

Coastal-tailed Frog, *Ascaphus truei*



Description

- Small frog, 2 to 5 cm long.
- Colour on body can range from brown to olive green or reddish. There is often a distinct copper-coloured bar or triangle between eyes and snout.
- They do not have a tympanum (external ear-drum).
- Fertilization is internal; male has a tail-like copulatory organ.
- Tadpoles have a black or brownish grey body with lighter flecks. Body is flattened with a laterally compressed tail, bordered by a dorsal fin. Usually have a white dot at the tip of the tail. The tadpole's mouth has become modified into an adhesive sucker for clinging to rocks in fast-moving currents.
- They do not have the ability to vocalize.



Ascaphus truei
moderately flattened
Photos E. Vint



Distinctly flattened and laterally compressed tail
Photos E. Vint

Biology

- Egg laying occurs in June or early July.
- Each female produces a double-strand of 45-60 colourless, pea-sized eggs.
- Eggs are attached to a large rock or boulder in a stream. Tailed Frogs produce the largest eggs of all North American species.
- Tailed Frogs may be in tadpole stage for up to five years.
- May not breed until 7-8 years old.
- They stay close to their breeding stream/creek.

Habitat

- Tailed Frogs require cold, clear mountain streams or creeks that are 0.5 to 15 meters in width. Streams must have forested borders, have a bed of boulders or cobbles and remain ice-free during the winter.
- Habitats usually have a large amount of coarse woody debris.



Photo: Nature

Occurrence: DCR (CM), DSC

- In BC, Tailed Frogs are found in the Coastal Mountain range, and less frequently in the Cascade Mountain ranges.

Status:

BC: Blue-listed (Species of Special Concern) and Identified Wildlife in BC
Canada: Special Concern (SARA Schedule 1)

Action Required:

If Tailed Frogs or tadpoles are observed or suspected:

- Notify BCTS and contact a qualified professional if needed.
- Refer to the BCTS SoG Management Protocol for Coastal Tailed Frogs