garbage in a proper receptacle. Rivers, streams and ditches are not garbage dumps.

You Can Help Fish

Many groups and organizations are already involved in specific projects. There are many ways in which you can get involved in stream enhancement activities. As a volunteer you can share the responsibility for protecting aquatic habitats in your community. You can learn to recognize habitat problems and to help design and undertake restoration projects. Participate in an existing project, or start a new one in your area.

There are two information and funding programs to assist you. The **Urban Salmon Habitat Program** of the provincial Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, focusses on fish habitat protection, enhancement and awareness in urban areas of the Georgia Basin. Urban stream stewardship is a key component. For more information contact the Regional BC Environment office in Surrey [#301 - 10334 - 152A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8; (604) 582-5200].

Streamkeepers, a program of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, encourages good watershed practices through productive, hands-on involvement. Community stewardship is a key component. For information contact the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation [720 Orwell Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7J 2G3; (604) 986-5059].



British Columbia Wildlife Watch is the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks' program designed to promote viewing opportunities within British Columbia. The protection of wildlife and their habitat, and a positive, safe experience for the viewer are the primary objectives of this program. Many local communities, other agencies and public conservation groups are involved. For more information on these or other wildlife viewing sites, contact the Regional BC Environment office in Surrey [#301 - 10334 - 152A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8; (604) 582-5200].

The **Habitat Conservation Trust Fund** is a financial sponsor of **British Columbia Wildlife Watch**. For information on this fund write the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

The **Federation of British Columbia Naturalists Foundation** supports the goals, objectives and activities of **British Columbia Wildlife Watch**. For information on this foundation write #321 - 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

Funds for the printing of this brochure were obtained for **British Columbia Wildlife Watch** by the **Federation of British Columbia Naturalists Foundation** from the **Urban Salmon Habitat Program**.

Printed on 100% post-consumer, non-de-inked paper.

10/96 - 20,000

ALM

site name	closest community	?	best viewing times for spawning activity				fish species So Co Ch						facilities				access		additional directions	
			J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D		Ck	Pi	Ko	St	Ct	Rt	info	vfac	sc	hat	cond		hwy
Greater Vancouver																				
Terminal Creek (Crippen Reg. Pk.)	Bowen Island	a				ND	Co Ch								vfac		hat	P	1/99	off Mt. Gardner Rd.
Davies Creek (Crippen Reg. Pk.)	Bowen Island	a				ND	Ch								vfac			P/T	1/99	along boardwalk from Snug Cove
Musqueam Creek (Musqueam Pk.)	Vancouver	b				ON	Co											P	99	off Southwest Marine Dr.
Noons Creek (Shoreline Pk.)	Port Moody	c				ON	Co Ch							info	vfac		hat	P	7	off loco Rd.
Bear Creek (Bear Creek Pk.)	Surrey	d				N	Ch											P	99A	on 88th Ave.
Serpentine River (Tynehead Reg. Pk.)	Surrey	e				ON	Co Ch	Ck							vfac		hat	P	1	on 96th Ave.
Salmon River (Williams Pk.)	Langley	d				ON	Co Ch							info				P	1/10	off 68th Ave. and 238th St.
Kanaka Creek (Kanaka Creek Reg. Pk.)	Maple Ridge	f				OND	Co Ch							info			hat	P	7	off Dewdney Trunk Rd. or 240th St.
Fraser Valley																				
Stave River (Ruskin Rec. Site)	Mission	g				ON	Ch							info		sc		P	7	on Hayward St.
Inch Creek (Inch Creek Hatchery)	Mission	h				ND	Co Ch							info		sc	hat	P	7	off Hawkins Pickle Rd.
Weaver Creek (Weaver Creek Spawning Chan.)	Harrison Bay	i				ON	So Ch	Pi						info		sc		P/G	7	on Morris Valley Rd.
Trout Lake Creek (Sasquatch Prov. Pk.)	Harrison Hot Springs	j				ON	Ch											P/G	9	off Rockwell Dr.
Hicks Lake Outlet (Sasquatch Prov. Pk.)	Harrison Hot Springs	j			A M								Rt	info				P/G	9	off Rockwell Dr.
Chilliwack River (Chilliwack Lk. Prov. Pk.)	Chilliwack	j			A								St	info		sc	hat	P	1	on Chilliwack Lk. Rd.
Sweltzer Creek	Cultus Lake	d				OND	So Ch	Pi										P	1	on Columbia Valley Highway
Maria Slough	Agassiz	d				OND	So Co Ch	Ck										P	7	off highway and Sea Bird Is. Rd.
Sucker Creek	Hope	d				ON	Co Ch	Pi						info		sc		P	1/3/5	off Union Bay Rd.
Kopp Creek	Hope	d			S	O				Ko								P	1/3/5	on Kawkawa Lk. Rd.
Coquihalla River (Coquihalla Canyon Rec. Area)	Hope	j			J J A					St								P	1/3/5	off Kawkawa Lk. Rd.
Squamish - Whistler																				
Mamquam River (Mamquam Spawning Chan.)	Squamish	k				ND	Co Ch									sc		P/T	99	off dyke on northwest side of highway
Tenderfoot Creek (Tenderfoot Hatchery)	Brackendale	l				ND	Co Ch							info		sc	hat	P	99	off Paradise Valley Rd.
Crabapple Creek	Whistler	d			M J	S O				Ko			Rt					P/T	99	along Valley Trail
Millar Creek (or Jordan Creek)	Whistler	d			M J								Rt					P/T	99	along Valley Trail
Fee Creek	Pemberton	m				ND	Co								vfac	sc		P	99	on highway just north of Mt. Currie
Phelix Creek (Birkenhead Lk. Prov. Pk.)	D'Arcy	n				S O				Ko				info	vfac			P/G	99	north of Mt. Currie
Sunshine Coast																				
Langdale Creek (Langdale Ferry Terminal)	Gibsons	d				OND	Co Ch											P	101	at Langdale Ferry Terminal
Chapman Creek (Chapman Creek Hatchery)	Sechelt	o			A S	OND	Co Ch	Pi							vfac		hat	P	101	off Field Rd.
Angus Creek (Porpoise Bay Prov. Pk.)	Sechelt	n				ON	Ch							info	vfac			P	101	off Sechelt Inlet Rd.
Anderson Creek (John Daly Reg. Pk.)	Pender Harbour	p				ON	Co Ch							info	vfac			P	101	off Garden Bay Rd.
Ruby Lake Outlet	Pender Harbour	d				ON				Ko			Ct	info				P	101	off Halowell Rd.
Lang Creek (Lang Creek Hatchery)	Powell River	q			A S	ON	Co Ch	Ck Pi						info		sc	hat	P	101	on highway
Sliammon Creek (Sliammon Hatchery)	Powell River	r				ON	Ch									sc	hat	P	101	on highway

