Cheakamus River Project Water Use Plan

Cheakamus River Chum Salmon Escapement Monitoring and Mainstem Spawning Groundwater Survey

Implementation Year 7

Reference: CMSMON-1B

Evaluations of the Cheakamus River Chum Salmon Escapement Monitoring and Mainstem Spawning Groundwater Surveys from 2007-2013, and Chum Fry Production from 2001-2014

Study Period: October 2013 – June 2014

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November 8, 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cheakamus River chum salmon adult escapement monitoring and mainstem spawning groundwater survey, implemented in 2007, and the chum fry outmigration estimates from the Cheakamus River juvenile salmonid outmigration enumeration monitor, implemented in 2001, are used in conjunction to evaluate the affects of discharge on groundwater upwelling, chum spawner site selection, incubation conditions and chum fry production. Egg-to-fry survival rates are used to evaluate the effects of discharge on spawning and incubation. The flow regime implemented in the water use plan in 2006 aimed to increase available spawning habitat for chum salmon and thus fry production in the Cheakamus River. This study has been evaluating whether the metrics used to calculate effective spawning area (based on depth, velocity and substrate) provide an accurate representation of chum salmon spawning site selection, and the availability of spawning habitat.

Discharge during chum spawning appears to affect site selection. At higher minimum discharges (near 25 m^3/s) a larger proportion of spawners utilize the side channels in the upper river. Egg-to-fry survival in these side channels is higher than in the mainstem, thus, when larger numbers of spawners utilize the side channel habitat upper river productivity increases, as long as side channel carrying capacity is not surpassed. In years of moderate and high escapement when carrying capacity is reached in the side channels, discharge rates during the spawning season may be more important for distributing spawners throughout the river to maximize productivity of chum salmon. In 2013, discharge remained low throughout the spawning season and the high escapement of chum that returned did not distribute as far upstream as they did in 2012. Increased flow events during occurred in 2012 prior to and during peak chum spawning and chum spawners were surveyed up to river kilometer 16.5.

In order to assess whether discharge is affecting mainstem productivity, accurate annual egg deposition rates, including fecundity and pre-spawn mortality, need to be determined. In 2012 and 2013, pre-spawn mortality surveys and fecundity evaluations indicate that egg deposition varies both spatially and temporally. Tenderfoot Creek estimates (as well as the monitored side channels) need to be removed from the mainstem estimates annually in order to evaluate mainstem productivity and egg to fry survival. Productivity assessments from Tenderfoot Creek were implemented in 2012 and after another three years of evaluations, productivity from Tenderfoot Creek for Years 1-5 will be able to be estimated and mainstem only productivity will be determined.

Groundwater appears to influence both site selection and productivity. Chum salmon spawn in groundwater-fed side channels and the most popular spawning habitat in the mainstem have groundwater upwelling. The majority of outmigrating fry appear to be emerging from redds with groundwater influence. Groundwater could be included in models to predict effective spawning areas for chum salmon. To better understand the relationship between discharge and groundwater upwelling, additional radio telemetry data will be conducted over the next three years.

The current flow regime was implemented aiming to increase available spawning habitat for chum salmon and thus fry production in the Cheakamus River. Since fry monitoring, annual fry production has varied greatly. Higher variation has been observed post-WUP (CV=0.59) than pre-WUP (CV=0.29). Reasons for this could include changes in spawner abundance, distribution patterns and changes in habitat conditions or river discharge. Despite the high variability, an increase of 30% in average annual fry production has been observed post-WUP. The key study goal is the ability to detect a linkage between discharge and a positive change in fry production of 75% or greater as predicted by the modeling work pre-WUP. At present the observed changes in fry abundance fall short of this level of increase.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like thank the following people for their cooperation and help over the years:

BC Hydro

Brent Mossop, Ian Dodd and Jeff Walker

❖

Cheakamus Centre (formerly, the North Vancouver Outdoor School)

Victor Elderton, Carl Halvorson and Jason Fullerton

❖

DFO Tenderfoot Hatchery

Peter Campbell, Brian Klassen and Jordan Uittenbogaard

❖

Squamish First Nations

Randal Lewis, Wylie George and Dustin Billy

❖

InStream Fisheries Research

Daniel Ramos-Espinoza, Jason Ladell, Heath Zander, Peter Mitchell,

Todd Moody, Stephanie Lingard and Neil Mackinnon

CITATION

C. Fell, D.J.F. McCubbing, L.J. Wilson, and C.C. Melville. 2014. Evaluations of the Cheakamus River Chum Salmon Escapement Monitoring and Mainstem Groundwater Survey from 2007-2013 and Chum Fry Production from 2001-2014. Cheakamus River Monitoring Program #1B. Technical report for BC Hydro – Coastal Generation. 70p. + Appendices

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background History of Study

The Water Use Plan (WUP) for the Cheakamus River (BC Hydro 2005) includes a flow regime for the Cheakamus River designed to balance environmental, social and economic values. One of the fundamental objectives of the Cheakamus River WUP is to maximize wild fish populations, and the WUP recommended an operating alternative and associated river flow regime based in part on expected benefits to wild fish populations. However, the benefits to fish populations from the new river flows were uncertain because benefits were modeled based on uncertain relationships between fish habitat and flow, and assumed relationships between fish habitat and fish production (Marmorek and Parnell 2002). To reduce this uncertainty, the Cheakamus WUP Consultative Committee recommended a number of environmental monitoring programs.

The Cheakamus River chum salmon population was identified as the keystone indicator species for this study and the effect of flow on chum salmon spawning and incubation was of particular concern. To reduce this uncertainty, one recommendation was to link adult chum salmon spawner escapement and juvenile outmigration data, and use the resultant spawner-fry index (H') as an indicator of flow effects. The potential value of this index was highlighted during an exercise that modeled alternative monitoring designs (Parnell et al. 2003). BC Hydro has monitored Cheakamus River juvenile chum fry outmigration for the last 14 years (see Melville and McCubbing 2000-2013 and Lingard et al. 2014) and monitoring of outmigration is ongoing (see CMSMON 01A, Melville and McCubbing 2012). Chum salmon spawner escapement in the Cheakamus watershed commenced in 2007 (see Troffe and McCubbing 2008, Troffe et al. 2008-2010, McCubbing et al. 2011-2012, Fell et al. 2013). Chum salmon spawner escapement monitoring is also ongoing (see CMSMON 01B McCubbing et al. 2012). The linkages between adult escapement and juvenile outmigration will continue to be examined through these two research projects.

Another uncertainty identified during the consultative process was the relationship between river discharge and groundwater upwelling in mainstem spawning areas. The effective spawning area performance measure for chum salmon and other salmon species was influential in the selection of flow alternatives during the consultative process. The performance measure was calculated using a model based on River 2-D simulations, depth, velocity and substrate preference curves, and redd stranding calculations. This model identifies those areas where spawning is likely or unlikely to occur based on depth, velocity and substrate criteria, and thus the approach will likely overestimate the area of spawning habitat relative to empirical measures (Marmorek and Parnell 2002). The model does not predict the precise location of spawning. Thus, while the model is useful for comparing alternative flows, it does not provide precise measures of spawning habitat. Modeling suggested that lower and more stable flows during the fall relative to the existing Interim Flow Order (IFO) would provide a larger area suitable for spawning that would remain wetted during incubation, resulting in relatively greater effective spawning area. This finding and the modeling approach in general, was uncertain because chum spawning habitat selection can also be driven primarily by groundwater upwelling, and not the surface flow characteristics of water depth/velocity and spawning gravel suitability. It was suggested by some committee members that lower flows during the fall spawning period would result in reduced surface water-to-groundwater exchange, reduced upwelling, poorer spawning site selection and thus lower chum egg-to-fry survival, and that the River 2-D modeling had greatly overestimated suitable spawning area under low flows. Data collected from 2008 through 2011 indicated that chum salmon do select areas of groundwater upwelling and that these are tempered by environmental conditions such as floods. Additionally, water temperature variances related to warmer upwelling groundwater were observed that may affect fry emergence timing. Additional data on site specific spawning at a greater range of escapement (particularly high escapement) is required to assess if groundwater upwelling areas are critical to fry production.

The chum adult monitoring program was developed to examine the effects of the WUP flow regime on chum salmon spawning and incubation in the mainstem of the Cheakamus River and major side channels (BC Hydro 2007). The monitor is composed of two components:

i) Estimating annual escapement of adult chum salmon in the Cheakamus River.
ii) Examining the relation between discharge, groundwater upwelling, and the selection of spawning habitat by chum salmon in the mainstem (BC Hydro 2007)

Data from the chum adult monitor is used in conjunction with data from the juvenile outmigration monitor (CMSMON 01A) to develop stock-recruitment relationships that are critical for separating effects of spawning escapement from flow-related changes in survival during incubation (Bradford et al. 2005).

The key management questions are:

1) What is the relation between discharge and chum salmon spawning site selection and incubation conditions?

2) Do the models used during the WUP to calculate effective spawning area (based on depth, velocity and substrate) provide an accurate representation of chum salmon spawning site selection, and the availability of spawning habitat?
3) Are there other alternative metrics that better represent chum salmon spawning habitat? (BC Hydro 2007, pg 5)

The primary null hypotheses (and sub-hypotheses) associated with these management questions are:

H_1: Discharge during the chum salmon spawning and incubation period does not affect productivity, measured as the number of fry per spawner in the mainstem

This first hypothesis is general, and the specific hypotheses below will assist in diagnosing some likely reason(s) for any observed patterns.

H_2: Spawning chum salmon do not select areas of upwelling groundwater for spawning in the mainstem

Hypothesis 2 will be tested by overlaying mapping of chum salmon spawning distribution at a site with mapping of water upwelling to determine whether chum salmon spawn more frequently in upwelling areas. This commenced during the 2013 chum spawning season and will be repeated in the 2015 and 2016 spawning seasons.

H_3: Discharge during the chum salmon spawning and incubation period does not affect the upwelling of groundwater in mainstem spawning areas

This third hypothesis examines the link between discharge and surface-subsurface groundwater exchange.

Appropriate, ecologically based metrics of discharge during the incubation period that will be used to test these hypotheses might include peak discharge or minimum weekly discharge.
(BC Hydro 2007, p. 6)

1.2 Experimental Design

1.2.1 Adult Spawners

There are many challenges to estimating chum escapement and spawning distribution in the Cheakamus watershed due to its size and environmental conditions which make traditional mark-recapture surveys difficult. These challenges include restricted water visibility, considerable downstream movement of spawned-out moribund fish among mainstem spawners and poor access to some river/channel reaches when river discharges are high (Melville and McCubbing 2000; Korman et al. 2002). Traditional visual tag mark recapture approaches that are commonly employed in smaller coastal systems would be difficult and expensive to effectively implement on the Cheakamus River.

Traditional visual mark-recapture escapement surveys involve tagging salmon with external tags followed by carcass surveys of all possible spawning grounds. Instead, this monitor uses a passive mark-recapture technique in place of a traditional mark-recapture carcass recovery or visual estimation study methods. This passive tag recovery approach involves the use of fixed location resistivity fish counters to enumerate all fish entering selected side channels, coupled with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) scanning tag readers to scan for tags on all fish at these locations. The total number of fish entering each monitored channel and the total number of tagged fish entering each channel is recorded on logging equipment.

In this study we used one marking location in 2007 and two marking locations from 2008-2013 (Figure 1) combined with three side-channel detection locations in a design modeled after Schwarz and Taylor (1998). The marking site for the 'whole river' estimate, is located in the lower river at river kilometer (RK) 1.5, while the 'upper river' tagging site at RK 5.5 operated since 2008, provides a more robust estimate of the number of fish that spawn upstream of the mainstem juvenile (Rotary Screw Trap (RST)) monitoring site (Figure 1). At both sites internal PIT and external Peterson disk tags were applied to adult chum salmon with subsequent detections of tagged and untagged fish at three upper river side channel complexes with sizable chum spawning habitat (NVOS, BC Rail and Tenderfoot Creek, Figure 1). In addition, radio tags were gastrically implanted in a subsample of fish from 2007-2010 to: determine spawner distribution upstream and downstream of the current juvenile out-migration monitoring site, assess post tagging behaviour that may affect estimates, provide information on spawner distribution to assist with mainstem groundwater/spawner evaluations, as well as assisting in evaluating spawner residence time during the initial four years of the monitor. In 2013, radio tagging was reinstated in the lower river and a subsample of female chum salmon was tagged to: evaluate spawner distribution and determine areas of egg deposition in relation to know groundwater upwelling areas.

1.2.2 Juvenile Outmigration

Prior to the implementation of the new flow order (WUP) in 2006 the Juvenile Outmigration CMSMON 01A was limited to assessing the total production of juvenile salmon upstream of the RST site (Figure 1). Partitioning of side-channel and mainstem production was not included in the initial study design implemented in 2000. In 2007, the study was expanded to include population assessments of salmonids from key restoration side-channels and further expanded in 2013 to include Tenderfoot Creek to better answer two key management questions:

What is the relation between discharge and juvenile salmonid production, productivity, and habitat capacity of the mainstem and major side-channels of the Cheakamus River?
Does juvenile chum fry yield or habitat capacity change following implementation of the WUP flow regime?

The expanded project includes detailed assessment of juvenile salmonid outmigration using estimated counts from mark-recapture studies (BC Hydro 2007).

2.0 METHODS

The methodology for estimating abundance of adult chum spawners and outmigrating chum fry has remained relatively consistent throughout the study period (2001-2013). For a more detailed explanation of the methodology in sections 2.1.1 to 2.1.3 and 2.2 to 2.3 refer to Cheakamus River Chum Salmon Escapement Monitoring and Mainstem Spawning Groundwater Survey 5 Year Program Review 2007-2011 (McCubbing et al. 2012). Detailed methodology is provided in Cheakamus River Chum Salmon Escapement Monitoring and Mainstem Groundwater Survey 2001-2013 (Fell et al. 2013) for sections 2.1.4 to 2.1.7 which were added into this study in 2012 after the 5 year review process.

2.1 Adult Spawners

2.1.1 Mark-Recapture

From mid-October through late November chum salmon were tagged with internal PIT tags and Peterson disk tags at the lower river site (RK 1.5) and upper river site (RK 5.5) on the Cheakamus River. Sex, fork length and visual condition were recorded for each fish captured.

Visual condition was classified as follows:

- Condition 1: fish appeared to have entered the river recently, 'silver' and free of body decay.
- Condition 2: fish exhibited spawning colouration but free of extensive body decay.
- Condition 3: signs of spawning, fin wear, sunken abdomen and extensive body decay.

Only fresh condition fish were tagged (condition 1 and 2): fish exhibiting signs of spawning or excessive body decay (condition 3) were not tagged. Fish were redetected upstream at three locations in the upper river (two side channels, NVOS and BC Rail, and Tenderfoot Creek, Figures 1 and 2). For spawner enumeration and PIT tag detection, the two side channels were set up with full spanned fish fences, fitted with Logie 2100C resistivity fish counters and full-duplex PIT tag detection and logging equipment. Counter efficiencies were evaluated using video validation, and recycling/pre-spawn migration behaviour and kelted spawner behaviour were evaluated from the time stamped PIT antenna data. Spawners that moved upstream and then downstream over the counter array in a period of less than 48 hours were assumed to be recycling or re-circulating and were not assumed to have spawned upstream of the counter. Fish that spent > 48 hrs above the counter and then dropped back were classified as kelts and assumed to have spawned upstream of the counter. The percentage of down counts that were classified as kelts are included in the total channel escapement calculation to ensure all fish that spawned upstream of the counter are enumerated (see methods in McCubbing et al. 2012). At Tenderfoot Creek chum salmon were enumerated manually by Department and Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) at their fish fence (methodology conceptualized in Figure 3). Spawner detection through resistivity counter monitoring/ trap operations was conducted from October 15 through to December 15.

2.1.2 Escapement Analysis

A population estimate for the whole river was derived from the fish marked at the 'lower river' tagging site and a population estimate for the upper river (above the RST site) was derived from the fish tagged at the 'upper river' tagging site (Figure 1). Tagged fish were recaptured/re-detected at three upstream side channels; the NVOS side channel, the BC Rail side channel and Tenderfoot Creek (Figure2). The total number of fish entering the individual channels was determined using resistivity counts at the NVOS and BC Rail side channels, and at the Tenderfoot Creek trap fish were counted manually. Pooled Peterson population estimates were calculated using the basic mark-recapture equation (Ricker 1975).

Resistivity counter efficiencies at NVOS and BC Rail side channels were validated using video footage. Additionally, kelting behaviour was assessed at NVOS and BC Rail side channels to account for fish that spawn upstream of the counters and then drop back down across them again. Using annual PIT tag detections, fish were classified as kelts that spent greater than 48 hours resident in the channel above the fish counter prior to a directional downstream outmigration. To determine the number of fish that spawn upstream of the counters, the total down counts were removed from the total up counts at each counters site. The down counts were scaled so that kelts were not removed from the net upstream spawner calculations.

2.1.3 Radio Telemetry

Radio telemetry was conducted from 2007-2011 and tags were applied to both male and female chum to evaluate spawner distribution and residence time (see McCubbing et al. 2012). Radio telemetry was reinstated in 2013 to assess spawner distribution and identify where eggs were deposited in relation to know groundwater upwelling areas. In 2013, 80 radio tags were implanted in females at the lower river tagging site from October 16 to November 26. Tagging was stratified throughout the run to ensure proportional representation of all spawners.

Three directional fixed station Lotek W31 radio receivers were installed to detect spawner movement, located at the confluence of the Cheakamus and Cheekye rivers (RK 3.2), at the juvenile monitoring RST site (RK 5.5), and 50 m downstream of the Bailey bridge (RK 7) (Figure 1). Mobile tracking was performed by foot and raft every two to three days from road's end (RK 16.5) to the confluence of the Squamish and Cheakamus Rivers (RK 0). Mobile tracking was conducted more frequently (every 2-3days) in 2013 than in previous years to try and identify more precisely where spawners are building their reds between fixed stations and upstream of the Bailey Bridge.

