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Salish Sucker

Catostomus sp. 4

A member of the family Catostomidae ("suckers"), this species, along with Nooksack Dace is the only other Canadian representative of what is known as "Chehalis fauna", a unique assemblage of fish that survived continental glaciation in an ice-free refuge in Washington State.

Adult Mike Pearson

Close-up of head Mike Pearson

Adult (Clayburn Creek) Scott Barrett

Preferred habitat Mike Pearson

Adult (from Little Campbell River) A Rocha

Close up of mouthparts (from Little Campbell River)

Close-up of head Mike Pearson

Characteristics

COSEWIC: Endangered, BC List: Red

Length: Up to 24 cm. Common to members of its genus, this species has a fairly long snout ending in a rounded point. The body shape is elongated and cylindrical, scales are small, the tailfin is moderately forked with rounded tips, and the anal fin is large. The sub-terminal mouth is toothless, with fleshy “lips”. The mouth and lips of suckers are designed to act like a vacuum cleaner to gather food from the stream bottom. The lips are covered with numerous papillae (minute fleshy projections), which act as sensory receptors for detecting food items. At breeding time, both males and females develop a broad rose or wine-coloured band along their sides which is most vivid in the males.

Resources

The Biology and Management of the Salish Sucker and Nooksack Dace
Life-History Characteristics of the Endangered Salish Sucker (Catostomus sp.) and Their Implications for Management

For further information see

Aquatic Species at Risk - Salish Sucker

BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search
A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

British Columbia’s Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern
A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)
Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC
Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

Source URL: http://www.sccp.ca/species-habitat/salish-sucker
Links
[1] http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/species-especes/salishsucker-meuniersalish-eng.htm
[2] http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer
[3] http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/
[4] http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html
[5] http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/