fish species
 So = sockeye
 Co = coho
 Ch = chum
 Ck = chinook
 Pi = pink
 Ko = kokanee
 St = steelhead trout
 Ct = cutthroat trout
 Rt = rainbow trout

facilities
 info = on-site information
 vfac = viewing facilities
 sc = spawning channel
 hat = hatchery facility

access
 cond = access type
 P = paved road
 G = gravel road
 T = trail
 hwy = closest highway

It is important to note that the fish runs identified in this brochure vary from very small to very large, and that the actual timing of each run depends on many factors, including the amount of water in the stream.



For more information, or to get involved at a specific site, contact:

- a Bowen Island Fish and Wildlife Club, R.R. #1, D66, Bowen Island, B.C. V0N 1G0 [(604) 947-0072]
- b Musqueam Fisheries, 6820 Salish Dr., Vancouver, B.C. V6N 4C2 [(604) 263-4649]
- c Port Moody Ecological Society, 300 loco Rd., Port Moody, B.C. V3H 2V7 [(604) 469-9106]
- d BC Environment, Lower Mainland Region, #301 - 10334 - 152A St., Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8 [(604) 582-5200]
- e Serpentine Enhancement Society, 16585 - 96th Ave., Surrey, B.C. V3R 5W7 [(604) 589-9127]
- f Bell-Irving Hatchery, 11450 - 256th St., Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 7E6 [(604) 462-8643]
- g BC Hydro, Environmental Services, 6911 Southpoint Dr., 9th Floor, Burnaby, B.C. V3N 4X8 [(604) 528-1877]
- h Inch Creek Hatchery, Box 61, Dewdney, B.C. V0M 1H0 [(604) 826-0244]
- i Weaver Creek Spawning Channel, c/o 16250 Morris Valley Rd., Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0 [(604) 796-9444]

- j BC Parks, Fraser Valley District, P.O. Box 3010, Cultus Lake, B.C. V2R 5H6 [(604) 824-2300]
- k Department of Fisheries and Oceans, c/o 4500 Capilano Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7R 4L3 [(604) 666-6325]
- l Tenderfoot Creek Hatchery, Box 477, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1H0 [(604) 898-3657]
- m Pemberton Sportsmen's Wildlife Association, Box 221, Pemberton, B.C. V0N 2L0 [(604) 894-6402]
- n BC Parks, Garibaldi/Sunshine District, Box 220, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1H0 [(604) 898-3678]
- o Sunshine Coast Salmonid Enhancement Society, R.R. #1, Site 23, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0 [(604) 885-4136]
- p Sunshine Coast Regional District, Parks Department, Box 800, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0 [(604) 885-2261]
- q Powell River Enhancement Society, 7050 Alberni St., Powell River, B.C. V8A 2C3 [(604) 485-7612]
- r Sliammon Indian Band, R.R. #2, Sliammon Rd., Powell River, B.C. V8A 4Z3 [(604) 483-4111]