

# Sensitive Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Please do not disturb.

Riparian areas (land adjacent to a watercourse) are the most biologically diverse zones in BC and they provide several essential functions that support fish and fish habitat, including:

## Shade

Vegetation provides shade to the watercourse which helps keep water cold, alleviating thermal stress on fish.

## Leaf Litter & Insect Fall

Leaves and insects fall out of the vegetation, providing nutrients and food for fish and aquatic species.

## Woody Debris

Fallen branches and logs increase aquatic and terrestrial habitat diversity, providing essential refugia (hiding places) for juvenile fish and amphibians.

## Flow Control

Vegetation and soil absorb stormwater, which helps maintain natural water volumes and water quality downstream.

This area is legally protected under the *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, Fisheries Act* and Local Government Bylaws. Report violations to [environment@squamish.ca](mailto:environment@squamish.ca) or 604.892.5217, or the Provincial RAPP Line 1.877.952.7277