

## Formation of Committee to Restore Duncan Creek



*Coho Salmon attempting to spawn in Duncan Creek December 2004*

In December of 1997 after Coho salmon were observed attempting to spawn in the lower parts of Duncan Creek, our group which had originally formed in 1996 filed papers to incorporate with the State of Washington, Secretary of State. The Committee to Restore Duncan Creek attained formal non profit corporation status in January 1998. The Committee has remained incorporated since that date.

It was not until June of 2001 that our committee was able to convince Washington State Department of fish and Wildlife Habitat Division to send out a habitat biologist to investigate the presence of fin fish, specifically cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, Coho and chum salmon in the upper sections of Duncan Creek above the fish blocking culvert.

During the investigation the biologist from Fish & Wildlife observed both juvenile and adult cutthroat trout approximately .1 mile upstream from Colchester Drive culvert. Observation of cutthroat trout and the prior documentation of Coho salmon attempting to spawn in Duncan Creek resulted in Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) submitting a request to Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to change the status of Duncan Creek from previous non-fish bearing status to fish bearing status.

The required public notice was published, and after the required time required DNR received no public comments objecting to the proposed stream status change. In September 2001 Duncan Creek status was changed to Type III fish bearing stream. That status is now known as Type F. This status change finally afforded the long overdue environmental protections for Manchester's sole trout and salmon bearing stream.



*One of three Coho Salmon headed to Duncan Creek December 2004*