

Gabriola Streamkeepers (GSK)

## Freshwater fish on Gabriola Island, BC

### *Species*

(? = tentative id. \* = introduced)

threespine stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>
*pumpkinseeds	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
staghorn sculpin	<i>Leptocottus armatus</i>
dace (peamouth chub)	<i>Mylocheilus caurinus</i> ?
*cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>
chum salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>
coho salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>
*rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>

## **Reports**

Castell Brook	old reports of fish being caught on rod and line, species unknown; sticklebacks in estuary (Sandwell Marsh, 2012, GSK); sticklebacks, sculpins, dace, chum fry (2014, GSK, photos); mature chum showing interest (2014, GSK, photo) but not observed in the creek. See also Sandwell Marsh and Lock Bay Beaver Pond.
Coats Marsh Creek	cutthroat trout (2012, GSK). Hoggan Lake catchment area. Madrone RAR Report 2012 (File:6103) that there is likely no fish habitat above the “barrier” in lower CMC is incorrect. Mature fish and fry observed up to 100-200 metres upstream of the South Rd. culvert (2021, GSK).
Commons Pond	sticklebacks (2009, Kinnears’ Commons survey, photo). On Goodhue Creek.
Descanso Creek	old reports of sculpins (before the culvert went in?); sticklebacks (2012, GSK); pumpkinseeds (2014, GSK).
Dick Brook	unidentified freshwater fish, likely sticklebacks (2013, GSK); 100s of chum fry in intertidal and lower 30m of the stream, alevins (2014, GSK); chum jaw bone and vertebrae (2017, GSK, photo).
Fiddlehead Creek	unidentified anadromous species in freshwater above high tide (2013, GSK).
Goodhue Creek	old report of rainbow trout; sticklebacks (2012, confirmed); cutthroat trout (2014, GSK, photo); sticklebacks (2015, GSK). Hoggan Lake catchment area.
Hoggan Lake	stocked with rainbow trout and coastal cutthroat trout in 1924 and 1927. Both species observed in 1972. Angler reports catching rainbow trout in the ‘80s. (photos) No recent sightings in the lake, but trout seen in Coats Marsh Creek and cutthroat trout confirmed in Goodhue Creek downstream of South Road. The lake is also reported to contain sticklebacks that are quite like the benthic species of stickleback species pairs.
Lock Bay Beaver Pond	coastal cutthroat trout (2012, RAR survey, unconfirmed).
Mallett Creek	old report of cutthroat trout; juvenile coho (2013, GSK, photo); alevin chum or coho? (2014, GSK, photo); pumpkinseeds, mostly in the dugout (Peacocks Lake) but occasionally in pools downstream (2014, GSK, photo).
Martin Brook	sticklebacks in Bernards Pond.
Peacocks Lake	pumpkinseeds (2014, GSK, photo). On Mallett Creek.
Sandwell Marsh	see Castell Brook. This marsh is occasionally flooded by the sea.
Wagg Brook	cutthroat trout in estuary (2012, unconfirmed); pink salmon attempting to access (2012, unconfirmed); chum fry observed in freshwater above high tide (2013, GSK, photo); sticklebacks (2013, GSK).



Wagg Brook: chum fry

“...These are most likely hatched from the Nanaimo river and have made their way over to Gabriola. Chum fry head out to sea immediately after hatching and seek estuaries and intertidal areas of streams for shelter. This fish was found in a freshwater pool just above the intertidal zone.”

[Jethro Baker, Apr. 26, 2013]



Commons Pond: threespine stickleback

[Kinnears, Jun. 8, 2009]



Mallett Creek: chum fry  
“Chum still in its alevin stage. This fry was most certainly spawned in Mallett this past fall. ...We found it in the same pool low down in the intertidal section of the stream where we found fry last year but were then thinking that they may have travelled from the Nanaimo River.”

[Jethro Baker, Jan. 22, 2014]



Goodhue Creek: cutthroat trout  
“...found in an isolated pool in Goodhue ... We released this little fish back and soon the pool will be part of the stream again and the trout will be able to make it back to Hoggan lake.”

[Jethro Baker, Sept. 23, 2014]



Mallett Creek: juvenile coho  
“...found about a dozen juvenile salmon in several different pools in the creek. ...David Clough confirmed they were juvenile coho, a species that spend at least a year in a stream before migrating back out.”

