

HABITAT HEROES: YOU CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES!

MARCH 2026

WELCOME FRIENDS!

YOU'RE ON A JOURNEY TO LEARN
ALL ABOUT FISH AND THEIR
WATERY HOMES.

DID YOU KNOW
THAT SOME SPECIES OF
FISH ARE **AT RISK**?

THIS MEANS THAT THEY ARE
NATIVE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA, BUT THEIR
SURVIVAL IS AT RISK AND THEY NEED OUR HELP.
OTHER ANIMALS AND PLANTS ARE **INVASIVE SPECIES**,
MEANING THAT THEY WERE BROUGHT HERE FROM AFAR
AND ARE NOW SPREADING AND HARMING WILDLIFE
AND HABITATS.



JOIN US TO LEARN
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO BE A HABITAT
HERO! HELP PROTECT AT-RISK SPECIES
AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
INVASIVE SPECIES!



SPECIES AT RISK



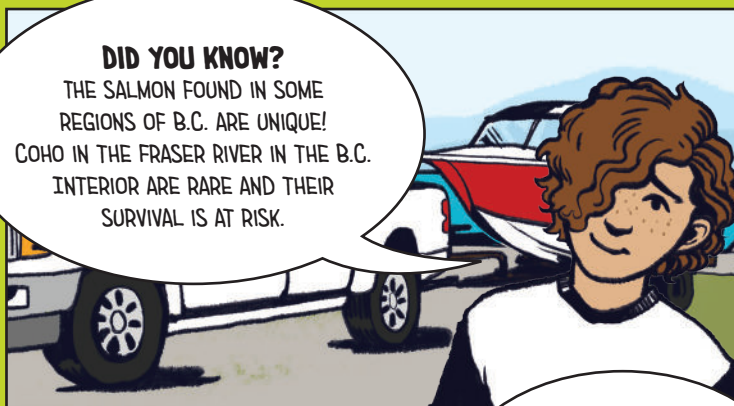
INVASIVE SPECIES



HABITAT HERO

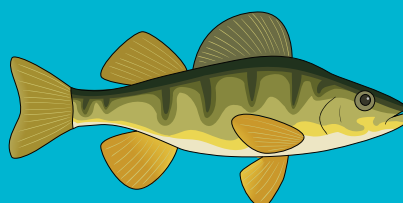
DID YOU KNOW?

THE SALMON FOUND IN SOME
REGIONS OF B.C. ARE UNIQUE!
COHO IN THE FRASER RIVER IN THE B.C.
INTERIOR ARE RARE AND THEIR
SURVIVAL IS AT RISK.



WHEN I'M
AROUND, SALMON DON'T
GROW VERY BIG BECAUSE I
EAT ALL THEIR FOOD! I ALSO
LOVE TO EAT YOUNG
SALMON!

YELLOW PERCH



FISHY FRIENDS OR FOES WORD SEARCH

Find these native and invasive fish in the puzzle! Circle the **native fish in green** and the **invasive fish in red**. Words can go in any direction (even diagonally!) and can share letters as they cross over each other.



NATIVE FISH / SPECIES AT RISK

BURBOT
BULL TROUT
CUTTHROAT TROUT
PACIFIC SALMON
STEELHEAD
STICKLEBACK
SUCKER
WHITE STURGEON



INVASIVE FISH

ASIAN CARP
NORTHERN PIKE
BULLHEAD
GOLDFISH
LARGEMOUTH BASS
SMALLMOUTH BASS
TENCH
YELLOW PERCH

W	S	B	Z	Y	U	S	X	B	N	V	U	O	Z	I	D	W	H
H	S	U	O	S	D	I	T	M	S	C	B	K	S	C	A	A	L
I	A	R	F	M	U	A	P	I	C	Q	C	A	U	C	E	G	H
T	B	B	N	F	I	C	E	S	C	X	X	T	H	O	H	B	I
E	H	O	R	B	Q	C	K	H	C	K	T	R	X	J	L	U	V
S	T	T	X	R	R	S	A	E	L	H	L	U	B	P	L	B	J
T	U	N	K	C	Z	I	S	U	R	E	T	E	M	F	U	F	H
U	O	N	B	I	K	Y	I	O	L	Y	E	K	B	L	B	C	X
R	M	R	Q	P	C	H	A	C	Z	Z	P	T	L	A	N	V	R
G	L	T	N	U	F	T	N	R	O	U	E	T	S	E	C	G	M
E	L	L	X	B	T	O	C	K	N	J	R	P	T	I	L	K	H
O	A	F	U	R	U	G	A	U	R	O	G	G	K	V	C	S	R
N	M	Z	O	A	V	Z	R	E	U	H	Q	N	P	U	I	F	V
A	S	U	Q	Z	W	W	P	T	Y	F	Z	H	T	F	Z	P	P
N	T	Y	E	L	L	O	W	P	E	R	C	H	D	H	C	M	N
E	K	I	P	N	R	E	H	T	R	O	N	L	U	X	N	V	Q
P	A	C	I	F	I	C	S	A	L	M	O	N	I	S	J	R	K
S	S	A	B	H	T	U	O	M	E	G	R	A	L	K	O	G	L