2.1.4 Fecundity

Working with DFO staff, the fecundity of female chum salmon caught at the Tenderfoot Creek fence were sampled throughout the run in 2012 and 2013. When the females are ready to spawn, they were killed and their eggs and ovarian fluid are collected. The ovarian fluid was temporarily drained off the eggs and total egg weight was determined. Then, a subsample was weighed (approximately 20g) and the eggs in the subsample were manually counted to obtain the individual egg weight. The total number of eggs in each female sampled was estimated by dividing the total egg weight by the weight of an individual egg for that female (Schroder and Ames 2004). To get representation of all females throughout the run, 30 females were sampled for fecundity at each egg take. Average fecundity for the run was determined by weighting the fecundity at each sampling session proportional to the abundance of females spawned at each session. In total in 2013, 240 females were sampled.

Additional information collected for each female included fork length to determine if a length fecundity relationship exists and scale samples to determine if an age fecundity relationship exists. Recent publications have indicated that egg per female fecundity may be a derivative of both fish age (3 or 4 years) and fish length (Kaev 2000). In addition, summer and fall migrants may have differing egg numbers (Salo 1991) and egg size may vary with body size (Kaev 2000, Salo 1991). Evaluations of these relationships will provide information that will allow for a more accurate estimate of the annual egg deposition used to calculate egg-to-fry survival rate.

2.1.5 Aging

During fecundity sampling conducted at Tenderfoot Hatchery, scale samples were collected from all females sampled to determine if age accounts for some of the variability in fecundity. Data from scales collected in tagging efforts from previous years of this study (2008-2012) are archived and could be analyzed to assess the age composition of returning adults. The methodology for aging chum salmon was the same as conducted by Seo et al. (2006) on chum salmon, which used the "year-olds" method developed by Salo (1991); this method determines the age by the number of winters from egg to adult. For example, if eggs were deposited in the gravel in the fall of 2007, the fry would emerge in the spring of 2008 and if they returned in the fall of 2012, they would be considered age-5 chum. The scale would show five periods of slowed growth. The first period of slowed growth is the transition from coastal water to ocean. The next periods of slowed growth are winters and another year is counted at the outer edge of the scale, when the salmon returns and completes its lifecycle (Figure 4).

2.1.6 Pre-spawn mortality

Pre-spawn mortality surveys assess the percentage of fish that die without spawning, only partially spawn and completely spawn out. In 2012 and 2013, pre-spawn mortality surveys were conducted on the mainstem and side channel habitats of the Cheakamus River from mid October to the end of November in order to evaluate egg retention and egg deposition rates in deceased females. Mainstem bars were surveyed from road ends (RK 16.5) to the Cheakamus/Cheekye confluence (RK 3.2) (Figure 1). Side channel habitats above the RST site that were surveyed include the NVOS and BC Rail side channels, Tenderfoot Creek and Tenderfoot Pond, and BC Rail mile 49 (BC49) channel (located immediately upstream of the upper river tagging site on river left) (Figure 2).

Spawners were classified as follows:

- **spawned-out** = zero to 500 eggs
- **partially spawned** = over 500 loose eggs
- **unspawned** = intact skeins

Fish with body cavities that appeared to be compromised, with slices or holes in the body cavity, were not used as part of the sample.

2.1.7 Egg Deposition Rates

Using the number of spawners classified into each spawner category during pre-spawn mortality surveys, egg deposition rates were calculated. Each pre-spawn mortality category was assigned an egg deposition percentage based on average fecundity; spawned-out females deposited 93% of their eggs, partial spawners deposited 43% of their eggs and unspawned females deposited 0% of their eggs.

Equations used to calculate egg deposition and egg retention are as follows:

% Eggs Deposited =

$$\left(\frac{(0.93C) + (0.43P) + (0.00U)}{S}\right) \times 100$$

Where:

C = # of complete spawners
P = # of partial spawners
U = # of unspawned females
S = total # of spawners sampled including complete spawners, partial spawners and unspawned females

2.2 Juvenile Outmigrants

2.2.1 Mark-Recapture

From 2000-2014 outmigrating juvenile chum were marked and recaptured in the mainstem, in the two main side channels upstream of the RST site (NVOS and BC Rail). Tenderfoot Creek enumeration was added in 2013 and monitoring continued in 2014. Initially, two downstream traps (F9, and F10) were set up to enumerate outmigrating fry from Tenderfoot Creek, but in 2014 only F10 was operated as few salmon appear to spawn in the lower reaches of Tenderfoot Creek (Figures 1 and 2). In the mainstem, outmigrating juveniles were captured using RSTs. A maximum of 2,500 chum fry at each site were marked and then released upstream of the traps to be recaptured. In the side channels, the upstream fyke nets were used to capture chum fry to apply marks and the downstream fyke nets are used to recapture marked fish as well as count the number of unmarked chum migrating downstream. In 2014, during peak outmigration only a portion (1/2-1/3) of the traps were counted out at the RSTs due with large quantities of pink fry. Detailed methodology for this sub-sampling is in the 2014 Cheakamus Juvenile Outmigration Report (Lingard et al. 2014).

2.2.2 Outmigration Estimate

Outmigration estimates were calculated using a Bayesian spline model developed by Bonner (2008), Schwarz et al. (2009) and Bonner and Schwarz (2011). The key features of this model are the use of splines to model the general shape of the run and Bayesian hierarchical methods to share information on catchability and the shape of the spline among strata. Population estimates were calculated for each of the side channels and for Tenderfoot Creek. An upper river estimate was calculated from the fish marked and recaptured at the RSTs. A mainstem and unmonitored side channel estimate was determined by removing the side channel and Tenderfoot Creek fish from the upper river estimate.

2.3 Evaluation of H' (Egg-to-fry Survival)

A primary goal of this project is to assess the potential relationship between egg-to-fry survival, and river discharge. Egg-to-fry survival can be determined for all spawners above the RST or for each individual area (side channel or creek) where the numbers of adults and fry have been independently estimated.

In this case H’ (egg-to-fry survival) was calculated through a number of steps:

1) Estimate spawner abundance (Nt)
2) Estimate female spawner ratio as a% (Ntf)
3) Calculate egg deposition based on the numbers of eggs per female (Nepf)
4) Calculate egg deposition rates as a% (Ned)
5) Estimate fry production (Ntfry)
6) Evaluate H’ by dividing the fry outmigration estimates by the egg deposition rates

Thus,

$$H' = (Nt*Ntf*Nepf*Ned)/Ntfry$$

Egg-to-fry survival was determined using the sex ratio of males to females caught at the Tenderfoot trap (Results Section 3.1.3). The fecundity of females was determined by sampling at Tenderfoot Creek

Hatchery in 2012 and 2013. Egg deposition rates (available for 2012 and 2013 only) were determined from pre-spawn mortality surveys (Results Section 3.1.9 and 3.1.8). For the purpose of comparisons with other literature values of egg-to-fry survival it is important to note that pre-spawn mortality is often not included in egg-to-fry survival estimates; but to evaluate the impact of flows on egg-to-fry survival it is important to determine the most precise egg deposition rates.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Adult Spawners

3.1.1 Mark-Recapture

In 2013, 1,907 chum salmon were tagged with PIT and Petersen disk tags (Table 1). Over the past seven years of this study (2007-2013) a total of 8,811 chum salmon have been tagged (range 762-1907 per year). At the lower river tagging site 4,874 chum salmon have been tagged (range 391-970 per year) and at the upper river tagging site 3,862 chum salmon have been tagged (range 75-1017 per year) (Table 1). Fish tagged in the lower river are used to generate the whole river escapement estimate and fish tagged in the upper river are used to generate the upper river escapement estimate.

3.1.2 Fork Length

Significant differences in fork length of female chum salmon at the upper river tagging site have been observed between years (ANOVA, $p<0.01$). The female chum salmon tagged in 2009, 2010 and 2012 were significantly larger (post-hoc t-test, $p\leq0.001$) than females tagged in 2008, 2011 and 2013 (Table 2). The smaller females ranged in size from 708mm to 721mm and the larger females ranged in size from 734mm to 748mm (Table 2).

Fork length of male chum salmon at the upper river tagging site were also significantly different between years (ANOVA, $p<0.01$). The male chum salmon tagged in 2012 were significantly larger (post-hoc t-test, $p<0.001$) than all other years (784mm) and the second largest (post-hoc t-test, $p<0.001$) male chum salmon were tagged in 2013 (774mm) (Table 2). There were no significant differences in fork length among fish captured in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Average fork length of males in these years ranged between 760mm and 769mm. Male chum salmon tagged in 2011 were significantly smaller (post-hoc t-test, $p<0.001$) than all other years (Table 2).

3.1.3 Sex Ratio

The sex ratio of chum salmon captured at the Tenderfoot Creek trap is used to represent the sex ratio of the chum salmon spawners in the upper river of the Cheakamus for the egg-to-fry survival calculation (Table 3). In 2013, the M:F sex ratio was 1.4:1 (41% females). Male chum salmon have always been more abundant than females. The percentage of females in the population over the course of this study has ranged from 21% to 41%, equivalent to a M:F sex ratio of 3.8:1 to 1.4:1, respectively (Table 3).

3.1.4 Radio Telemetry and Spawner Distribution

In 2013, 79 female chum salmon were successfully implanted with radio tags at the lower river tagging site. One tag was regurgitated and did not get re-implanted. Tracking was conducted every two to three days to detect spawner movement and identify locations of egg deposition. One third (33%, 26 out of 79) of the females radio tagged spawned in the known groundwater upwelling areas (Moody's bar area, Tenderfoot channel, BC Rail side channel) (Figure 6). Twenty-two percentage (17 out of 79) of radio tagged female chum salmon spawned above the RSTs (Figure 6).

3.1.5 Fecundity

Fecundity sampling was conducted eight times throughout the run. The average fecundity for the run was 3,280 eggs/female. Fecundity ranged from 2,073 to 5,165 eggs/female. The relationship between fork length was statistically significant ($F=145.1$, $p<0.001$) with fork length accounting for 38.3% of the variability in fecundity (Figure 7). A stronger relationship was observed between fork length and fecundity in 2013 than in 2012 (Figure 7 and 8). Fecundity in 2013 was significantly lower than fecundity in 2012 (t-test, $p=0.017$).

3.1.6 Age

One hundred female chum salmon were aged in 2013. The majority, 85% (n=85) of the scales read were four years old chum and 15% (n=15) were five year old chum. In 2012, the age distribution was broader (age 3-5) and the majority of females were age five. In 2012, 65% (n =60) of female chum salmon were aged five years, 24% (n=22) were aged four years and 12% (n=11) were aged three years. In 2013, the average age of female chum salmon was 4.15 years and in 2012, the average age was 4.53 years. The females that returned in 2013 were significantly younger than the females that returned in 2012 (Mann-Whitney test, $p<0.001$).

3.1.7 Pre-Spawn Mortality

Pre-spawn mortality surveys assess the percentage of fish that die without spawning or only partially spawn and the percentage that completely spawn out. Surveys were conducted on the mainstem and side channel habitats of the Cheakamus River in 2012 and 2013. Pre-spawn mortality in the mainstem habitat was not significantly different between years. In 2012, 89.0% of females spawned out and in 2013, 87.1% of females spawned out (Table 4). Pre-spawn mortality was significantly higher in side channel habitats than mainstem habitats in both years (2012: χ^2=27.9, p <0.001; 2013: χ^2=151.4, p <0.001). In 2012, 82.9% of females spawned out in side channel habitats and in 2013, 64.1% of females spawned out in side channel habitats (Table 4).

Annual differences in pre-spawn mortality were observed within individual side channels. In 2013, pre-spawn mortality was significantly higher than in 2012 in the BC 49 side channel and the NVOS side channel complex (BC 49: χ^2=11.0, p <0.001; NVOS: χ^2=9901.8, p <0.001) (Table 5). Within the NVOS side channel complex, pre-spawn mortality was significantly higher in 2013 than in 2012 in the Kisutch, Upper Paradise and Upper Upper Paradise channels (Kisutch: χ^2=11.8, p <0.001; Upper Paradise: χ^2=14.4, p <0.001; and Upper Upper Paradise: χ^2=7.8, p <0.001) (Table 6).

In 2013, differences in pre-spawn mortality between channels were also observed. Females at BC Rail had significantly higher pre-spawn mortality than the other side channels including; the NVOS side channel complex, BC49 side channel and Tenderfoot Creek (Chi-Squared Tests: χ^2=135.9, p<0.001; χ^2=71.8, p<0.001; χ^2=53.6, p<0.001; respectively). In the BC Rail side channel, 42% of females spawned out and 56% of females were partial spawners (Table 5). In both 2012 and 2013, Kisutch channel had significantly higher pre-spawn mortality than Upper Paradise, Upper Upper and Sue's channel (Chi-Squared Tests: χ^2=11.4, p<0.001; χ^2=28.8, p<0.001; χ^2=7.8, p=0.005; respectively).

3.1.8 Egg Deposition Rates

Area specific egg deposition rates were calculated for mainstem habitat and monitored side channel habitats to be used in the egg-to-fry survival calculations. In the mainstem habitat, egg deposition rates were similar in 2012 and 2013, 86.7% and 85.6%, respectively (Table 7). In 2013, egg deposition in the NVOS side channel complex was lower (79.5%) than in 2012 (86.2%). Because BC Rail side channel was only surveyed once in 2012 and Tenderfoot Creek was not surveyed in 2012, differences cannot be determined for those channels. However, in 2013 egg deposition rates were lower in BC 49 side channel as well (Table 7).

3.1.9 Kelt Behaviour

Kelting behaviour was assessed at NVOS and BC Rail side channels. Kelts were assigned as fish that spent greater than 48 hours resident in the channel above the fish counter prior to a directional downstream outmigration. The total down counts removed from the total up counts on the fish counters at each site was scaled so that kelts were not removed from the net upstream spawner calculations. At both channels scaling values were used based on annual tagging data, although this value changed only slightly each survey year at BC Rail channel. In previous years there has been high variance in kelting behaviour at the NVOS channel site. This was likely due to the greater variance in flows this channel experiences during mainstem high water events which likely assists the flushing out of kelts and the greater area for fish passage in a downstream direction. In 2013, flows were relatively low during the spawning period and a low percentage of spawners kelted in both NVOS and BC Rail side channels. In the NVOS side channel complex, 14% of spawners kelted and in the BC Rail side channel 4% of spawners kelted (Table 8).

3.1.10 Validation of Counters

Video validation evaluations have been conducted at both side channel counter sites annually. Counter efficiency has varied annually with fish numbers, river discharge and site set up. In 2013, counter efficiency at BC Rail were 77% for both up counts and down counts (Table 9). Average counter efficiency for the NVOS counters were 75% for up count and 101% for down counts, although both counters on site preformed differently (Table 9). Counter efficiencies at the NVOS for the river right channel, where the majority of fish pass through, were 73% for up counts and 96% for down counts. Both counters were validated early in season and the river right channel was working effectively, although, it was determined that the river left channel was over counting down count (146%). To correct this over counting issue the counter pads adjusted to create more even flow over the counter pads. The counter efficiency for down count after November 4th (when the counter pads were adjusted) was 86%. The counter on this channel was initially 80% efficient at counting up counts and when the pads were adjusted counter efficiency for up counts was then 74%.

3.2 Escapement Estimates

3.2.1 Adult Spawners

3.2.1.1 Whole River Estimate

Whole river chum salmon spawner estimates were derived from marking at the lower river tagging site (Figure 1) and recapturing/re-detecting them at three upstream side channels (NVOS side channel, BC Rail side channel and Tenderfoot Creek (Figure 2)) (Section 2.1.2). In both 2013 and 2012, high escapements estimates of chum salmon were derived from the mark-recapture study on the Cheakamus River. In 2013, the whole river estimate was 468,511 chum salmon and in 2012, the whole river escapement was 327,804 chum salmon (Table 10 & Figure 9). A large escapement of chum salmon spawners also returned to the Cheakamus River in 2007 when a whole river estimate was 267,574 chum salmon (Table 10 & Figure 9). In 2010 and 2011, chum returns to the Cheakamus River were the weakest of the 7 study years with whole river estimates of only 85,461 and 73,377 chum salmon returning, respectively. In 2008 and 2009, the returns were moderate in the time series, estimated as 117,780 and 165,318, respectively (Table 10 & Figure 9).

3.2.1.2 Upper River Estimate

Upper river estimates were derived from marking at the upper river tagging site (Figure 1) and recapturing/re-detecting them at three upstream side channels (the NVOS side channel, BC Rail side channel and Tenderfoot Creek (Figure 2)) (Section 2.1.2). High upper river escapement was estimated in 2009, 2012 and 2013, with the highest escapement of 198,420 chum salmon spawners returning in 2013 (Table 10 & Figure 9). In 2012, the upper river estimate of chum spawners in the Cheakamus River of 138,485 chum salmon. Notably in 2009, a large upper river spawner abundance of 105,540 chum salmon was also observed but in this cases this was the result of a change in the distribution of spawners not of a particularly high chum salmon spawner return. A higher than average percentage, 65%, of total spawners utilized the upper river habitat in 2009 (Figure 10) after a summer storm event resulted in the backwatering of a substantial area of spawning habitat above the Cheekye confluence for some 1.5 km upstream (Figure 1). This new backwatered area had previously been observed in 2007 and 2008 as a reach of high chum spawner density based on visual and radio tag observations and the loss of this suitable habitat in 2009 likely influenced a large number of spawners to move farther upstream.