[Jethro Baker, April 22, 2013]



Castell Brook estuary: chum  
“...noticed this chum? hanging  
out right where the stream  
normally empties into Lock Bay!  
We watched it leave and circle  
but it always came back to the  
mouth of the stream. It looked  
spawned out. We were there for  
at least an hour and it stayed in  
the same area....”

[Chris Hills, Nov. 1, 2014]



Dick Brook: chum jawbone and other remains.  
“Possible this adult swam into the stream to attempt  
spawning and died or floated in on a high tide and an  
animal dragged it up the stream.” “About 200 ft.  
upstream of high tide.”

[Jethro Baker, Mar. 2, 2017]

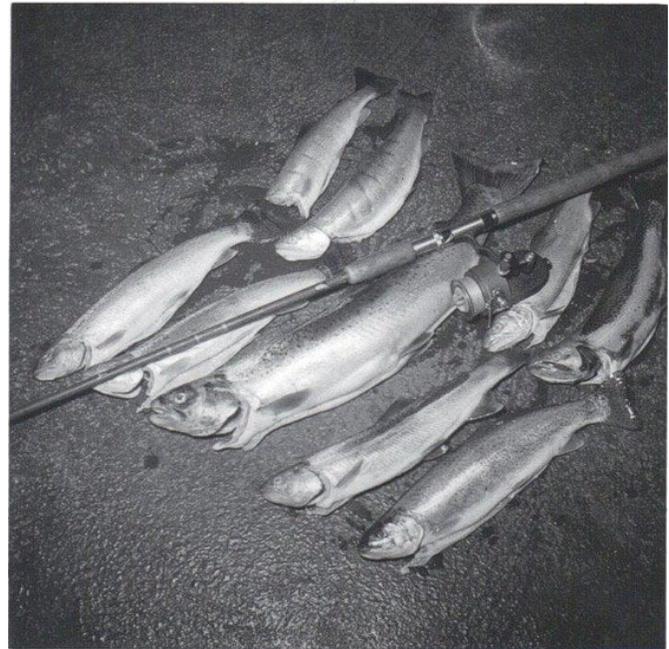
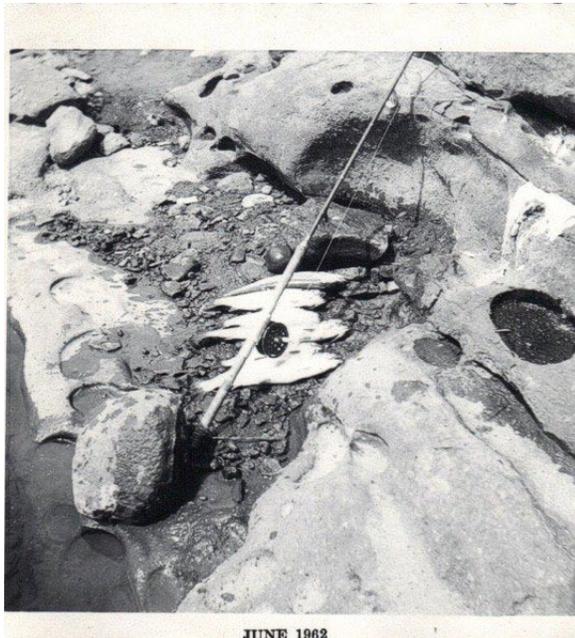




Castell Brook

“Who says there are no fish in our streams? Castell upstream from the saltwater marsh (Sandwell Marsh).”

[Jethro Baker, March 17, 2014]



Hoggan Lake

“As a kid, he (Rick) fished the lake”.

[Rick Mayes, 1982]



Castell Brook: Pacific staghorn sculpin.

“...quite numerous in the saltwater marsh (Sandwell Marsh) and up into the stream.”

[Jethro Baker, March 16, 2014]



Castell Brook: dace

“...This is a rare fish as far as I know. I think it came into Sandwell Marsh on a freshwater film from another fresh waterway (Nanaimo?). I have never seen them since I took these. I first found them ( 15-20 individuals) during high water early in the year. As the water level dropped so did their numbers until they were gone.”

[Jethro Baker, June 2, 2014]

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