NORTHERN PIKE ARE

NATIVE TO NORTHEASTERN B.C. BUT WERE INTRODUCED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE PROVINCE WHERE THEY ARE INVASIVE. THEY CAN GROW TO BE OVER 130 CM (ALMOST 4.5 FEET) LONG, MAKING THEM THE LARGEST INVASIVE FRESHWATER FISH IN B.C.



NATIVE CUTTHROAT

TROUT GET THEIR NAME FROM A RED "SLASH" MARKING BELOW EITHER SIDE OF THEIR JAW. WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT ARE A SPECIES AT RISK IN SOUTHEASTERN B.C. THEY NEED COLD, CLEAN WATER AND HEALTHY RIVERBANKS WITH SHADE FROM NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS.

John Gaskin, CCO



US Fish and Wildlife



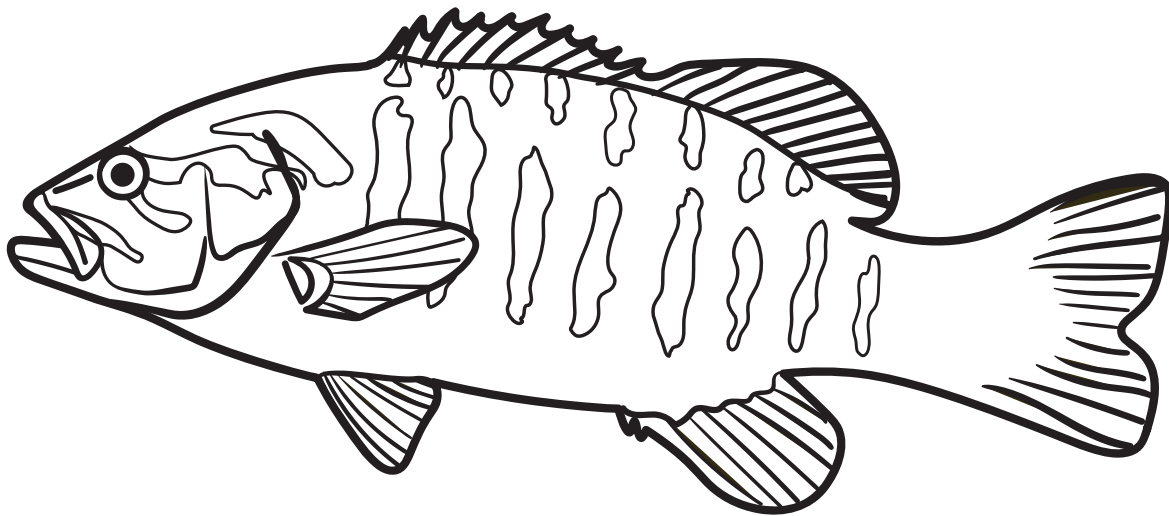
BE A HABITAT HERO! Use only the marked paths and boat ramps when going to the water. This helps protect where plants and animals live.

FISH TALES

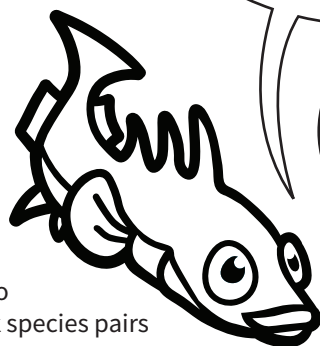


I'm a **smallmouth bass** and I come from east of the Rockies, but I was brought to B.C. because people love to fish for me. Now I'm invasive in B.C. and I have a big appetite for native wildlife, including frogs, aquatic insects, and fish—even young salmon! I eat so much that there isn't as much food for other native fish to eat. I can also spread diseases to salmon and other native fish.

