

## SPRING FRY SURVEY 2013

The presence of salmon fry in West Vancouver creeks prior to the release of any hatchery fish indicates that salmon were successful in spawning in that creek. Each spring West Vancouver volunteers who have indicated that they are interested or have taken on the role of Creek Co-ordinator are encouraged to survey for these wild salmon fry in their local creek.

This year, ten West Vancouver creeks were surveyed by eleven volunteers. Salmon fry were observed in five creeks; Caulfield, Eagle, McDonald, Nelson and West Brothers. Creeks that were surveyed but no fry sighted included Dogwood, Larson, Lawson, Rodgers and Wood. No reports were received from other West Vancouver creeks. Fry surveys ended with the release of the hatchery coho on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The first fry to be seen were in **Eagle Creek** on April 3. There were a mixture of chum and coho in the pools at the mouth of the creek, with about three times as many chum as coho. Schools of chum were also found nipping the surface of the sea in the harbour just off the beach. Chum, and later coho, were also found as far upstream as Daffodil Lane, above Marine Drive.

Coho fry appeared in little **Caulfield Creek** in mid-April again this year, despite the fact that no adults were observed spawning in the fall. Coho fry were also spotted in **West Brothers Creek** in mid-April. They were found from the top of the fish ladder to pools in the nice habitat between the diversion under the highway and the culvert under Wildwood Lane.

As in previous years, coho fry were seen in pools at the top of the beach in **McDonald Creek**. A few scattered coho fry were found hiding in rip-rap boulders at the edge of **Nelson Creek** downstream of Marine Drive.

Coho smolts were trapped in Wood Creek at Parc Verdun. As this area is inaccessible to spawning salmon due to a culvert, these fat smolts have grown from fry released by school children in a community event in the spring of 2012. Coho smolts were also seen in the Hay Park pond on McDonald creek.

**FRY SURVEY 2013**  
**West Vancouver Creeks**

Creek	Date	Coho Fry	Chum Fry	Smolts	Water T	Vol	Observations
Caulfield	April-15-13	2 schools				CU	top of beach. Ball of herring (?) in cove
Dogwood	April-24-13	0			9.7	RB	beach logs removed or moved by winter storms
Dogwood	May-23-13	0				RB	no fry observed, none now expected this spring
Eagle	April-03-13		200 to 300			EH	in creek near mouth and in harbour. Handfull upstream of Marine Drive
Eagle	April-03-13	100				EH	in the pools at the mouth
Eagle	April-29-13	50				EH	scattered in pools at mouth, in pools at Marine Drive
Larson	April-16-13	0				EH, MB	cutthroat trout near mouth, beach/mouth cleared of logs by winter storms
Larson	April-26-13	0			9.8	MB	at mouth
Larson	April-26-13	0			8.6	MB	at Marine Drive pond, newly emerged trout
Larson	May-03-13	0				EH	2 or 3 cutthroat in pool upstream of big log at mouth
Lawson	April-22-13	0			6.4	JT, JB	either side of footbridge at mouth
Lawson	April-23-13	0			8.1	JB	upstream of Legion
Lawson	April-23-13	0				MA	at creek mouth off seawall
Lawson	May-14-13	0			8	JB	legion to Fulton pool
McDonald	April-22-13	0			7.7	JT, JB	mouth of McDonald
McDonald	April-23-13	5				MA	at mouth off seawall
McDonald	April-23-13			lots		JB	lots of smolts in Hay Park pond
McDonald	April-25-13	24				JB	south side of seawall
McDonald	May-14-13	0		some	8.2	JB	smolts in Hay Park pond, no fry observed in creek, 9.2C in pond
McDonald	May-14-13	0			8.6	JB	no fry observed in Memorial Pk pond or creek, 9.8C in pond
Nelson	May-07-13	5			7.7	EH	downstream of Marine Drive, tucked in to rocks at pools edge
Rodgers	April-25-13	0		0	6.3	HH	trapped 9 cutthroat at Marine Drive pond
Rodgers	April-25-13	0		0		HH	trapped 2 cutthroat at Belleview pond
Rodgers	May-02-13	0			7.5	SB	looked on foreshore and oceanward property
Rodgers	May-10-13	0			10.2	SB	north side of Belleview, estuary and lower pools
West Brothers	April-16-13	12			8.5	LP	top of ladder, to wooden footbridge upstream of diversion
Wood	April-12-13			3		EH	3 coho smolts, 2 cutthroat trapped in Parc Verdun
Wood	May-08-13				11.5	EH, RF	cutthroat trout trapped in school yard for student viewing