



Who we are

The men and women of the Goldstream Hatchery are volunteers who are prepared to give their time and energy to develop and care for the coho, chinook and chum salmon being raised in the hatchery.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life. They share their time, knowledge and experiences to help preserve and enhance the declining salmon stocks in Southern B.C.

Volunteers work Monday through Saturday at the hatchery. Special teams are arranged for specific projects throughout the year.



Where we came from and why we are here

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.

The Goldstream Salmon Hatchery is committed to increasing the population of coho, chum, and chinook salmon on Southern Vancouver Island.

Our coho smolting program has resulted in hundreds of coho salmon now returning to the river. A few years earlier this species was all but gone. Efforts have also been rewarded with runs in Craigflower Creek and a newly established run in Millstream River.

We also educate thousands of school children through the popular "Salmonids in the Classroom" and "Gently Down the Stream" programs.



Goldstream Salmon Hatchery

Howard English Hatchery



Goldstream Salmon Hatchery
Operated by the Goldstream Volunteer
Salmonid Enhancement Association.

240-474-6698
gvsea@telus.net
www3.telus.net/gvsea/

Get involved

We encourage you to visit us.

Access to the hatchery is gained via the Sooke Lake Rd. Turn left off Hwy#1 (Trans Canada) onto West Shore Parkway, at the light just before you go into Goldstream Park. Turn right onto Amy Rd. This leads you onto Sooke Lake Rd. Follow this road to the GVWD gate. Visitors must make prior arrangements for someone to meet them at the watershed gate and sign them in. Please contact the hatchery for assistance. (250) 474-6698.

Donations

are the lifeblood of the organization. All 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.



Photo: Arnold Lim

Working with the salmon , for the salmon.

Salmon conservation requires help year round. At the hatchery the cycle starts when mature males and females are collected from the river in October or November. Eggs and milt (sperm) are collected from the fish and then 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 in January or February. The hatchery has the capacity for approximately 1.5 million eggs.

Coho reach the alevin stage at around 16 weeks after fertilization, roughly around the end of February.

A month after the coho reach the alevin stage they are released into rearing tanks as fry. 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 over crowding.

Most coho will be held and released the following April or May after spending 18 months at the hatchery. The coho are now smolts. They go through a physiological change that prepares their bodies for salt water.

The smolts when released spend less than two days in the river before entering the ocean.

They will return in 18 months as mature adults.



Some of our Coho fry from time to time are out-planted to other waterways in the south easterly tip of Vancouver Island to rebuild or create new runs.