Over the past three years (2011-2013), the proportion of total river spawners that utilize the upper river habitat has remained relatively consistent between 40% and 42% (Figure 10). The lowest spawning escapement to both the whole river and the upper river was observed in 2010. The estimate of chum salmon in the upper river of 12,827 spawners was 15% of the total river spawner estimate (Table 10 and Figure 10). Prior to the Cheekye washout in 2007 and 2008, the proportion of the run that used the upper river habitat for spawning was estimated as 16% and 20%, respectively (Figure 10).

When total escapement is high (greater than 100,000 chum salmon in the upper river), greater numbers of salmon were enumerated at the upstream monitoring sites (BC Rail side channel and Tenderfoot Creek) (Table 10). In 2012,

138,485 chum spawners were estimated in the upper river and chum salmon were observed and assessed for pre-spawn mortality up to river kilometer 16.5 (RSTs are located at river kilometer 5.5) in the mainstem. In 2013, when the upper river escapement estimate was the highest estimate over 7 years (198,420 chum salmon), fewer fish were visually observed and present to be assessed for pre-spawn mortality above the Bailey Bridge (RK 7) and none were observed as far upstream as river kilometer 16.5 (ie. in 2012, 98 female chum were surveyed between RK 11.3 and 16.5 while in 2013, no females were present in this area to be surveyed).

A six day increased flow event (>25 m^3/s) during peak spawning (November 1 to 15) occurred in 2012 while in 2013, flows during peak spawning were below 25 m^3/s and there were only two days when average daily discharge was greater than 20 m^3/s (Table 12). However, relatively high escapement was also estimated in the upper river in 2009 (105,540 chum spawners in the upper river) but low numbers of spawners were observed above the Bailey Bridge. Flows during peak spawning in 2009 were higher than both 2012 and 2013. During peak spawning in 2009, there were 14 days when average daily discharge was greater than 20 m^3/s and eleven days when average daily discharge was greater than 25 m^3/s.

3.2.1.3 Side Channel Estimates

Side channel escapement estimates were based on resistivity counts at the NVOS side channel and the BC Rail side channel and manual counts at Tenderfoot Creek fish fence. BC Rail and Tenderfoot Creek are both groundwater fed channels, as are the most popular areas for chum spawning within the NVOS side channel complex (as opposed to surface fed side channels). The number of spawners returning to side channel habitats to spawn is strongly correlated (R=0.96) with the total number of upper river spawners

(Figure 11). With larger upper river returns, higher numbers of spawners are estimated to spawn in the side channel habitats (Table 10 and 11).

In 2012, low numbers of spawners (683 chum salmon) were found in the BC Rail side channel, despite a high escapement of spawners returning to the upper river and other side channel habitats (Table 11). Prior to the chum salmon run in 2012, a habitat restoration project had been undertaken to improve access to Tenderfoot Creek which also altered access to the BC Rail side channel. Escapement into Tenderfoot Creek was improved by the project with 5,419 spawners utilizing the area in 2012 and 7,643 spawners utilizing the area in 2013. BC Rail escapement was much improved in 2013, with 3,331 spawners using the BC Rail side channel (Table 11).

The proportion of upper river spawners utilizing these monitored side channel (by comparing resistivity counts and manual counts to upper river estimates) has varied over the study period. The percentage of upper river chum spawners that utilized the side channel habitats has ranged from 10% to 33% (mean 17%, Figure 12). A strong positive correlation exists (R=0.83) between the percentage of side channel spawners and minimum discharge during peak spawning (November 1 to November 15) (Figure 13). When minimum discharge was between 15 m^3/s and 20 m^3/s on average 13% of spawners utilize side channel habitats; however, when minimum discharge was between 24 m^3/s and 25 m^3/s, the average percentage of spawners that utilize side channel habitats was on average 27% (Figure 13 and Table 12).

A strong correlation exists (R=0.82) between the proportion of spawners utilizing the flow-through NVOS side channel complex and minimum discharge (Figure 14). The largest proportion of spawners that utilized the NVOS side channel complex occurred in 2010 when minimum discharge during peak spawning was 24.3 m^3/s. In 2010, the upper river escapement was 12,827 chum spawners and 21% of upper rivers spawners utilized side channel habitats. The majority of those spawners, 16% of upper river spawners utilized the NVOS side channels, the most downstream monitored side channel habitat (Figure 13 and 14, and Table 10).

A strong correlation also exists (R=0.72) between the proportion of spawners utilizing the groundwater-fed BC Rail side channel (Figure 15) and river discharge. In 2008, when minimum discharge during peak spawning was 24.6 m^3/s and the upper river escapement was 24,059 chum spawners, the largest proportion of spawners were estimated in both of the most upstream monitored side channel habitats. Fourteen percentage of upper river spawners (3,309 chum salmon) utilized Tenderfoot Creek and 5% of upper river spawners (1,279 chum salmon) utilized the BC Rail side channel (Figure 13 and 15 and Tables 10 and 12).

3.2.2 Outmigrant Fry

Since 2001, chum fry production has been monitored on the Cheakamus River at the RST site (RK 5.5). Outmigration is generally either just commencing or has not yet started when sampling commences on February 15th (Appendix A Figures 1A-14A). Peak run timing defined as the Julian day when fifty percentage of fry have outmigrated has ranged from the 90th day (March 30th) to the 113th day (April 22nd). Prior to the implementation of the WUP (pre-WUP) from 2001 to 2006, peak fry outmigration occurred between the 91st and the 113th day, over a three week range. After the implementation of the WUP (post-WUP) from 2007 to 2014, peak fry outmigration has occurred between the 90th and the 104th day, over a two week range. Over the past fourteen years, peak fry outmigration occurred on the latest date in 2003 pre-WUP. Fifty percentage of fry had outmigrated by the 113th day in 2003. In 2002, discharge early in the chum spawning season was the lowest of the fourteen years due to minimal precipitation resulting in low inflows to Daisy Lake. The average daily discharge from October 15th to November 6th was 10.9 m^3/s (range 10.0 to 12.5 m^3/s).

Estimated fry production has varied from a low of 1,685,668 in 2001 to a high of 10,795,444 chum fry in 2013 (Figure 16 and Table 13). The average annual fry production pre-WUP (2001-2006) was 3,705,110 chum fry/year. The average annual fry production post-WUP (2007-2014) was 4,948,123 chum fry/year. An increase in average annual fry production of 30% has been observed since the introduction of the WUP, although, in three of the eight post-WUP years, fry production was less than the pre-WUP average. Higher variance in annual fry production has been observed post-WUP than pre-WUP. The coefficient of variation among annual fry production pre-WUP was 0.29 and post-WUP was 0.59.

Estimates of chum fry production have been derived annually from 2007 through 2014 from BC Rail and NVOS side channels. In the NVOS side channels the estimates have ranged from a low of 557,908 chum fry in 2011 to a high of 2,428,254 chum fry in 2013. The estimate in 2014 was 1,662,267 chum fry. In the BC Rail side channel the estimates range from a low of 23,022 chum fry in 2011 to a high of 459,562 chum fry in 2013 (Table 14). Fry production from NVOS and BC Rail combined has represented between 27% and 43% of the total production annually above the RST site (Figure 17). In 2013, 45% of the total chum fry were produced in the NVOS and BC Rail side channels. Fry production from Tenderfoot Creek was monitored in 2012 and 2013 and has made up 26% and 42% of the total yield in the upper river, respectively (Figure 17).

3.3 Juvenile Outmigrant Bio-sampling

Mean fork length of juvenile chum fry from 2001 to 2014 was 39 mm (Table 15). An analysis of variance of the fork length of juvenile chum fry from 2001 to 2014 revealed that there was a significant difference among years (ANOVA: $F=62.52$, $p<0.001$). The size of juvenile chum was significantly larger pre-WUP (39 mm) than post-WUP (38 mm) (F-Test: two-sample for variances, $F=2.30$, $p<0.001$; t-Test: unequal variances, $p<0.001$).

3.4 Index of Productivity H’, (Egg-to-fry Survival)

Egg-to-fry survival, H’ was calculated based on the estimated number of spawners for each area, the sex ratio of chum captured in the Tenderfoot trap, the fecundity of females sampled at Tenderfoot Creek and area specific egg deposition rates. For the entire area above the RSTs and without accounting for site specific pre-spawn mortality, egg-to-fry survival, H' in 2014 was 1.6% and in 2013 egg-to-fry survival was 5.7%. (Table 16). Accounting for pre-spawn mortality egg-to-fry survival, H' in the mainstem and unmonitored side channels above the RST site only, was calculated to be 3.6% in 2013 and 0.3% in 2014 (Table 16).

Egg-to-fry survival, H’ was also calculated independently for the NVOS channel complex, the BC Rail channel complex and Tenderfoot Creek upstream of the fish fence. Accounting for pre-spawn mortality, in the NVOS side channel complex, egg-to-fry survival in 2014 was 50% lower than the 2013 value. In 2014 egg-to-fry survival was 11.8% while in 2013 egg-to-fry survival was 23.1% (Table 16). Annual comparisons between BC Rail side channel and Tenderfoot Creek do not account for pre-spawn mortality because strong data is not available for 2013. In the BC Rail side channel in 2014, egg-to-fry survival was 2.6%, 46.4% lower than in 2013. In Tenderfoot Creek upstream of the fish trap, egg-to-fry survival was 25% lower in 2014 than in 2013. Egg-to-fry survival in 2014 was 20.5%, compared to 45.5% in 2013 (Table 16).

3.5 Habitat Carrying Capacity

In 2013, carrying capacity in the side channel habitats appears to have been surpassed in both the NVOS side channel complex and the BC Rail side channel (Figure 18 and 19). Carrying capacity for the NVOS side channel complex also appears to have been reached in 2012 and 2009 when the number of chum spawners using this habitat was 8,859 and 9,357, respectively (Figure 18 and Table 11). Carrying capacity of the BC Rail side channel appears to be around 2,000 chum spawners as a reduction in the number of recruits/spawner was observed in both 2013 and 2009 when over 3,000 chum spawners utilized the side channel habitat (Figure 19 and Table 11).

3.6 Incubation Temperatures

Average incubation temperature in redds was approximated by comparing peak migrations times of returning chum spawners to outmigrating fry. The Julian day when 50% of chum spawners had passed over the NVOS counter pads was used to indicate peak chum spawning. The Julian day when 50% of chum fry had outmigrated downstream past the RSTs was used to indicate peak chum fry outmigration. Chum salmon require 850-900 accumulated thermal units to emerge from the gravel (Tenderfoot Hatchery data). Fry migrate immediately downstream after emerging. The average number of thermal units accumulated daily was 5.6-6.0º Celsius (Table 17) on the Cheakamus River. Average temperature in redds is therefore approximately 1.5-2º Celsius warmer than the river temperature (Table 17).

4.0 DISCUSSION

The primary goal of this monitor is to evaluate the total spawner escapement and potential egg deposition of chum salmon to the Cheakamus River, in particular the numbers utilizing the area above the juvenile monitoring site located at RK 5.5 and the BC Rail and NVOS spawning channels. Egg deposition data can then be linked with fry production data (Melville and McCubbing 2012, Bonner and Schwartz 2012) to determine egg-to-fry survival rates to evaluate if spawning and incubation periods are affected by post-WUP related changes in river discharge. Also, spawner distribution is evaluated in order to identify key spawning areas and how discharge affects spawner distribution.

Chum spawning can be broken down in the Cheakamus River into three main locations for this study: below the RST juvenile monitoring site, above the RST site (mainstem) and in the side channels above the RST site. Where and in what density fish spawn, will affect egg deposition densities and potentially egg-to-fry survival rates and thus fry production. As we only have data on fry production from above the RST site, total river escapement data is only useful as a general indicator of fish abundance and stock health. After the seventh year of adult enumeration, three years full river data, 2007, 2012 and 2013, indicate high escapement years, two years indicate low escapement (2010 and 2011) and the other years (2008 and 2009) are in between.

After the second year of fecundity analysis, it is apparent that fecundity of female chum salmon varies annually.
Females chum salmon sampled in 2013 were significantly less fecund ($p=0.017$) than females sampled in 2012. Significant relationships between length and fecundity have been observed in both 2012 and 2013 but length only accounted for 22.5% and 38.3% of the variability in fecundity, respectively. Annul variance in age cohort representation could help explain this variability, as significant differences in population age structure were observed between years. Recent publications have indicated that egg per female fecundity may be a derivative of both fish age (3 or 4 years) and fish length (Kaev 2000). Length, weight and fecundity have also been liked to run size (Volobuev 2000). With additional years of fecundity, length and age information, fecundity of females in years 1 to 5 (2007-2012) will be estimated using these biological parameters. Significant differences in size were evident with females in 2009, 2010 and 2012 being significantly larger than females tagged in 2008, 2011 and 2013. Age structure could be determined for Years 1-5 from archived scales, if appropriate.

Pre-spawn mortality surveys conducted in 2012 and 2013 have revealed that egg deposition among side channel habitats varied both spatially and temporally. High densities within these channels could have increased pre-spawn mortality in 2013. Variables that have been linked to higher egg retention and pre-spawn mortality include temperature, time of freshwater entry and density dependent population mechanisms (Kolski 1975, Schroder 1981). Other causes associated with pre-spawn mortality include fish stranding, disease, lack of passage at culverts or dams and low water conditions (Wild Fish Conservancy 2008). Mainstem pre-spawn mortality and subsequent egg deposition rates were not estimated to be significantly different between 2012 and 2013 despite higher densities of spawners between the RSTs and Bailey Bridge in 2013. The assessment of pre-spawn mortality rates in Years 6-10 could be used to help derive an estimate of pre-spawn mortality rates for Years 1-5 when pre-spawn mortality surveys were not conducted; thus current egg-to-fry survival data are provisional at this time.

Egg-to-fry survival in side channel habitats is higher than in the mainstem. Distribution of spawners into these habitats appears to be correlated with both density (R=0.96) and discharge during peak spawning (most strongly to minimum discharge (R=0.83)). When minimum flows were higher (>25 m^3/s), a larger proportion of the upper river chum spawners utilized side channel habitats. Increased discharge increases flows in the flow-through NVOS channel which may be encouraging a larger proportion of spawners into the channel. In the groundwater-fed BC Rail side channel, increased discharge in the mainstem may be providing better access into this channel. In years of low escapement in the upper river, these side channel habitats, where egg-to-fry survival is high, are particularly important for fry productivity from the upper river. Additional years of data at higher flows would provide more insight into this relationship between discharge and side channel site selection.

When escapement into the upper river was high (2009, 2012 and 2013), the NVOS and BC Rail side channel habitats appear to reach and even surpass their carrying capacity. In years of moderate and high escapement, discharge rates during the spawning season may be more important for distributing spawners throughout the river to maximize productivity of chum salmon. Discharge during the 2013 spawning season was low and a large number of chum salmon in the upper river (198,420) spawned between the Bailey Bridge (RK 7) and the RST site (RK 5.5). Egg-to-fry survival in 2013/14 was very low. In comparison, in 2012 higher flows occurred during peak spawning and fish were observed farther upstream in the mainstem during pre-spawn mortality surveys. Egg-to-fry survival was 10x higher in 2012 than 2013. Additional increased flow events (either natural or anthropogenic) may have helped distribute these fish throughout the river and increase egg-to-fry survival. Hunter (1959) noted that stream discharge was an important factor in controlling the upstream movement of chum salmon in coastal British Columbia streams.

Literature reviews conducted by both Banks (1969) and Jonsson (1991) concluded that spawning migrations are associated with increased water flows. Telzlaff et al. (2005) found a complex relationship between hydrological variability and movement of adult Atlantic salmon spawners moving upstream in late October to mid-November. In years when discharge prior to spawning was low, fish movement was increasingly triggered by suboptimal flow increases as spawning time approached and in wet years with numerous increased flow events fish were found more evenly distributed immediately after fish entry (Telzlaff et al. 2005). Another three years of directed radio telemetry observations on female fish will provide us with a better understanding of the relationships between discharge, distribution and upstream movement of female chum spawners.

Including fecundity estimates and pre-spawn mortality surveys have provided more confident egg deposition estimates for all the areas assessed and thus, more confidence in the egg-to-fry survival estimates from which they are calculated. Mainstem egg-to-fry survival rates in 2013/14 without accounting for pre-spawn mortality were very low at 0.2%. Egg-to-fry survival rates without accounting for pre-spawn mortality in 2012/13 were also low at 3.1%. Parker (1962) observed a broad range of survivorship, 1-22% from 14 years of sample data on Hooknose Creek, BC. Bradford (1995) looked at multiple rivers along the Pacific west coast and average egg-to-fry survival was 7% to 9%. Egg-to-fry survival rate were reported between 6% and 35% by Beacham and Starr (1982) after 19 years of research on the Fraser River, BC. High densities of spawners in the mainstem areas likely affected survival in both 2012 and 2013. It is apparent that chum salmon egg-to-fry survival rates in the Cheakamus are highly variable among habitat types and ongoing work will establish the temporal and spatial trends and explore how they may be affected by discharge.

Peak fry outmigration appears to occur more consistently within a two week period (between the 90th and the 104th Julian day) since the implementation of the WUP in 2007. Prior to the WUP, peak fry outmigration ranged over a three week period and in two of the six pre-WUP years peak fry outmigration occurred later than the 104th day (on the 107th and the 113th day). The latest peak fry outmigration observation occurred following a spawning season during which flows had remained low (average discharge 10.9 m^3/s) from October 15th to November 6th. Low flows between 10.0 and 12.5 m^3/s may have affected access for migration chum spawners delaying spawning. Spawning timing in conjunction with water temperature during incubation and emergence is the primary factor regulating migration timing of chum fry.

Using upstream movement of spawners at NVOS and outmigration timing of chum fry in the mainstem as an indication of peak spawning and peak fry outmigration the average incubation temperature was approximated to be between 5.6 and 6.0º Celsius. Temperatures in redds are 1.5 to 2º Celsius warmer than the temperatures in the river. This indicates that the majority of outmigrating fry are emerging from redds with some groundwater influence. Further analysis of groundwater and river temperatures will provide more insight into incubation temperatures and the influences of discharge on these relationships.

