

West Creek in Gloucester Industrial Estates in May 2025 has a great abundance of wild Coho smolts and Coho fingerlings. The smolts have moved up stream into the glacial formed spring-fed pond for the first time in the nine years that the salmon have been observed in these waters.

In the evening at around 7:30 PM the smolts start jumping right out of the water. They are preparing their bodies for the journey to the ocean according to the local DFO officers, but they did not have an answer for the actual jumping activity. Over a ~3 week period they undergo the physiological kidney and gill changes required to go into the salty ocean from fresh water streams.



By the end of May, usually after a heavy rain storm, the smolts will leave, meet up with other smolts from local streams and migrate en masse down the Fraser River. There is safety in numbers and they are more likely to reach the ocean as a large school of young salmon.

The fingerling Coho that hatched out in February of this year have been found in the headwaters of West creek in very large numbers. Professional photographer Dave Benningfield (Flying Circus) used his GoPro under-water camera to see an abundance of these fish feeding in the stream. He is in the process of producing a video which I should be able to provide very soon.



A great return of these wild spawning fish indicates hope for the future.

“Respect the Salmon and wetland”

“*Səyemstəxw məqwe:m

- Səyemstəxw sce:ftən -”

by Fern Gabriel (Halkomelem language)

Prepared by: Ted Lightfoot & Lynn Perrin
May 5th. 2025

westcreekawareness.ca
wcreeknaturehouse.ca