You can tell me apart from my cousin, the **largemouth bass**, by looking at our sides. I have vertical (up and down) stripes and largemouth bass have one long stripe that runs along their body from their gills to their tail.

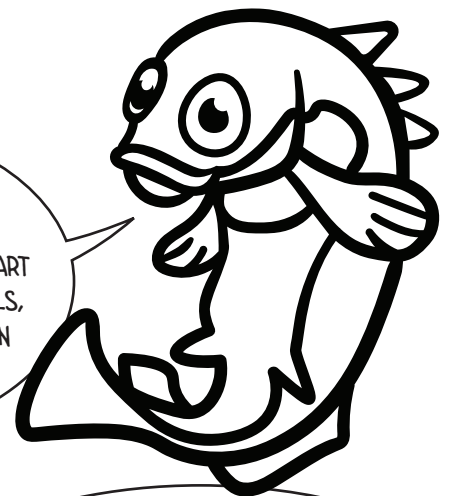


We are the endangered stickleback species pair. We are only found in a few lakes on Texada Island in southern B.C. Our official name is a mouthful! **Vananda Creek benthic and limnetic threespine stickleback species pair** (say that 3 times fast)! For short, you can call us the Texada Island stickleback species pair. **Species Pair** means there are two of us who are closely related, living in the same lake but we look and behave differently. There are two other known stickleback species pairs still living in B.C.



I'M A **LIMNETIC STICKLEBACK**. I'M SMALLER THAN THE BENTHICS AND I EAT PLANKTON. I SWIM IN A SCHOOL WITH OTHER LIMNETICS IN THE OPEN WATER.

I'M A **BENTHIC STICKLEBACK**. I HIDE IN THE AQUATIC PLANTS IN THE SHALLOW PART OF THE LAKE. I EAT INSECTS, SNAILS, AND WORMS AND I'M LARGER THAN THE LIMNETICS.



DID YOU KNOW?

SMALLMOUTH BASS NUMBERS CAN GROW QUICKLY! FEMALES LAY AROUND 10,000 EGGS AT ONCE AND CAN SPAWN MORE THAN ONCE A SEASON!



BE A HABITAT HERO!

You can help stop invasive species! Don't use live bait and never move live fish to different lakes or streams.



DID YOU KNOW?

TWO OTHER STICKLEBACK SPECIES PAIRS WENT EXTINCT BECAUSE INVASIVE SPECIES WERE INTRODUCED TO THEIR LAKES. STICKLEBACK SPECIES PAIRS WENT EXTINCT IN ENOS LAKE ON VANCOUVER ISLAND AFTER SIGNAL CRAYFISH WERE LET LOOSE, AND AT HADLEY LAKE ON LASQUETI ISLAND THE RARE STICKLEBACKS WERE ALL EATEN BY INVASIVE BROWN BULLHEAD.

USE THE ALPHABET KEY TO UNCOVER
THE SECRET MESSAGE. THE MESSAGES
AROUND THE PUZZLE ARE CLUES.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU
TAKE THESE ACTIONS?



CRACK THE SECRET CODE!

✕	●	⚡	◀	◐	◻	⚡	○	△	★	↑	♥	💧
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

▽	🌀	▯	⊗	◻	■	⚡	✱	⚡	⌵	◈	😊	🎯
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



DON'T LET IT LOOSE

Use boat ramps,
designated trails,
and docks to protect
sensitive habitats



Use a field guide or
iNaturalist.ca to identify what
you catch – and report any
invasive species you find!

Never move live fish
from one waterbody
to another

Leave no trace!
Pack it in,
pack it out



Dry all parts of
your boat and
gear completely



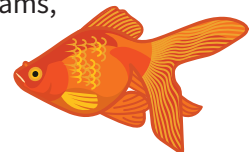
Always check the
fishing regulations and
guidelines for the area
you are in

Don't use live bait! It
could become an invasive
species or spread disease
to native fish



Drain all water
from your boat
and gear

Never let fish or pets
loose in the wild or
dump aquariums into
rivers, streams,
or lakes!



Clean off all plants,
animals, and mud from
your boat and gear



Scan to play
a game and
learn more!



SOLUTION: I'M A HABITAT HERO