Chum fry outmigration estimates calculated since 2001 on the mainstem indicate that chum fry production has varied greatly on an annual basis. Including 2014, comparisons of variation pre-WUP (CV=0.29) and post-WUP (CV=0.59) indicate that higher annual variation in chum fry production has been observed post-WUP. Reasons for this could include changes in spawner abundance, distribution patterns and changes in habitat conditions or river discharge (e.g., the influence of the Cheekye washout in 2009). Despite the high variability, an increase of 30% in average annual fry production has been observed post-WUP. The key study goal is the ability to detect a linkage between discharge and a positive change in fry production of 75% or greater as predicted by the modeling work pre-WUP (Marmorek and Parnell 2002). At present the observed changes in fry abundance fall short of this level of increase.

The size of juvenile chum was significantly larger pre-WUP (39 mm) than post-WUP (38 mm). Size of alevin and fry is influenced by both egg size and incubation temperature (Beacham and Murray 1986 and 1987, Weatherley and Gill 1995). Beacham and Murray (1987) found a change in incubation temperature from 4 to 8ºC corresponded with a 2mm increase in fry length. Water temperature pre-WUP was significantly higher than post-WUP, although, this is based on only 2 years of water temperature data (2001 and 2005) (McCubbing et al. 2012). Also, no egg size data is available prior to 2012. Post-WUP evaluations of these relationships will continue to be monitored and additional evaluations of groundwater influences on incubation could provide further insight.

4.1 Management Questions

4.1.1 What is the relation between discharge and chum salmon spawning site selection and incubation conditions?

There appears to be a correlation between side channel distribution and minimum discharge. When minimum discharge was near 25 m^3/s, a larger proportion of spawners utilized side channel habitats (particularly, NVOS side channel habitat). Egg-to-fry survival in side channel habitats is higher than in the mainstem, therefore, it appears that increasing the number of side channel spawners could increase upper river productivity as long as side channel carrying capacity is not surpassed. This theory will continue to be evaluated over the next three years of this study. Additional years of higher minimum flows (>20 m^3/s) would provide more insight into the relationships between discharge and distribution in both side channels and the mainstem habitat.

4.1.2 Do the models used during the WUP to calculate effective spawning area (based on depth, velocity and substrate) provide an accurate representation of chum salmon spawning site selection, and the availability of spawning habitat?

A large area of habitat upstream of the Bailey Bridge (RK 7) was classified as effective spawning area, although, chum spawners have only been observed utilizing this area in large numbers in one year (2012). In 2012, large numbers of spawners did returned to the Cheakamus River and to the upper river but even higher numbers of chum spawners returned in 2013 and chum salmon did not distribute as far upstream in 2013. This difference in distribution could be related to discharge during the chum salmon run. In 2012, the average discharge was higher than in 2013, which could have drawn chum spawners farther upstream. This hypothesis will be further evaluated over the next three years with the use of radio telemetry.

4.1.3 Are there other alternative metrics that better represent chum salmon spawning habitat?

Groundwater appears to be important to chum salmon site selection. Chum spawners appear to concentrate in groundwater fed side channels. To test if redds in the mainstem were influenced by groundwater upwelling, in 2010 temperature loggers were buried into the hyporheic zone within redds at Moody's Bar and at the Gauge pool (upper river tagging site) (Figure 1) (McCubbing et al. 2011). In the majority of redds observed there was significantly less daily variation in temperature and the water temperature was 3-5^0 Celsius warmer in the redds than surface water. Most temperature loggers recorded temperatures between 5-8^0 Celsius after late December (McCubbing et al. 2011). By calculating the average temperature required to accumulate 850-900 ATUs from peak spawning to peak fry outmigration, it appears that the majority of outmigrating fry are emerging from redds with groundwater influence.

Whether or not chum are selecting for groundwater in the mainstem spawning areas will be further evaluated over the next three years by mapping the site selection of radio tagged chum spawners and overlaying know groundwater upwelling areas (Moody's bar, BC Rail side channel, Upper Upper Paradise and Tenderfoot Creek). In 2013, 33% of females spawned in know groundwater upwelling areas.

4.2 Null Hypotheses (and sub-hypotheses)

4.2.1 H_1: Discharge during the chum salmon spawning and incubation period does not affect productivity, measured as the number of fry per spawner in the mainstem

In order to test this hypothesis, the number of fry per spawner in the mainstem must be determined. Prior to 2012 RST mainstem fry production estimates include Tenderfoot Creek fry data. Since the 5 year review process, in 2012 and 2013, the productivity of Tenderfoot Creek has been evaluated which has revealed that Tenderfoot Creek is very productive. Additionally, in 2013, pre-spawn mortality surveys were conducted in Tenderfoot Creek to determine egg deposition rates. Egg deposition and productivity will continue to be evaluated in Years 8-10. Using these estimates and the known adult escapement above the DFO fish fence, productivity of Tenderfoot Creek for Years 1-5 could be estimated and removed from the mainstem fry production estimates.

The fecundity evaluations at Tenderfoot Hatchery and pre-spawn mortality surveys in the mainstem and side channel habitats have revealed that egg deposition varies both temporally and spatially. Further evaluations of these variables will aid in the development of accurate egg-to-fry survival rates for Years 6-10 and help estimate deposition rates for Years 1-5.

4.2.2 H_2: Spawning chum salmon do not select areas of upwelling groundwater for spawning in the mainstem

In 2010, temperature loggers were buried in redds at Moody's bar area and on the bar upstream of the RST site (upper river tagging site) which revealed that the majority of redds were built in areas of groundwater influence in these areas (McCubbing wt al 2011). See Section 4.1.3 for more details. In 2013, 80 radio tagging were implanted on female chum salmon. One third (33%) of the females successfully radio tagged spawned in the known groundwater upwelling areas (Moody's bar area, Tenderfoot channel, BC Rail side channel). Radio tagging females over the next three years will provide more insight into site selection of female chum spawners and the relationship between site selection and groundwater upwelling. Current evidence suggests the hypothesis may be in-correct.

4.2.3 H_3: Discharge during the chum salmon spawning and incubation period does not affect the upwelling of groundwater in the mainstem spawning areas

With a better understanding of site selection in the mainstem, the relationship between discharge and groundwater upwelling can be further analysed.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Temperature Loggers in Side Channels

To evaluate whether eggs are incubating in groundwater or surface water in the NVOS side channel, temperature loggers should be used to record the water temperature in the side channel. Peak upstream migration can be determined from the NVOS counter and peak downstream migration can be determined from the BTSPAS weekly abundance estimates for the fyke at the mouth of the channel (fyke 1, F1) (Figure 2). Chum salmon require 850-900 accumulated thermal units from egg deposition to emergence. Knowing the number of days between peak spawning and peak outmigration, the average daily thermal units required could be determined.

5.1 Temperature Loggers above Bailey Bridge (RK 7)

To determine if there is a groundwater influence upstream of the Bailey Bridge, temperature loggers should be buried in potential spawning gravel substrate upstream of the Bailey Bridge. The areas upstream of the Bailey Bridge was initially identified by the model as suitable spawning habitat. However, chum spawners do not often utilize this habitat. If chum salmon are keying into the groundwater upwelling areas and there is not groundwater influence upstream of the Bailey Bridge, this could provide insight into why they are not selecting this habitat.

6.0 TABLES

Table 1. Numbers and distribution of PIT tags applied to chum salmon adults on the Cheakamus River, 2007-2013.

Year	Total # Fish Tagged		Lower River Tagging Site					Upper River Tagging Site			
			Totals	Males	Females	% Females		Totals	Males	Females	% Females
2007	870		795	349	446	56%		75*	45	30	40%
2008	951		569	328	241	42%		382	252	130	34%
2009	762		391	224	165	42%		371	261	110	30%
2010	914		537	334	204	38%		377	292	85	23%
2011	1890		970	766	204	21%		920	763	157	17%
2012	1517		722	379	343	48%		795	587	208	26%
2013	1907		890	515	375	42%		1017	795	222	22%

Table 2. Mean fork length ± standard deviation (mm) of sampled adult chum salmon during tagging operations, Cheakamus River 2007-2013.

Year		Lower River			Upper River	
		Female	Male		Female	Male
2007		743 ± 34	801 ± 20			
2008		718 ± 42	765 ± 50		719 ± 43	763 ± 51
2009		722 ± 31	769 ± 44		734 ± 26	760 ± 46
2010		737 ± 46	769 ± 49		748 ± 52	764 ± 52
2011		700 ± 35	727 ± 45		708 ± 33	730 ± 46
2012		726 ± 37	778 ± 52		739 ± 43	784 ± 49
2013		718 ± 34	764 ± 45		721 ± 34	774 ± 47

Table 3. Percentages of females captured by tangle netting at the upper river tagging site (number of females captured in parenthesis) on the Cheakamus River and at the Tenderfoot Creek fish fence (DFO) from 2007-2013.

	% Females	
Year	**Upper River**	**Tenderfoot**
2007	40% (30)*	23% (358)
2008	34% (130)	36% (1191)
2009	30% (110)	38% (1109)
2010	23% (85)	23% (67)
2011	17% (157)	21% (147)
2012	26% (208)	40% (2183)
2013	22% (222)	41% (3163)
*based on small sample size		

Table 4. The number (N) and percentage of spawned out female chum salmon in each habitat type surveyed on the Cheakamus River in 2012 and 2013

Habitat Type	2012		2013	
	N	Spawned Out	N	Spawned Out
Mainstem Habitat	602	89.0%	744	87.1%
Side Channel Habitat	773	82.9%	1775	64.1%

*see individual side channel comparisons

Table 5. The number (N) and percentage of spawned out female chum salmon in each surveyed side channel on the Cheakamus River in 2012 and 2013

Side Channel Habitat	2012		2013	
	N	Spawned Out	N	Spawned Out
BC 49	262	81.7%	339	68.1%
BC Rail	40	45.0%	268	42.9%
NVOS	458	86.7%	810	73.6%
Tenderfoot Creek			292	66.4%

Table 6. The number (N) and percentage of spawned out female chum salmon in the NVOS side channel complex in 2012 and 2013

NVOS Side Channels	2012		2013	
	N	Spawned Out	N	Spawned Out
Baby Gorb	41	82.9%	10	60.0%
Big Gorb			52	55.8%
Kisutch	123	77.2%	100	55.0%
Sues	41	90.2%	65	77.0%
Upper Paradise	151	90.1%	231	74.0%
Upper Upper Paradise	102	93.1%	352	81.0%

Table 7. The percentage of eggs deposited by female chum salmon by area in the Cheakamus River in 2012 and 2013

	2012	2013
Habitat Types	**% Eggs Deposited**	**% Eggs Deposited**
Mainstem Habitat	86.7%	85.6%
Side Channel Habitats		
NVOS side channels	86.2%	79.5%
BC Rail side channel	65.5%*	61.2%
Tenderfoot Creek	Not surveyed	75.9%
BC 49 side channel	83.8%	76.1%

* only one sampling period, not representative of the entire run

Table 8. Percentage of PIT tagged fish that kelted, total number of PIT tagged spawners in channel and portion of PIT tagged male and female spawners that kelted

NVOSS	% Kelts	Total	PIT Tagged Kelts			BC Rail	% Kelts	Total	PIT Tagged Kelts	
			Males	Females					Males	Females
2007	31%*					**2007**	13%*			
2008	38%	82				**2008**	10%	41		
2009	53%	49	26	0		**2009**	16%	25	2	1
2010	11%	53	5	1		**2010**	14%	14	1	1
2011	22%	130	26	2		**2011**	13%	40	5	0
2012	20%	54	9	2		**2012**	17%	18	1	2
2013	14%	110	12	3		**2013**	4%	28	1	0
PIT Tagged Kelt Total (86)			78	8		**PIT Tagged Kelt Total (14)**			10	4

*averaged from 2008-2011

Table 9. Resistivity fish counter efficiency based on video validation for the NVOS side channel complex and BC Rail side channel from 2007 to 2013

NVOS	Up	Down		BC Rail	Up	Down
2007	96%	99%		**2007**		
2008	72%	84%		**2008**	100%	95%
2009	85%*	74%*		**2009**	68%*	52%*
2010	71%	68%		**2010**	75%	78%
2011	68%	69%		**2011**	66%	78%
2012	49%	75%		**2012**	80%	71%
2013	74%	101%		**2013**	77%	77%

* at normal flows

Table 10. Pooled Petersen Estimates of chum salmon spawner abundance for the Cheakamus River upstream of the RST site and for the full river, 2007-2011 with 95% confidence limits.

Year	Estimate Upper River	95% CL LCL	95% CL UCL	Estimate Total River	95% CL LCL	95% CL UCL
2007	42,011	22,506	75,020	267,574	163,234	431,396
2008	24,059	20,206	28,639	117,780	86,066	160,776
2009	105,540	81,235	136,954	165,318	120,309	226,566
2010	12,827	10,002	16,434	85,461	51,453	139,344
2011	29,041	24,610	34,264	73,377	56,861	94,590
2012	138,485	112,254	170,765	327,804	234,250	457,195
2013	198,420	166,661	236,549	468,511	352,072	622,397

Table 11. Estimates of chum salmon spawner numbers at NVOS and BC Rail spawning channels and Tenderfoot Creek, 2007-2013

Location	Year						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NVOS	2,170	3,263	9,357	2,048	2,915	8,859	13,213
Tenderfoot	1,555	3,309	3,003	293	713	5,419	7,643
BC Rail	522	1,279	3,243	367	754	683	3,331
Total Channels	4,247	7,851	15,603	2,708	4,382	14,961	24,187

Table 12. Discharge (m^3/s) during peak chum spawning on the Cheakamus River (November 1 to November 15) from 2007 to 2013

Date	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
01-Nov	20.4	31.1	49.1	57.9	23.3	54.9	17.8
02-Nov	18.6	67.4	23.0	49.3	17.6	42.3	18.6
03-Nov	18.7	92.1	19.0	33.2	16.7	79.9	16.7
04-Nov	24.1	28.9	20.1	30.1	16.0	80.9	15.9
05-Nov	20.7	25.5	31.2	48.5	15.9	70.9	16.0
06-Nov	19.0	25.2	43.0	96.5	16.5	32.4	16.5
07-Nov	19.4	24.6	32.2	101.0	16.8	21.2	21.5
08-Nov	19.3	70.5	27.5	74.7	16.3	17.9	18.0
09-Nov	38.9	118.0	44.9	44.8	16.5	16.6	15.1
10-Nov	46.7	91.7	34.2	28.9	21.4	17.3	15.3
11-Nov	35.2	33.8	28.6	27.4	22.3	17.3	15.4
12-Nov	71.5	56.1	22.2	26.2	19.7	16.9	18.7
13-Nov	39.8	67.2	29.3	25.2	17.0	16.5	20.3
14-Nov	28.6	36.6	71.2	24.3	16.1	16.1	16.5
15-Nov	38.1	26.0	50.3	25.1	16.4	16.1	16.6
Average	**30.6**	**53.0**	**35.1**	**46.2**	**17.9**	**34.5**	**17.3**
Minimum	**18.6**	**24.6**	**19.0**	**24.3**	**15.9**	**16.1**	**15.1**
Maximum	**71.5**	**118.0**	**71.2**	**101.0**	**23.3**	**80.9**	**21.5**
Median	**24.1**	**36.6**	**31.2**	**33.2**	**16.7**	**17.9**	**16.6**

Table 13. Number of juvenile chum caught, marked and recaptured at the rotary screw trap on the Cheakamus River from 2001-2014 and Bayesian Time-Stratified Population Analysis System population estimates with upper and lower confidence limits, standard deviation and coefficient of variation. Bold = post-WUP estimates

Coefficient of Variation > 0.3 = Poor precision.

