

## COMMENTS ON THE WEST CREEK, Dec./17

The West Creek is one of the most important streams for Coho Salmon, Steelhead and trout on the south side of the Fraser from Ladner to Abbotsford and it has come to my attention that the spawning and rearing capability of the Upper West creek is being threatened by diverting the creek through a pipe, thus eliminating several kilometers of spawning and rearing area.

Coho, Steelhead and Trout spawn in late fall and winter during high discharge water flow and will not be able to migrate through a 100 meter plus pipe. Furthermore, Coho, Steelhead and Trout juveniles rear in fresh water streams after hatching for 1 to 2 years and require a natural food supply from a riparian area on the streamside to survive. An earth covered pipe will not enhance the survival of juvenile fish.

The result is that the upper reaches of the West creek would be eliminated for spawning and juvenile rearing for all three species.

Chum salmon spawn in the lower reaches of the creek and are not affected because Chum fry migrate downstream after hatching and don't rear in the creek.

As a personal note, I was raised near the West creek and spent time at the creek and am familiar with the area from the Fraser River to Coughlan. The West creek flowed through my grandfather's 160 acre farm near Coughlan.

Also, as a DFO employee, I conducted DFO biological studies on a number of BC coastal streams, as well as the Fraser river area, including the Vedder, Harrison, Shuswap and Thompson rivers and have published several DFO technical reports on trapping and tagging adult and juvenile salmon. As well, I published a technical report on salmon egg collection methods adopted by all federal DFO salmon hatcheries.

### My relative work experience:

Prior to my DFO career I was a commercial Salmon fisherman on the Fraser River.

At the time of my DFO career, I was a Technical Officer, gazetted as a DFO, Fishery Officer.

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