

SALAMANDERS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST

Does the salamander have...

- bumpy, rough skin and
- a bright orange belly?

Roughskin Newt

Taricha granulosa

- Lives in forests near water, or in wetlands.
- Bright orange colour alerts predators: "I am toxic, do not touch!"



Thick, bumpy skin



NO

- a plump body and
- large bumps (glands) behind the eyes?

Northwestern Salamander

Ambystoma gracile

- Lives in water or moist habitats everywhere.
- Can retain gills as adults.



Large glands behind the eyes



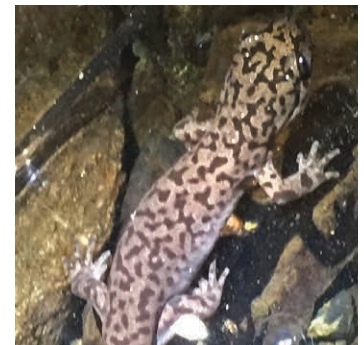
NO

- a very long, thick body and
- mottled skin?

Coastal Giant Salamander

Dicamptodon tenebrosus **SPECIES AT RISK**

- Found in forested habitats with cool, clear mountain streams, only in Chilliwack.
- Can be found washed downstream in valley bottom ditches.



NO

- a translucent pinkish brown body and
- the base of its tail pinched?

Common Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholtzii

- Lives and breeds on land in moist, shady forests – no aquatic or larval form.
- Found in and around decaying wood or moist rodent burrows.



Pinched base of tail



Photo: Elke Wind

NO

SALAMANDERS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST - continued from front

Does the salamander have...

- a thick, smooth stripe ranging from green to red down its back and
- a flat body and tail?

Western Redback Salamander

Plethodon vehiculum

- Lives and breeds on land in moist, shady forests – no aquatic or larval form.
- Found under rocks and fallen wood or leaf litter.



NO

Check for smooth edges on stripe

- a green to dark yellow jagged-edged stripe down its back and
- a tail that narrows on the top?

Long-toed Salamander

Ambystoma macrodactylum

- Lives in forests and moist habitats.
- Has long fourth toe on each hind foot.



NO

Check for irregular edges on stripe

- Is it a salamander-like creature with scaly skin? You may have found a reptile called a

Northern Alligator Lizard

(Elgaria coerulea principis)



Size comparison

Typical Adult Size



- Common Ensatina
- Western Redback Salamander
- Long-toed Salamander



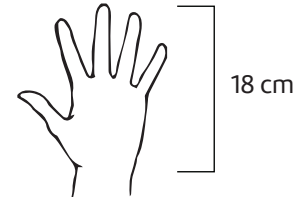
- Roughskin Newt



- Northwestern Salamander



- Coastal Giant Salamander



Average Adult Hand

If you find a salamander, do not pick it up. The BC Wildlife Act prohibits moving or harming salamanders. Share your sighting by sending a photo, or for more information, contact outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca

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Fraser Valley Conservancy
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