Year	Total Caught	Total Marked	Total Recap	BTSPAS Estimate	95% Upper CL	95% Lower CL	SD	CV
2001	122,044	43,520	3,557	1,685,668	1,798,406	1,595,828	52,172	0.03
2002	105,221	23,685	1,101	4,173,706	4,836,441	3,642,305	311,447	0.07
2003	50,143	11,537	181	4,501,682	6,620,388	3,335,970	898,827	0.20
2004	126,216	63,006	2,775	3,699,539	4,001,317	3,461,175	138,533	0.04
2005	174,469	62,312	4,425	4,101,706	5,073,701	3,548,635	654,281	0.16
2006	355,391	94,235	7,998	4,608,359	4,751,038	4,477,697	69,200	0.02
2007	**382,087**	**82,802**	**6,746**	**5,842,755**	**6,097,001**	**5,618,684**	**121,051**	**0.02**
2008	**81,115**	**35,469**	**1,878**	**3,806,330**	**5,014,920**	**3,261,866**	**497,455**	**0.13**
2009	**283,383**	**48,382**	**6,759**	**3,024,765**	**3,329,535**	**2,793,071**	**136,382**	**0.05**
2010	**366,185**	**94,647**	**10,102**	**7,264,443**	**7,825,972**	**6,735,949**	**280,858**	**0.04**
2011	**188,897**	**59,734**	**7,718**	**1,882,688**	**1,973,763**	**1,804,029**	**43,817**	**0.02**
2012	**186,073**	**42,369**	**4,350**	**2,760,670**	**2,913,866**	**2,619,252**	**74,013**	**0.03**
2013	**897,121**	**92,212**	**10,165**	**10,795,444**	**11,077,880**	**10,521,160**	**143,849**	**0.01**
2014	**402,910**	**88,537**	**10,301**	**4,207,889**	**4,303,532**	**4,115,233**	**48,069**	**0.01**

Table 14. Chum Fry Production on the Cheakamus River upstream of the RST site 2008-2013

Location	All Chum Fry above RST	Mainstem Chum Fry	NVOS Side Channel Complex	BC Rail Side Channel	Tenderfoot Creek Chum Fry
2008	**3,806,330**	2,684,494	965,096	156,740	
2009	**3,024,766**	1,709,022	924,726	391,018	
2010	**7,264,444**	5,008,836	1,986,853	268,755	
2011	**1,882,689**	1,301,759	557,908	23,022	
2012	**2,760,670**	1,994,304	668,231	98,135	
2013	**10,795,444**	5,053,570	2,428,254	459,562	2,854,058
2014	**4,207,889**	529,632	1,662,267	228,403	1,787,587

Table 15. Summary of mean chum fry lengths (mm) 2001-2014 from the Cheakamus River. Bold = post-WUP

Year	N	Mean Length (mm)	Range
2001	352	40	31-50
2002	414	39	30-53
2003	276	41	33-55
2004	223	39	32-50
2005	200	39	31-55
2006	224	39	30-54
2007	**425**	**38**	**30-54**
2008	**459**	**39**	**31-49**
2009	**400**	**39**	**34-57**
2010	**400**	**38**	**31-48**
2011	**465**	**39**	**35-45**
2012	**405**	**37**	**30-41**
2013	**448**	**38**	**27-42**
2014	**373**	**38**	**31-49**

Table 16. Egg-to-fry survival by habitat area in 2013 and 2014 (with and without accounting for site specific egg deposition rates from pre-spawn mortality (PSM) surveys)

Location	Egg to Fry Survival		Egg to Fry Survival - without PSM	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
All Area above RST			5.7%	1.6%
Mainstem above RST	3.6%	0.3%	3.1%	0.2%
NVOS Side Channel	23.1%	11.8%	19.9%	9.4%
BC Rail Side Channel	58.0%*	4.2%	49.0%	2.6%
Tenderfoot Creek Natural Spawners	53.9%*	53.9%	45.5%	20.5%

*egg deposition rates of all side channel habitat areas used

Table 17. Annual incubation temperatures in redds compared to river temperatures (2007-2013)

	Julian Day			Average Daily Temperature in Redds (^{0} C)		Average Daily Temperature in River (^{0} C) (RST Logger)
Spawner Year	**Peak Chum Spawning**	**Peak Fry Outmigration**	**Days of Incubation**	**850 ATU**	**900 ATU**	
2007	313	104	156	5.4	5.8	4.2*
2008	312	93	146	5.8	6.2	3.6**
2009	310	91	146	5.8	6.2	4.5
2010	305	90	150	5.7	6.0	3.9
2011	313	98	150	5.7	6.0	3.8
2012	303	94	156	5.4	5.8	4.6
2013	313	103	155	5.5	5.8	4.1
Average	**310**	**96**	**151**	**5.6**	**6.0**	**4.1**

* missing 3 weeks of temperature data in December 2007

** missing one week of temperature data in March 2009

7.0 FIGURES

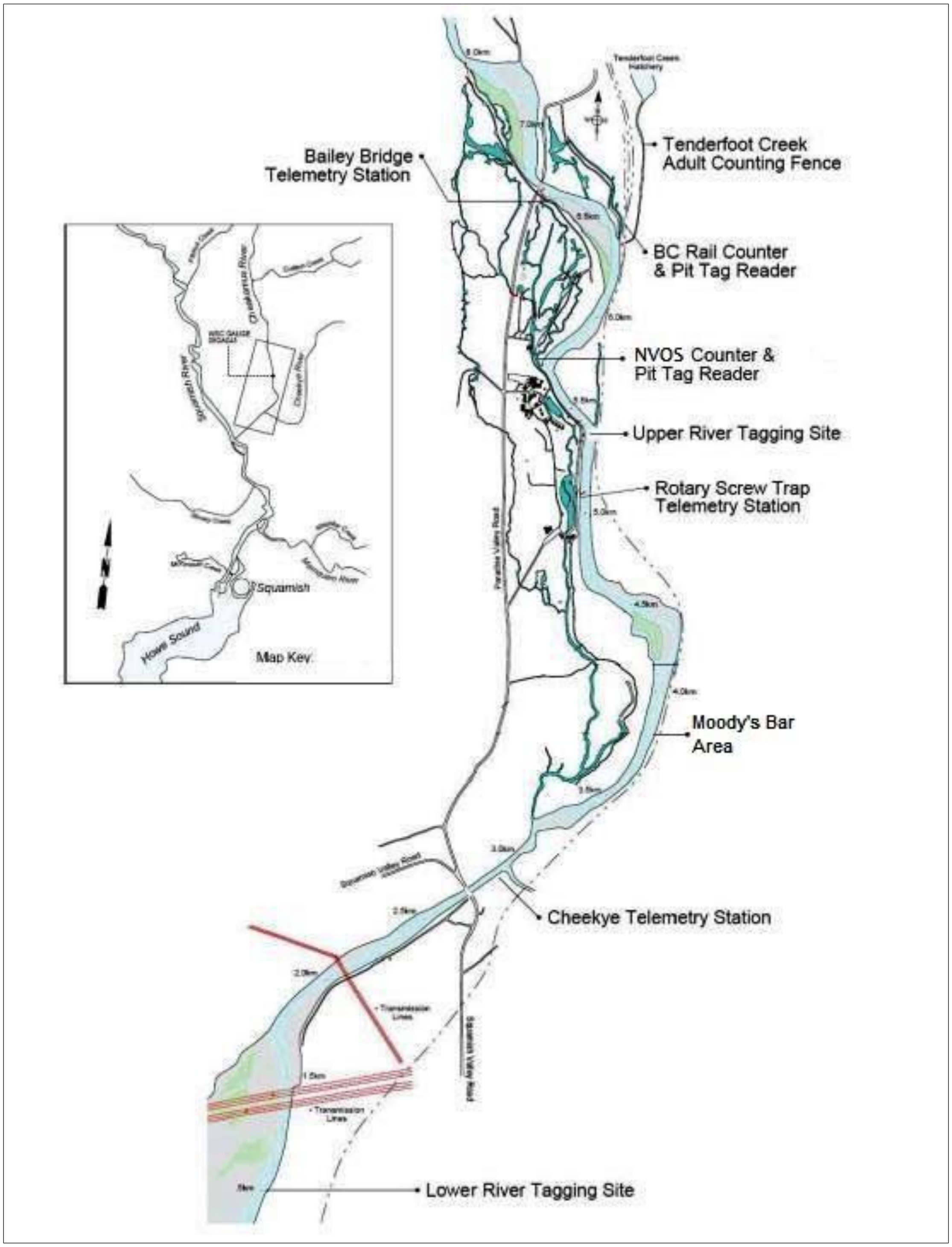

Figure 1: Study area for Cheakamus River chum salmon escapement monitoring (River KM 0.5-8.0)

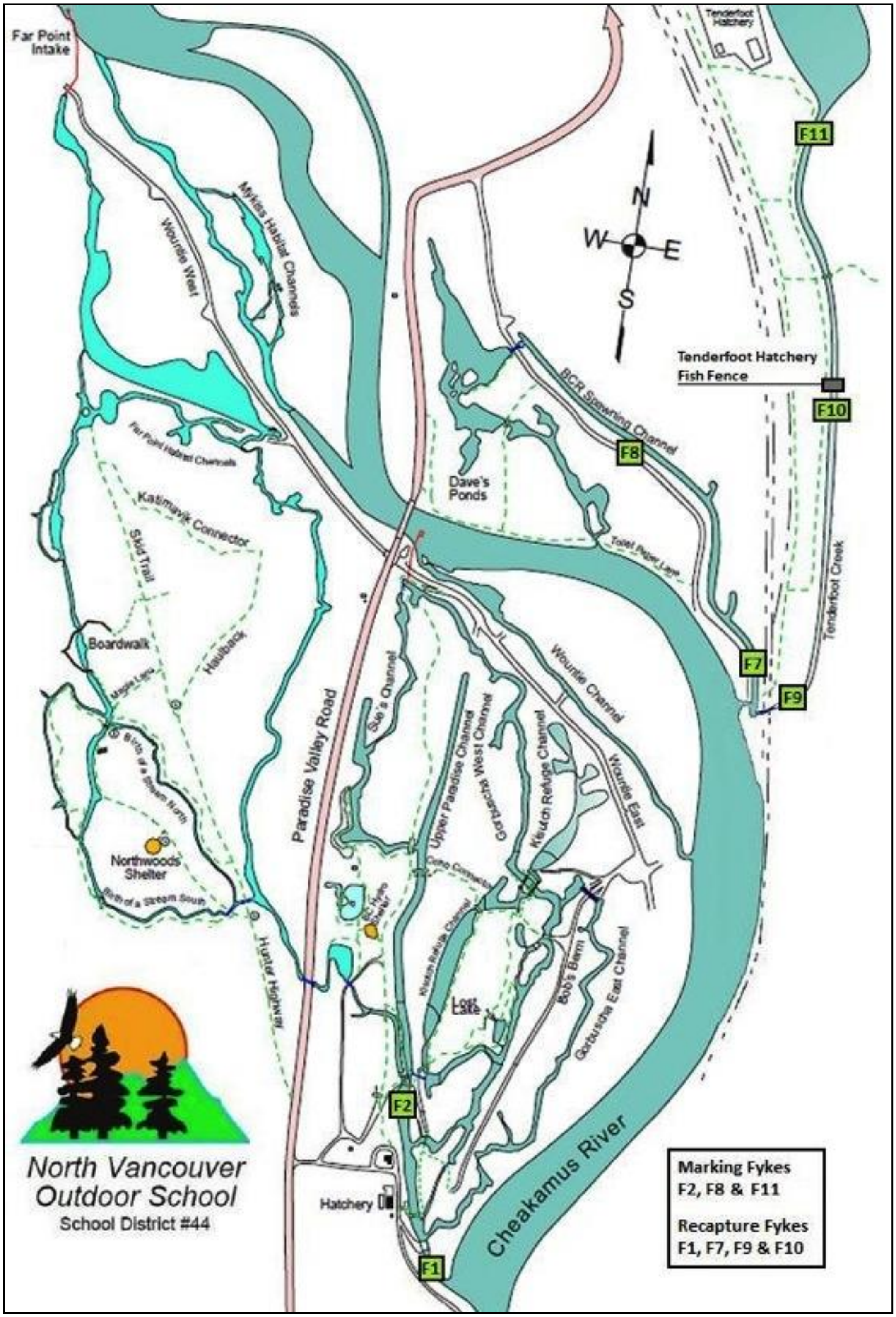

Figure 2. Site map showing fyke trap locations and network of side channels upstream of the RST site (Figure 1)

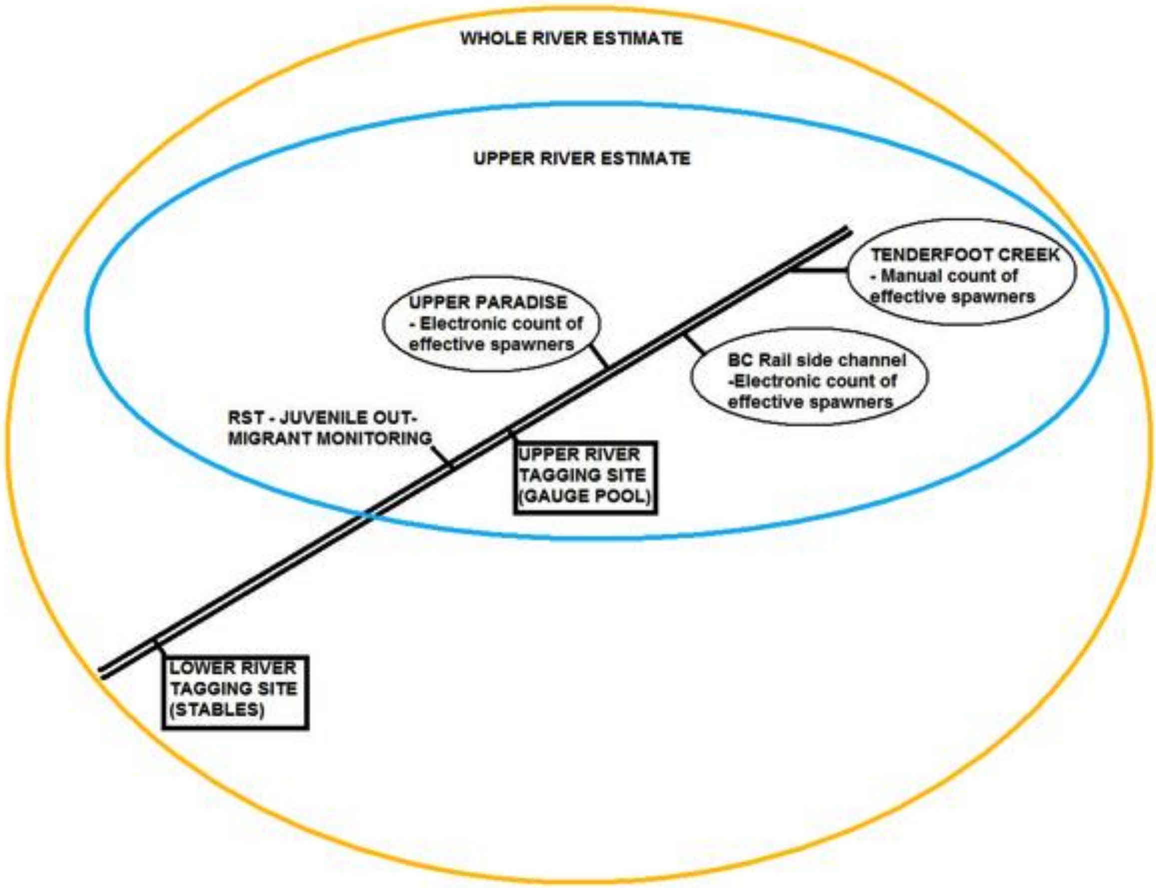

Figure 3. Conceptual diagram of the Cheakamus River chum salmon spawner enumeration monitor illustrating the spatial relationship of tagging and monitoring locations. Whole river (yellow ellipse), Upper river (blue ellipse), and individual side channel (black ellipses) spawner estimates are highlighted.

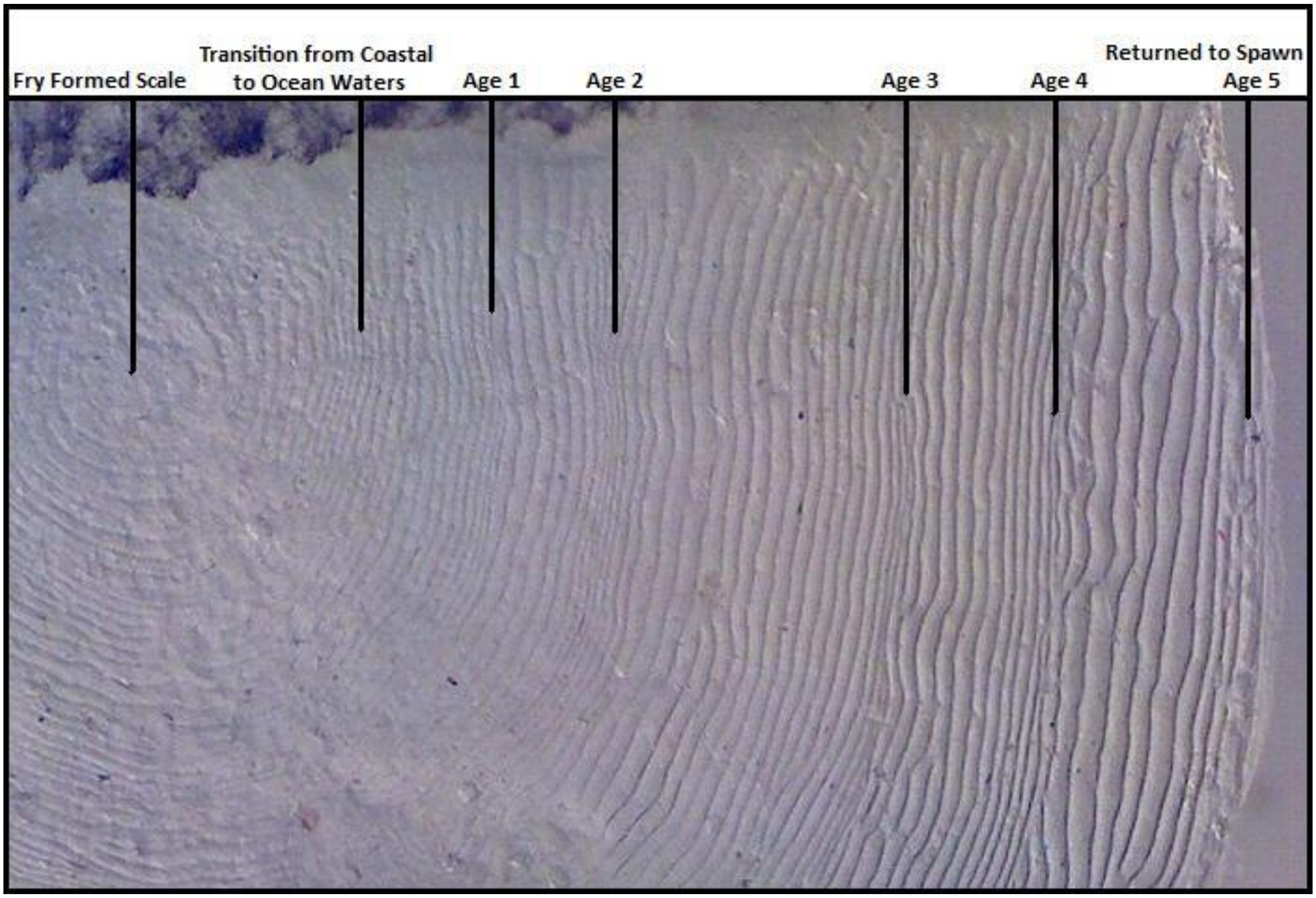

Figure 4. Magnified chum scale (200x) showing periods of slowed growth during the transition from coastal to ocean waters and winter periods at age 1,2,3,4, and returning to spawn at age 5

