

The Wilson Creek watershed is partially within the Municipality of Sechelt and adjacent to the much larger Chapman watershed. The creek reaches the Georgia Strait at the Sechelt First Nation's Tsawcome reserve. Its estuary was once also the outlet of Chapman Creek. Wilson Creek is considered to have very high fisheries values with 3.5 kilometers of salmon spawning reach and more than 16 kilometers of fish bearing habitat in the main stem alone. The creek supports spawning Chum and Coho. It has traditionally hosted Steelhead and significant populations of both sea-run and residential Cutthroat trout. Wilson Creek is used by the DFO as a reference stream for estimating Coho returns in the Georgia Strait.

The Wilson watershed is relatively stable and gently sloped but highly problematic; the estuary has been degraded, residential and agricultural uses have compromised the lower spawning reaches while crown and private managed forest land logging has radically altered the watershed's forest cover and hydrology. Numerous logging roads traverse the slopes sometimes moving water to adjacent watersheds and sometimes bringing water in. There is very little old growth left and younger age classes dominate throughout.

The history of escapements appears to indicate that the watershed functions far below its potential for fisheries. The peak year on record was in 1948; 750 Coho and 750 Chum returned. A more recent peak year was 1984; 200 Coho and 500 Chum returned. The last official data from DFO archives shows that 30 Coho, 150 Chum and no Steelhead returned in 1989. Sources indicate that recent returns have remained "flat".

Wilson Creek was the first stream on the Sunshine Coast to have a hatchery (1982). It was managed by the late John Hind-Smith for the Sechelt Rod and Gun Club. There were various stocking efforts during the 1990s. Some backwater channels for over-wintering Coho were established in 2004. The Ministry of Forests halted crown land logging in 2002, pending completion of a coastal watershed assessment. The Sechelt Community Forest is the current tenure holder of the crown land in this watershed and they have recently completed a detailed watershed assessment (see <http://www.sccf.ca/>). Private managed forestland owners have no obligations related to the state of the fishery or the overall condition of the watershed.

# WILSON Creek Watershed

	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook	TOTALS	Steelhead
1947	-	75	-	-	-	75	-
1948	-	750	-	750	-	1,500	25
1949	-	750	-	-	-	750	25
1950	-	400	-	-	-	400	-
1951	-	400	-	-	-	400	-
1952	-	75	-	-	-	75	UNK
1970	0	0	0	N/O	0	0	UNK
1971	UNK	N/O	UNK	N/O	UNK	-	N/O
1972	UNK	UNK	UNK	60	UNK	60	UNK
1973	UNK	N/O	UNK	N/O	UNK	-	N/O
1974	UNK	75	UNK	75	UNK	150	25
1975	UNK	75	UNK	25	UNK	100	25
1976	0	100	0	4	0	104	UNK
1977	0	50	0	300	0	350	UNK
1978	0	100	0	325	0	425	UNK
1979	0	0	0	300	0	300	UNK
1980	0	100	0	250	0	350	UNK
1981	0	12	0	100	0	112	UNK
1982	0	N/O	0	48	0	48	UNK
1983	0	75	0	400	0	475	UNK
1984	0	200	0	500	0	700	UNK
1985	0	75	0	350	0	425	UNK
1986	UNK	20	UNK	495	UNK	515	UNK
1887	0	70	0	400	0	470	UNK
1988	75	0	0	500	0	575	UNK
1989	UNK	30	UNK	150	UNK	180	UNK

Aerial View of Wilson Creek

## Wilson Creek

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you can click the link above to open a placemaker for this watershed.)