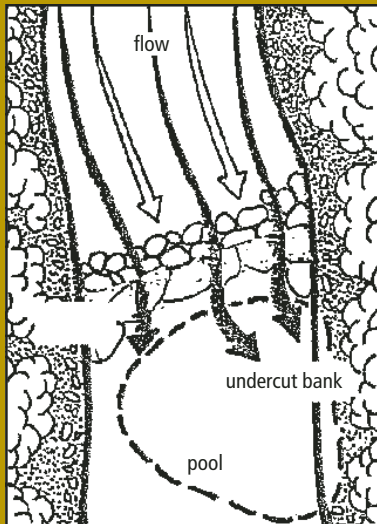


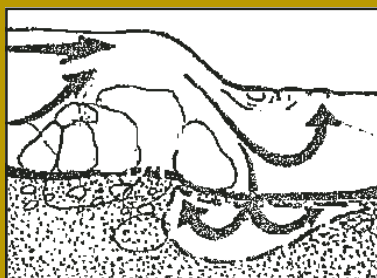
# Rock Sills



## AERIAL VIEW



## CROSS SECTION



**Large photo:** BCAF workers repairing a rock sill in Stump Pond. **Inset:** A rock sill on the lower Mushamush River.

Diagrams courtesy of the St. Mary's River Forestry Wildlife Project. To contact BCAF, call 902.624.9888 or visit [coastalaction.org](http://coastalaction.org).

## What is a rock sill?

A rock sill has a similar purpose to a digger log but is made of non-acid bearing rock and is used on a larger scale, usually on wider rivers. Rocks are placed so that they form a 'sill' allowing the water to cascade over. This causes a natural digging action that forms a pool below and stirs up the gravel, facilitating spawning bed formation. Rock sills also help to restore natural pools, increase oxygen levels and cool the water temperature.

The purpose of a rock sill is to dig a pool and deepen the water below it, provide cover under the rocks and banks which will be undercut, and to deposit and clean spawning gravel below the pool.

## How is it built?

Materials are removed so the large armour stones will sit flat in the trench along the stream bed. The armour stones are then placed along a 30 degree angle to the flow of the river. Materials downstream of the rock sill are removed to speed up the digging process of the pool. This material is then placed above the rock sill where it will act as a ramp, causing the water to flow up and over the sill.

