

# Cavelero Creek

Cavelero Creek is located on the Northeast side of Camano Island and is directly across from the present main flow of the Stillaguamish River, referred to generally as Hat Slough. The flow of the currents sweeps recently hatched juvenile salmonids from the Stillaguamish River along the shore of Camano Island, directly to the outflow of Cavelero Creek at the tidegate to Country Club Lagoon.



# “Small Stream Study”

In 2010, as part of the “Small Stream Study”, the Tulalip Tribe completed a 10 week electrofishing Survey of the lower 200 feet of Cavelero Creek (referred to as Country Club Creek in the Survey). The Survey started where the Creek empties into the Country Club Lagoon just upstream of the tide gate (under plank in center left). The Survey continued upstream approximately 2/3 of the way to where Cavelero Creek passes under Country Club Drive.



# Cavelero Creek Revealed

As part of the 2010 Survey, blackberry vines were cut back, revealing Cavelero Creek. In spite of the added challenge of navigating the tidegate, numerous juvenile salmonid were sampled in the Creek. Weekly sampling over a 10 week period February – June found a total of:

2 Chinook

3 Chum

199 Coho

4 Cutthroat



# “Fish Passage Barrier Inventory”

The “Island County Fish Passage Barrier Inventory” conducted in 2015 found the existing 24 inch culvert not adequate for salmonid passage because of the culvert slope where Cavelero Creek crossed under Country Club Drive. The culvert was listed as a priority to be upgraded.



# Under Construction

In September 2021, a salmon friendly box culvert was installed. Construction was completed during the very lowest water flow and at a time least likely to impact fish. Any possible water was temporarily diverted, the stream bed excavated, a multipart concrete box culvert installed, and a fish friendly gravel substrate was installed and graded to encourage natural water flow.



# Improved Fish Passage

The top panels of the new box culvert were installed, and the road grade restored. Native plants were installed along the stream banks and the stream flow was then redirected to the new stream bed. This much improved passage will enable salmonids to better access upstream rearing habitat.