Figure 5. An example of what 500 eggs looks like for differentiating between the pre-spawn mortality classifications of spawned-out (zero to 500 loose eggs) and partially spawned (over 500 loose eggs) female chum

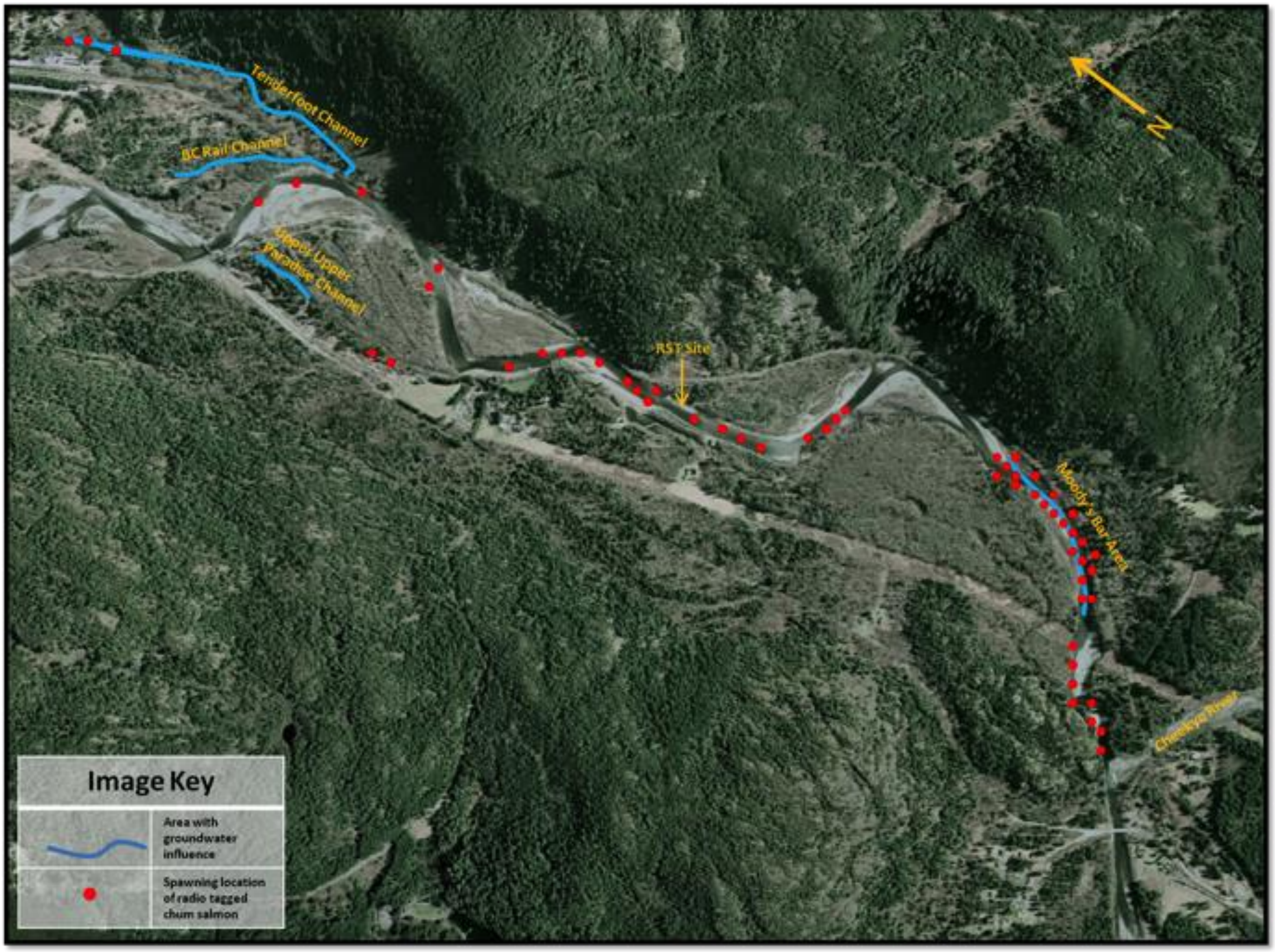

Figure 6. Spawning locations of radio tagged chum salmon in 2013 and areas with groundwater influence

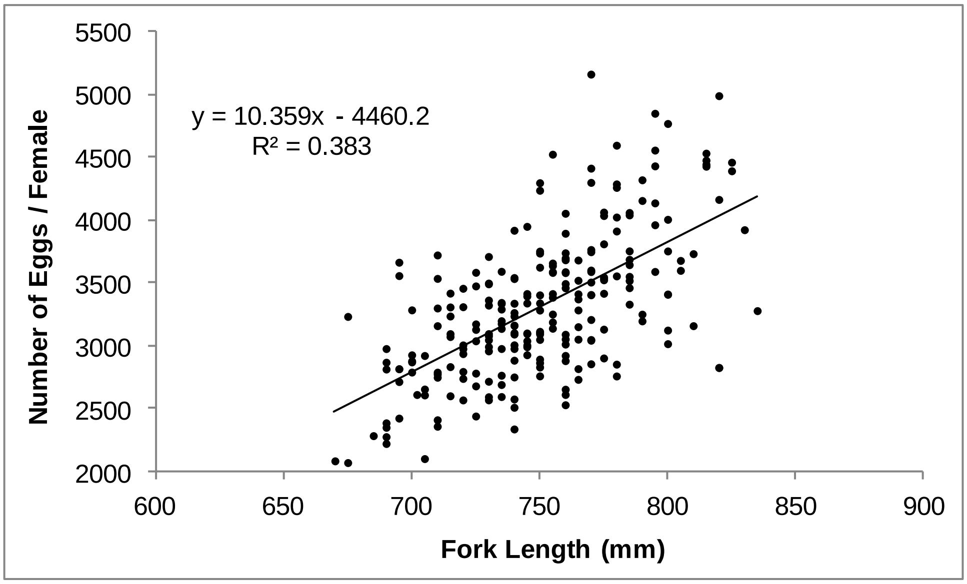

Figure 7. Annual fecundity (number of eggs/female) vs. fork length (mm); female chum salmon from Tenderfoot Creek, 2013

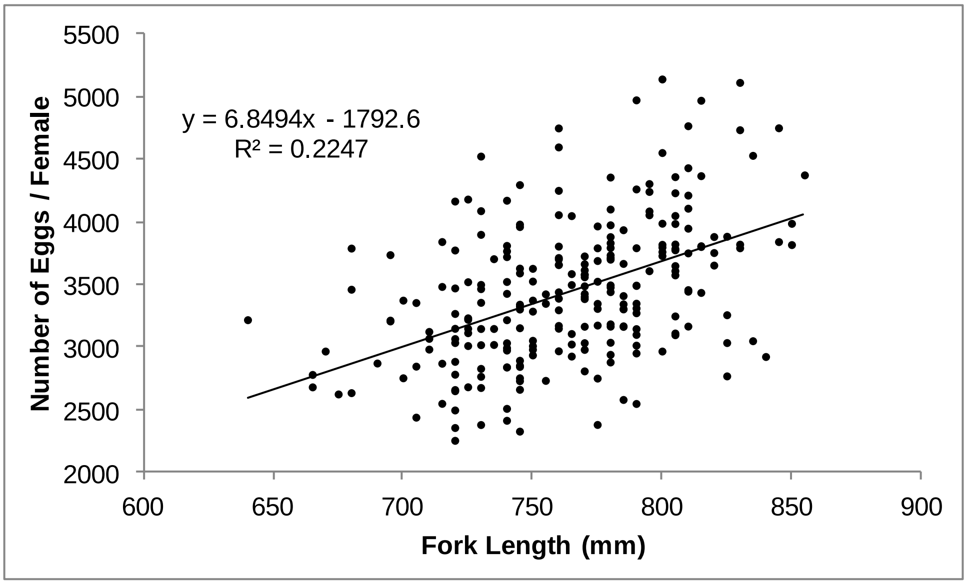

Figure 8. Annual fecundity (number of eggs/female) vs. fork length (mm); female chum salmon from Tenderfoot Creek, 2012

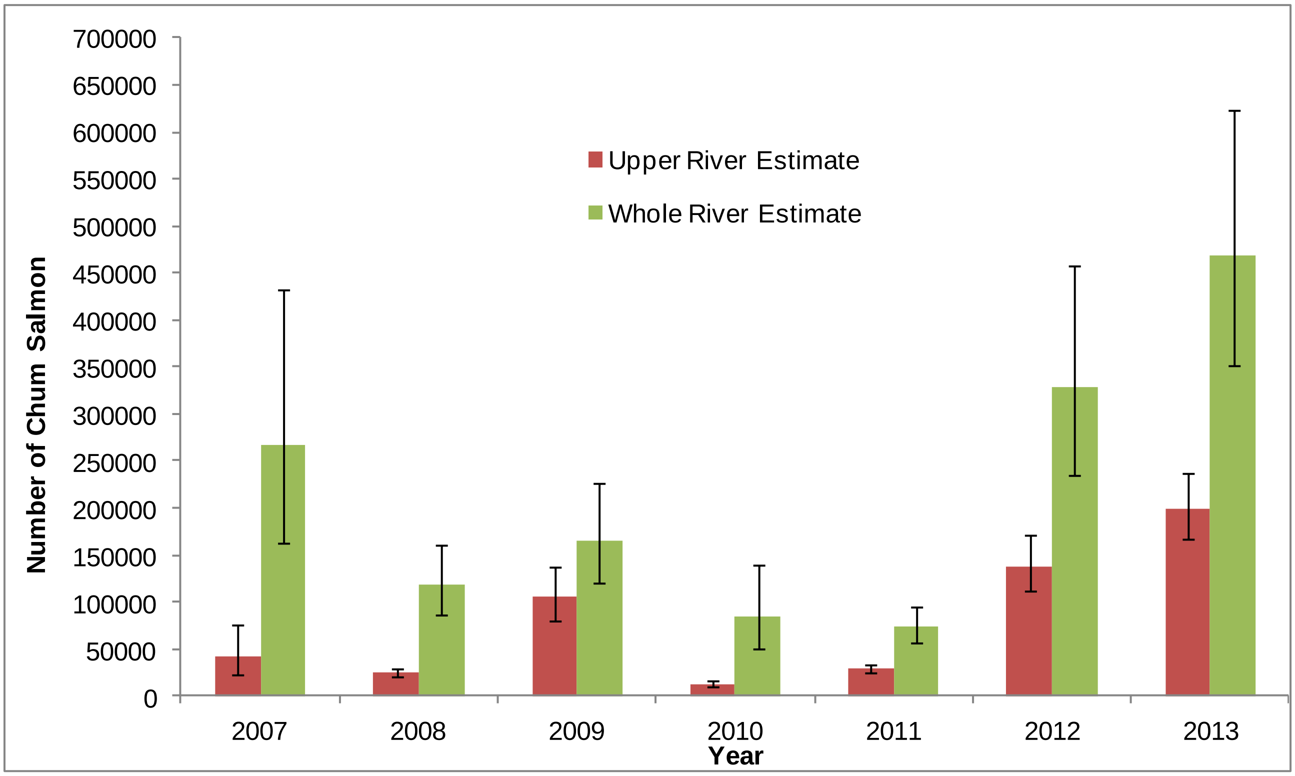

Figure 9. Pooled Petersen Estimate of chum spawner escapement in the upper portion of the Cheakamus River and whole river estimate with 95% confidence limits from 2007-2013

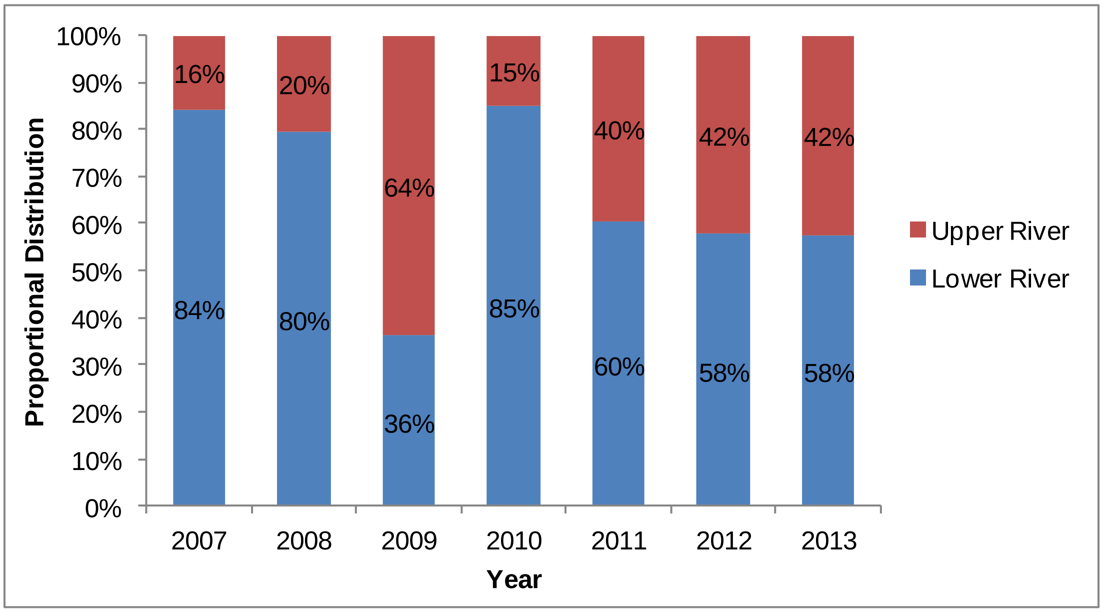

Figure 10. Distribution of chum spawners in the upper and lower river habitat areas from 2007 to 2013

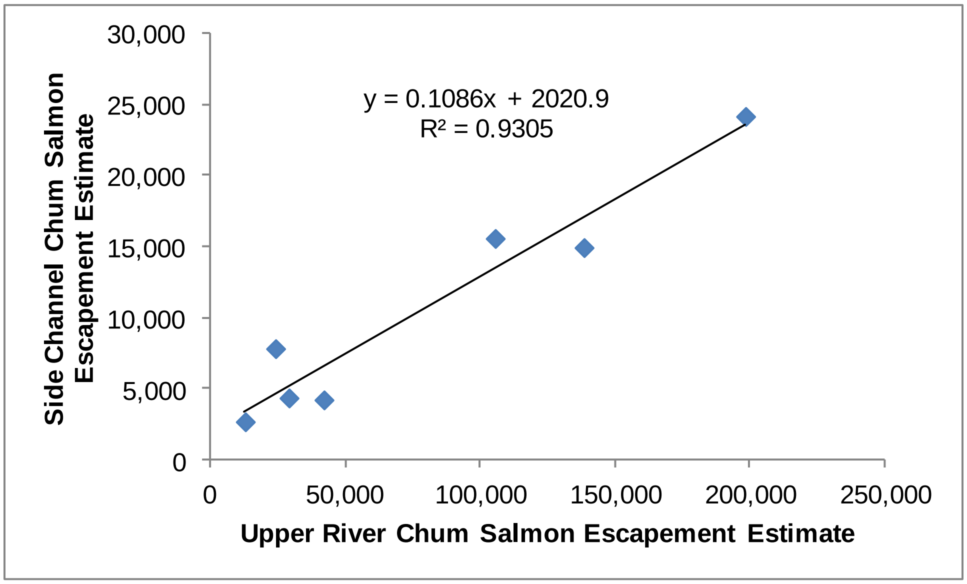

Figure 11. The relationship between the number of side channel chum salmon spawners and the number of upper river chum salmon spawners, showing data from 2007-2013

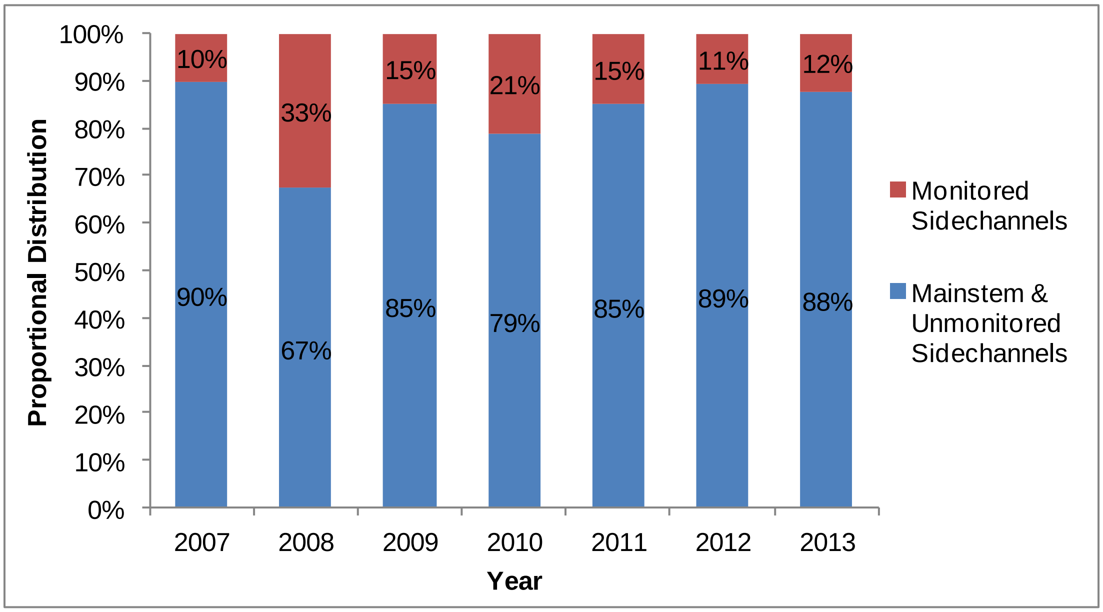

Figure 12. The proportion of upper river chum spawners utilizing monitored side channel habitats and those utilizing the mainstem and unmonitored side channel habitats from 2007 to 2013

