

Who we are

The Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association is a volunteer organization involved in salmonid enhancement, education, and maintaining Coho and Chum stocks for fisheries in the waters off of southeastern Vancouver Island.



The men and women of the Goldstream Hatchery graciously donate their time and energy to care for the coho and chum salmon we raise. They come from all walks of life, sharing their knowledge and experiences to help preserve and enhance the declining salmon stocks in Southern B.C.

The Goldstream/Howard English Hatchery is a model of how public involvement, in wildlife conservation and preservation, can provide environmental rewards with little cost to taxpayers.

Get involved Volunteer

Our Volunteers work Monday to Saturday year round, and are essential to all that GVSEA accomplishes. By volunteering with us you will be helping to ensure there are salmon in South Eastern Island streams for generations to come while making new friends, expanding your network and learning new things. Email us to learn more: gvsea@telus.net

Donate

Donations are the lifeblood of our organization and 100% of donations are used for work at the hatchery, including but not limited to the purchase of supplies, equipment and general maintenance. All donors are entitled to a receipt for income tax purposes. You can also become a hatchery member for \$10 annually.



Goldstream Salmon Hatchery

Howard English Hatchery



Operated by the
Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid
Enhancement Association
(250) 474-6698
gvsea@telus.net
www.goldstreamhatchery.ca

Then and now

The Goldstream Salmon Hatchery is also known as the Howard English Hatchery. It was named after a local resident who noticed declining fish stocks in Goldstream River in the late 1960's and set about righting the situation. His tireless efforts to raise the profile of local salmon and the resulting conservation efforts have been carried forward through the hatchery's annual projects.

To this day the Goldstream Salmon Hatchery remains committed to increasing populations of coho and chum salmon on Southern Vancouver Island.



Working with the salmon, for the salmon.

Salmon conservation requires help year round. At the hatchery the cycle starts when mature male and female salmon are collected from the river October to November. Eggs and milt (sperm) are collected from the fish and combined for fertilization.

Once the eggs have reached the "eyed stage," the unfertilized eggs are removed by hand. This is called "egg picking" and usually happens January to February.

Coho reach the alevin stage at around 16 weeks after fertilization, roughly around the end of January. A month later the coho reach the fry stage and are released into rearing tanks at this stage. This is called "ponding".

After a couple of months in the rearing tanks the fry are moved into larger round tanks or raceways to reduce overcrowding.

After spending ~18 months at the hatchery the coho are released in April or May as smolts, the stage where they undergo physiological changes that prepare their bodies for salt water.

Once released they spend less than two days in the river before entering the ocean and will return in ~18 months as mature adults. Not all of our fry are released in Goldstream, some are out-planted to other waterways on Southern Vancouver Island to rebuild or create new runs.



Our success

Coho were all but gone from Goldstream when the Hatchery first started. The Hatchery has grown since then and can now accommodate up to 1.5 million salmon eggs. Our coho smolting program has resulted in hundreds of coho salmon returning to the river annually. Efforts have also been rewarded with runs in Craigflower Creek, Douglas Creek and Millstream Creek