

1926

US Navy

Fish Creek Estuary

Human activities have significantly altered the estuary

Natural and Human History (1926 to 2019 Imagery)

1926:

- Estuary is intact, including stream delta
- Delta with multiple active and abandoned channels
- Hydrologic and habitat complexity high



1948

U.S. Navy

Natural and Human History

1948:

- Estuary is intact, including stream delta
- Delta with multiple active and abandoned channels
- Hydrologic and habitat complexity high

1962

Natural and Human History

1962:

- N. Douglas Highway has been constructed
- 13 acres of estuary/meadow lost to gravel mining activities (NE Pond)
- NE dredge pond forming
- Construction camp

active
dredging

construction
camp?

selective
logging

bog



Natural and Human History

1979:

- NE and SW dredge ponds are present
- Dikes confine 1,300 feet of stream
- 9 acres of estuary/meadow lost to gravel mining activities (SW Pond)
- Dredging has occurred in the lower estuary



Natural and Human History

1984:

- SW Pond dike intact
- New housing development in Bayview Subdivision

2001

Natural and Human History

2001:

- SW Pond dike is breached
- New houses built in subdivision

breach

control

SWCA

2019

breach

1926

US Navy



2019

1926

US Navy

Natural and Human History

2019:

- Two manmade ponds and a dike-confined stream channel have replaced a large portion of this hydrologically dynamic and habitat diverse estuary.
- These impacts have had consequences for fish, wildlife, and recreation opportunities.
- Breach doubles in size since 2001
- More new houses in subdivision

breach