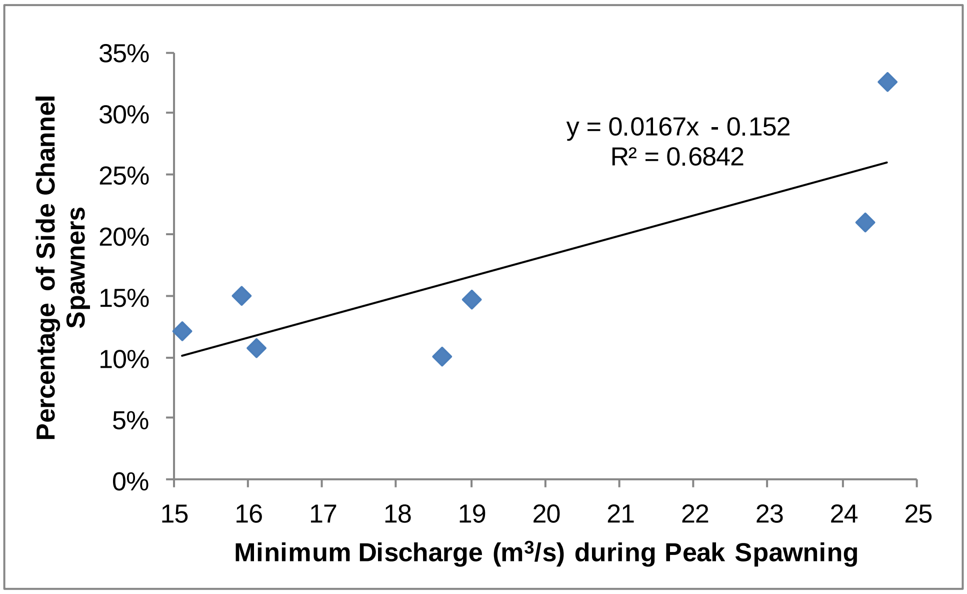

Figure 13. The relationship between the percentage of side channel spawners and the minimum discharge during peak spawning, showing data from 2007-2013

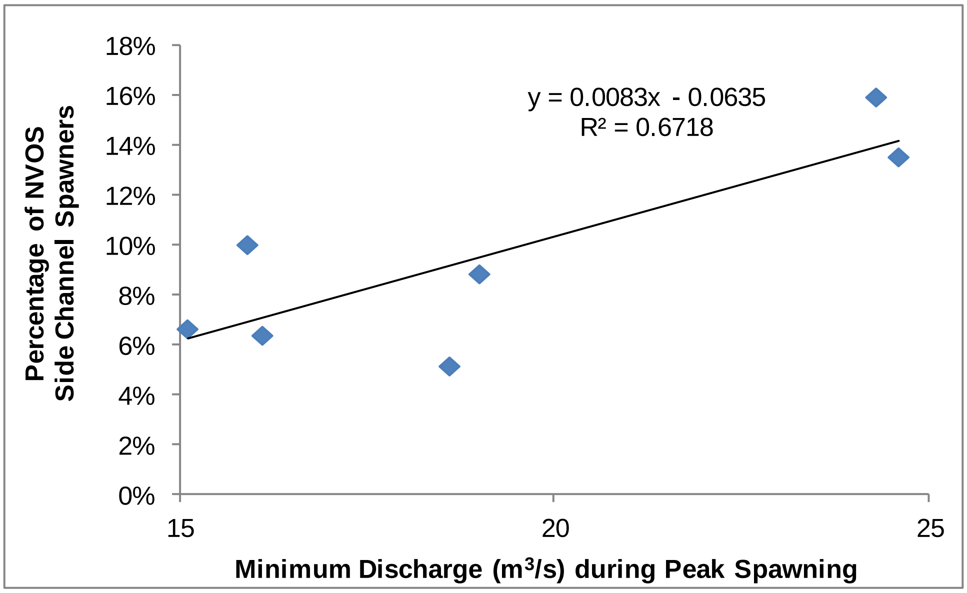

Figure 14. The relationship between the percentage of NVOS side channel spawners and the minimum discharge during peak spawning, showing data from 2007-2013

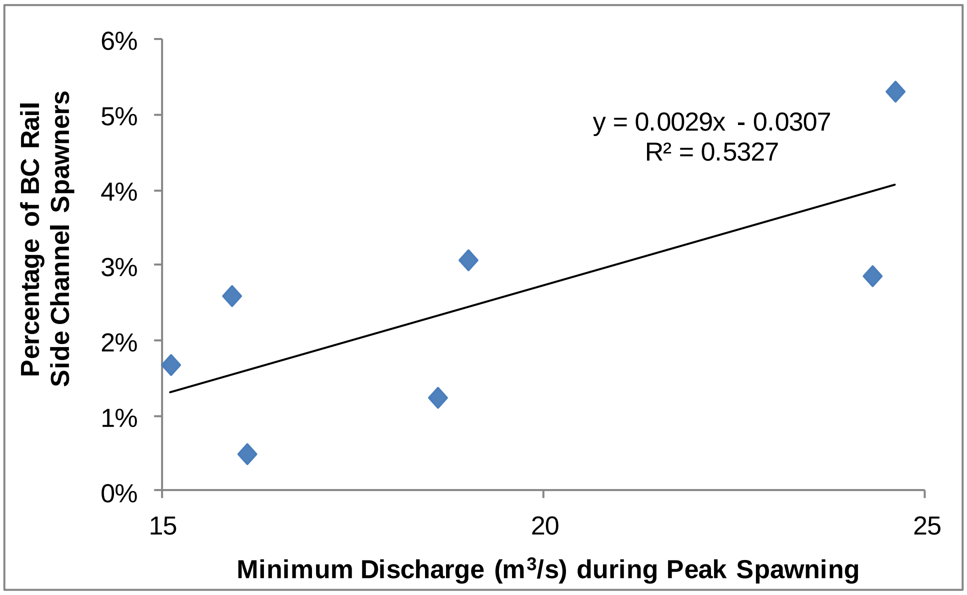

Figure 15. The relationship between the percentage of BC Rail side channel spawners and the minimum discharge during peak spawning, showing data from 2007-2013

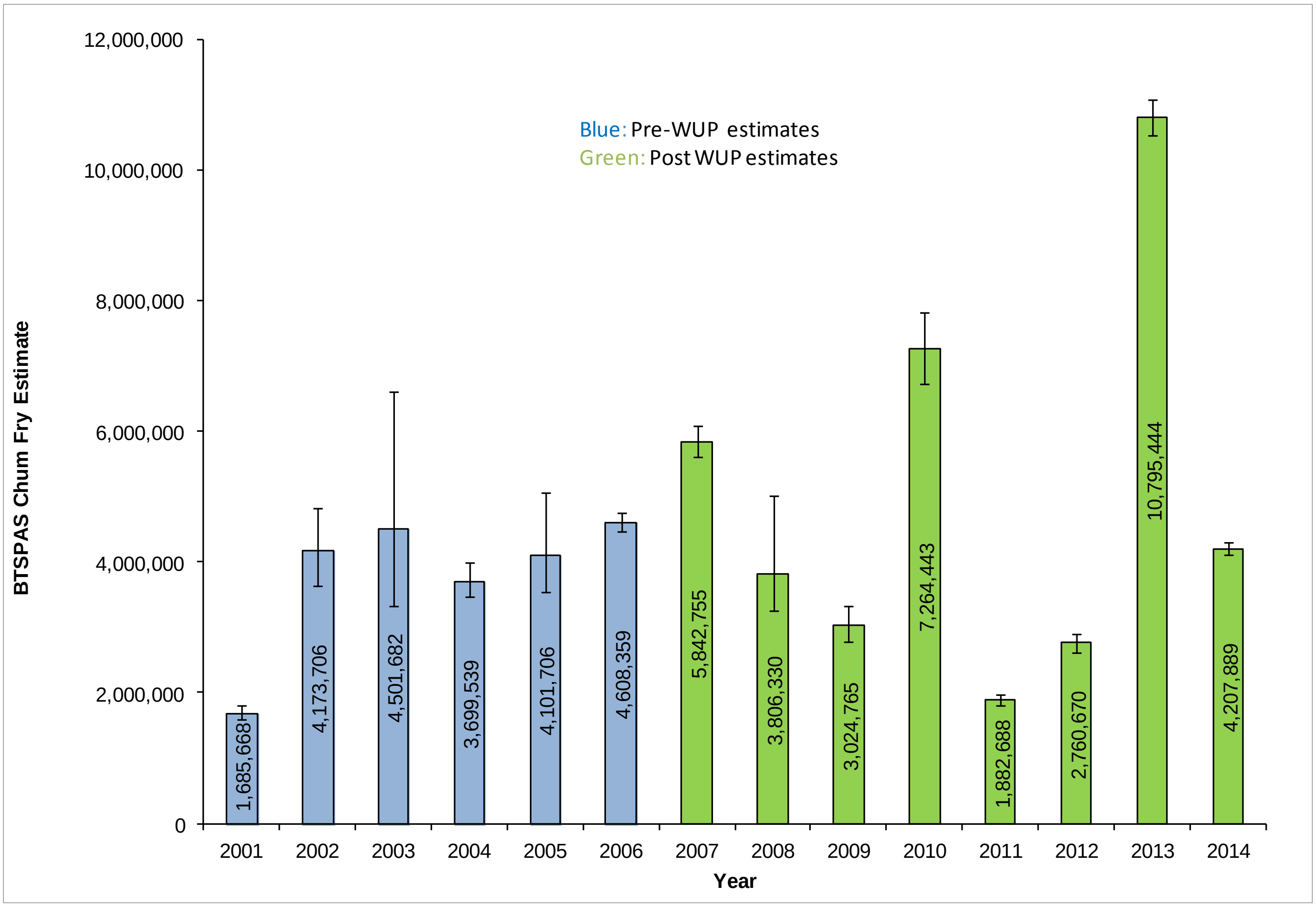

Figure 16. Bayesian Time-Stratified Population Analysis System (BTSPAS) Estimate of chum fry outmigrating from upstream of the Rotary Screw Traps on the Cheakamus River from 2001-2014 including 95% confidence limits

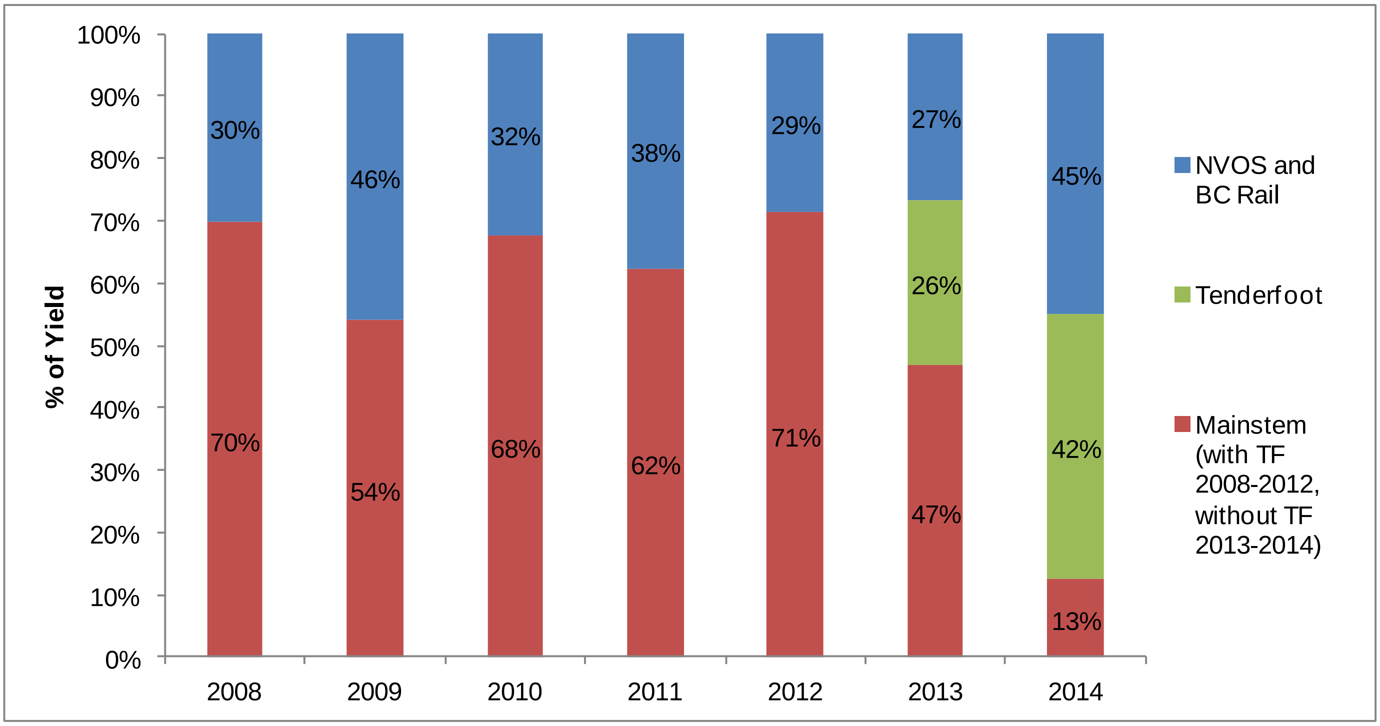

Figure 17. Yield of chum fry from the mainstem habitat, NVOS and BC Rail side channels and Tenderfoot Creek (2013 and 2014) in the Cheakamus River 2008-2013

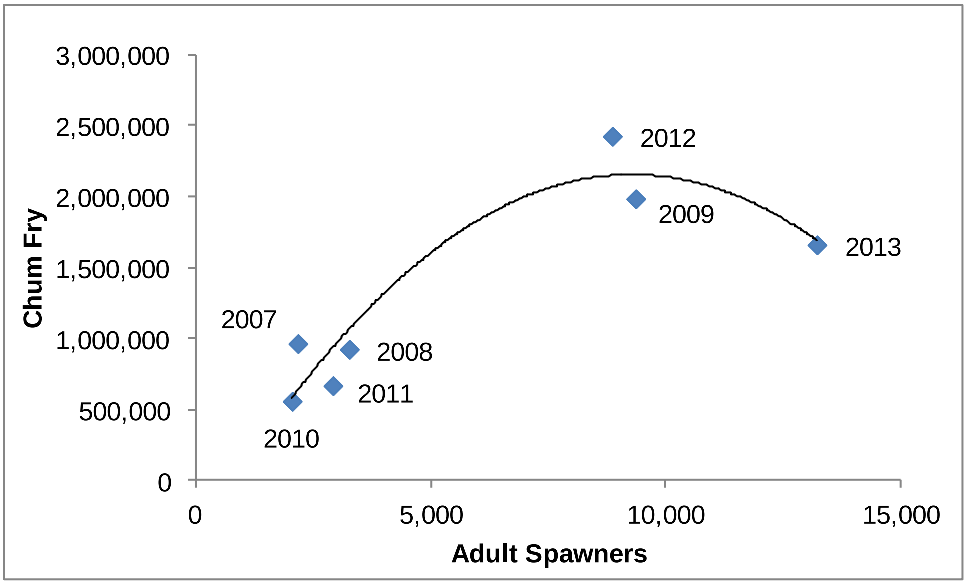

Figure 18. The spawner-recruit curve for the NVOS side channel complex

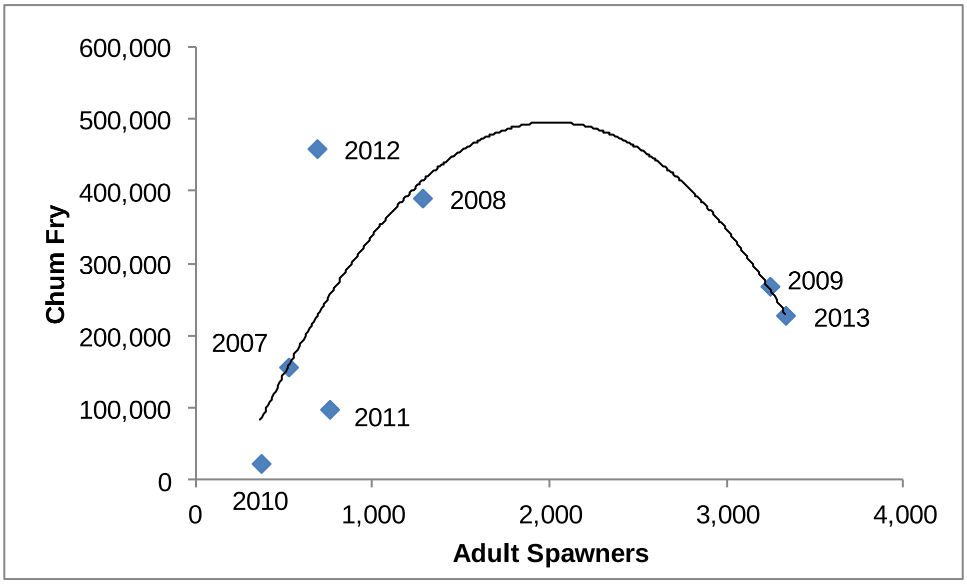

Figure 19. The spawner-recruit curve for the BC rail side channel

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APPENDIX A. Supplemental Data

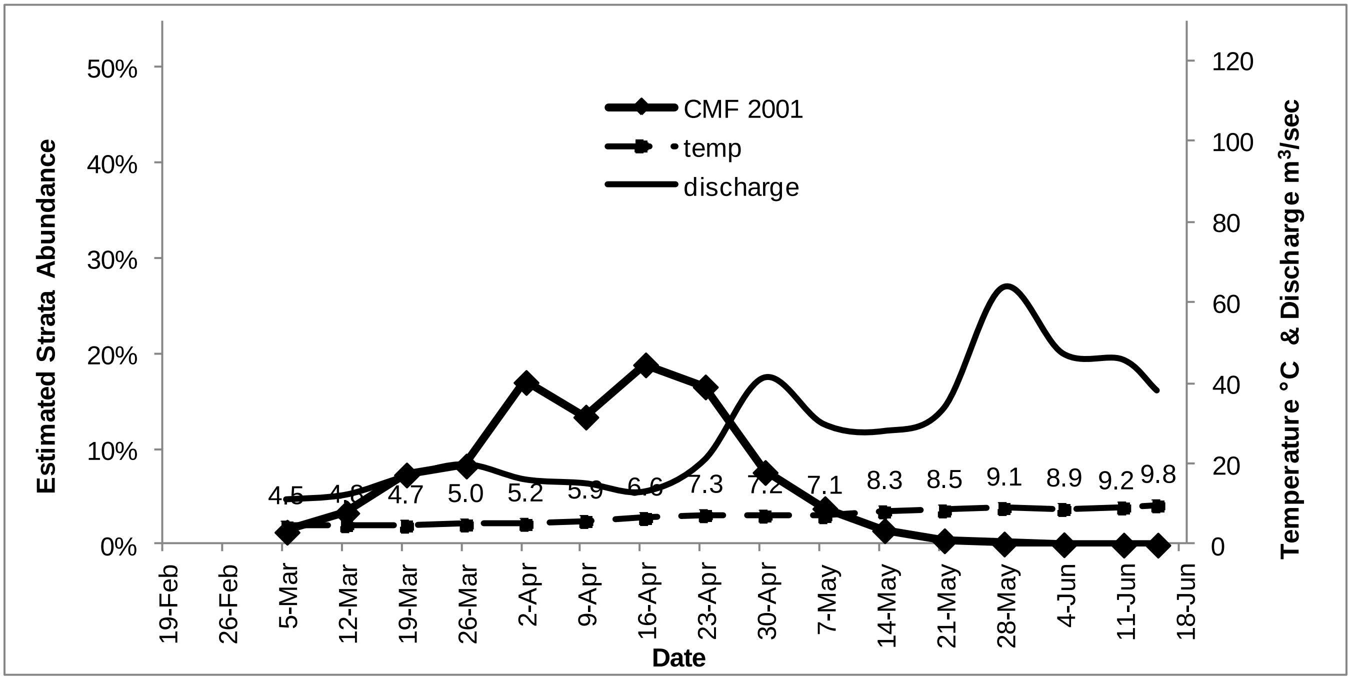

Figure 1A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2001 (Pre-WUP)

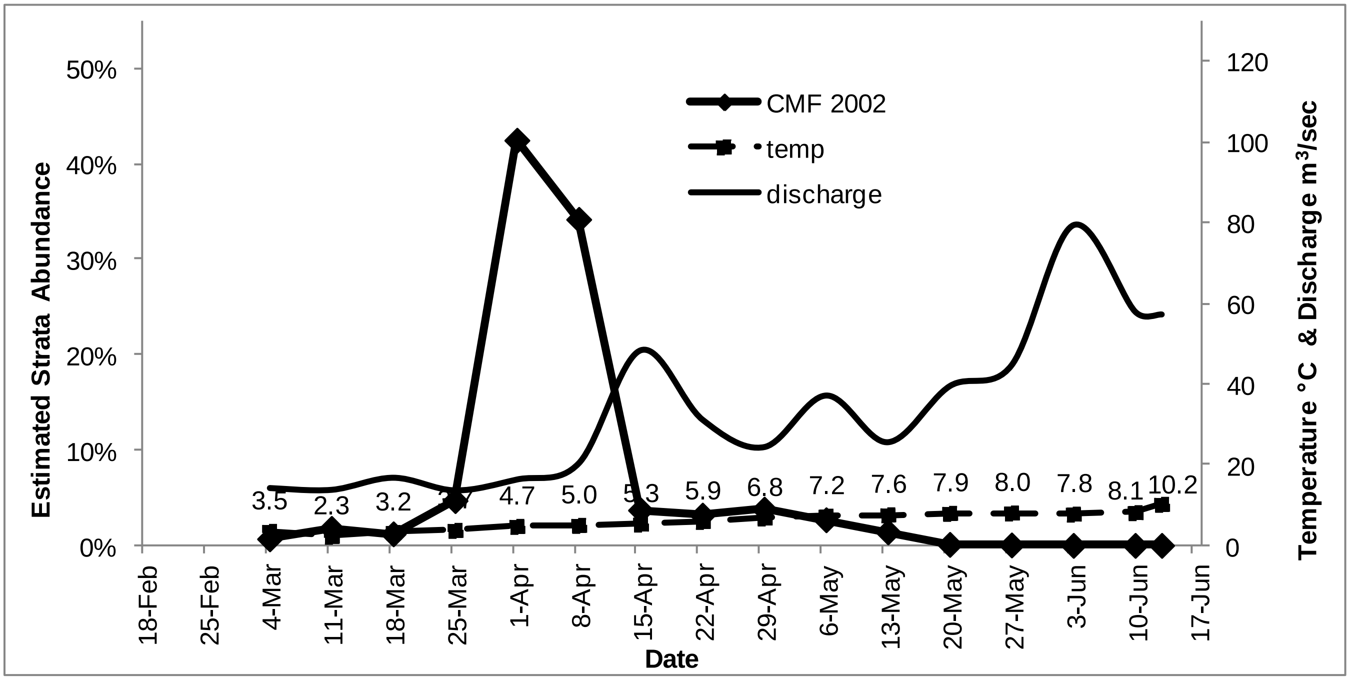

Figure 2A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2002 (Pre-WUP)

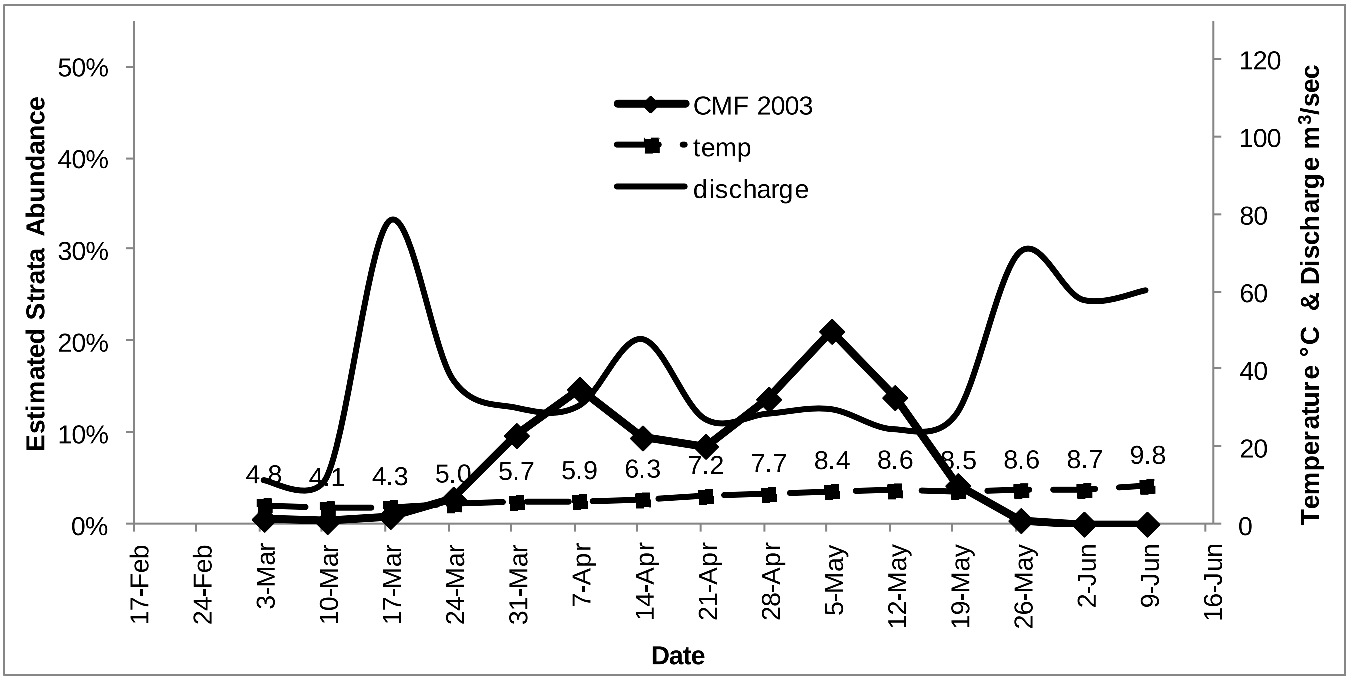

Figure 3A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2003 (Pre-WUP)

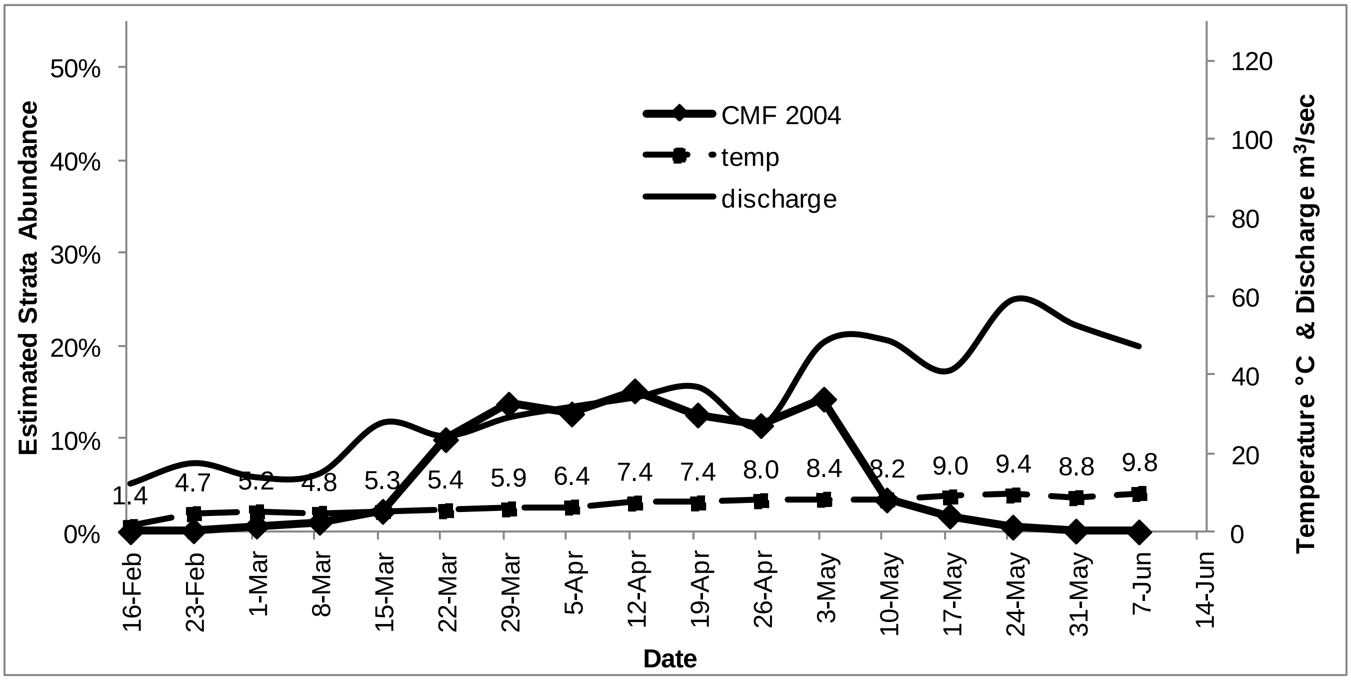

Figure 4A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2004 (Pre-WUP)

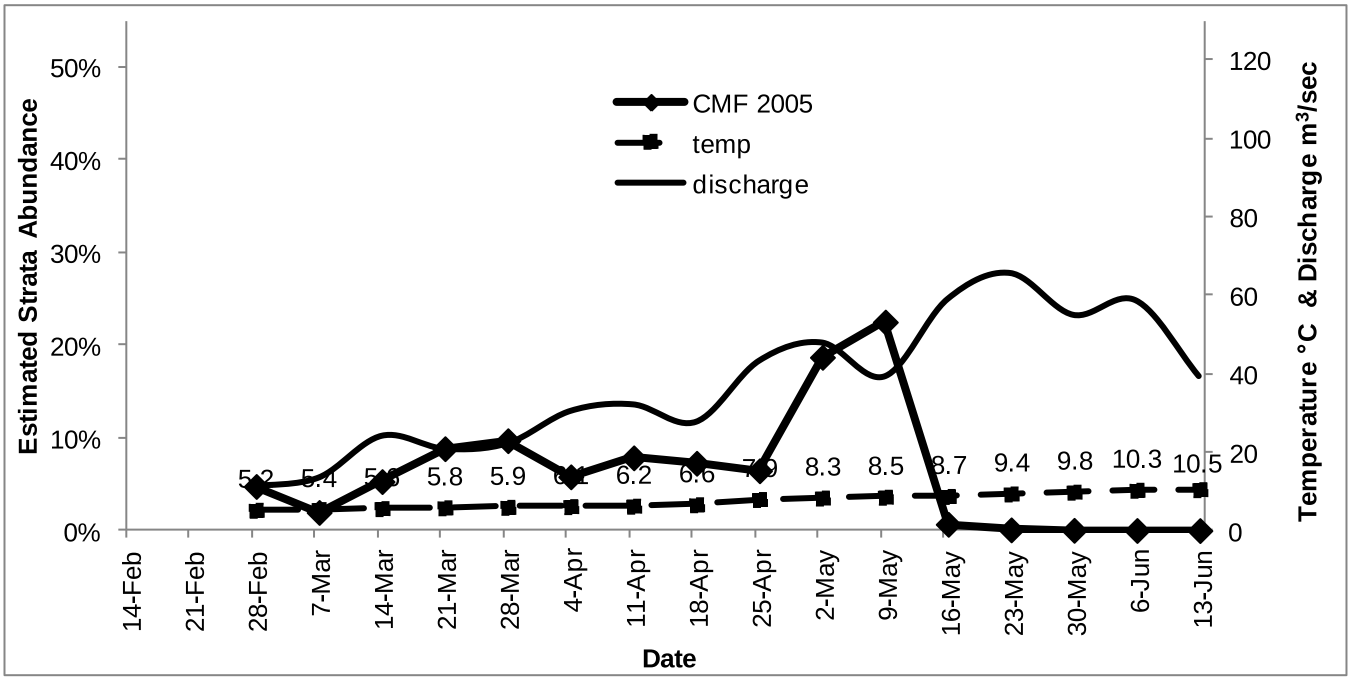

Figure 5A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2005 (Pre-WUP)

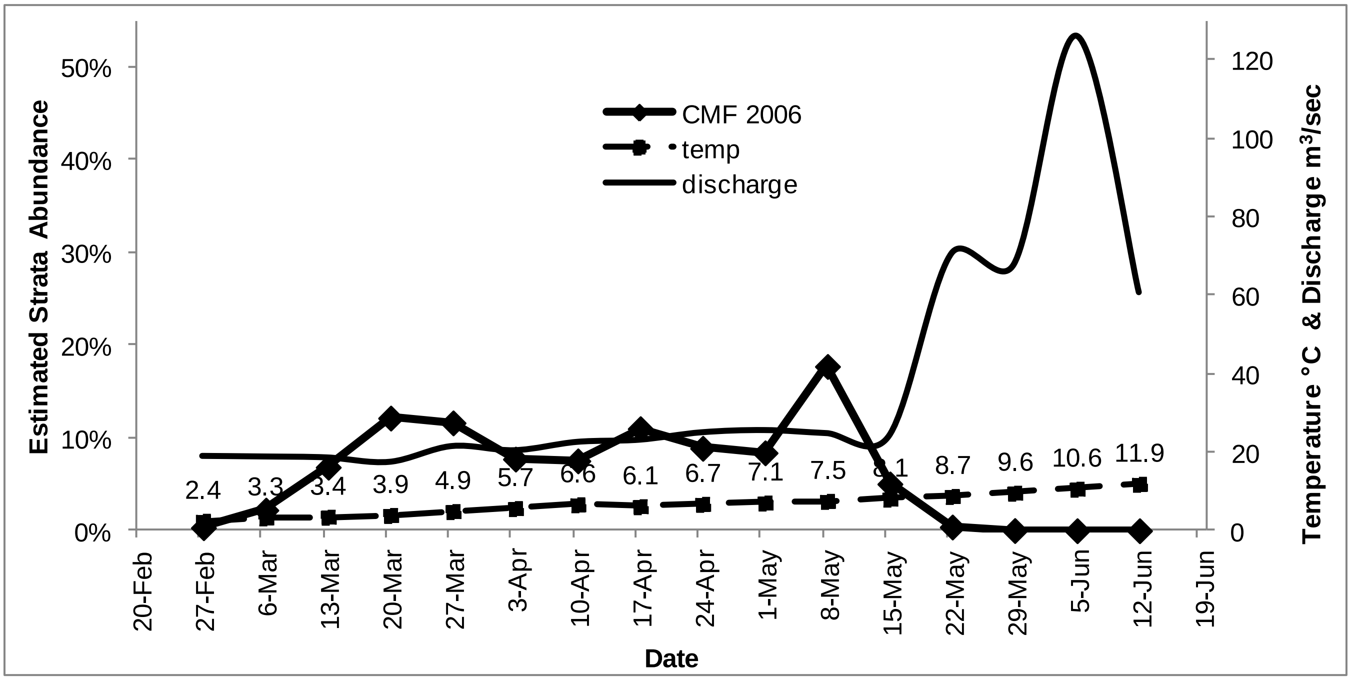

Figure 6A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2006 (Post-WUP)

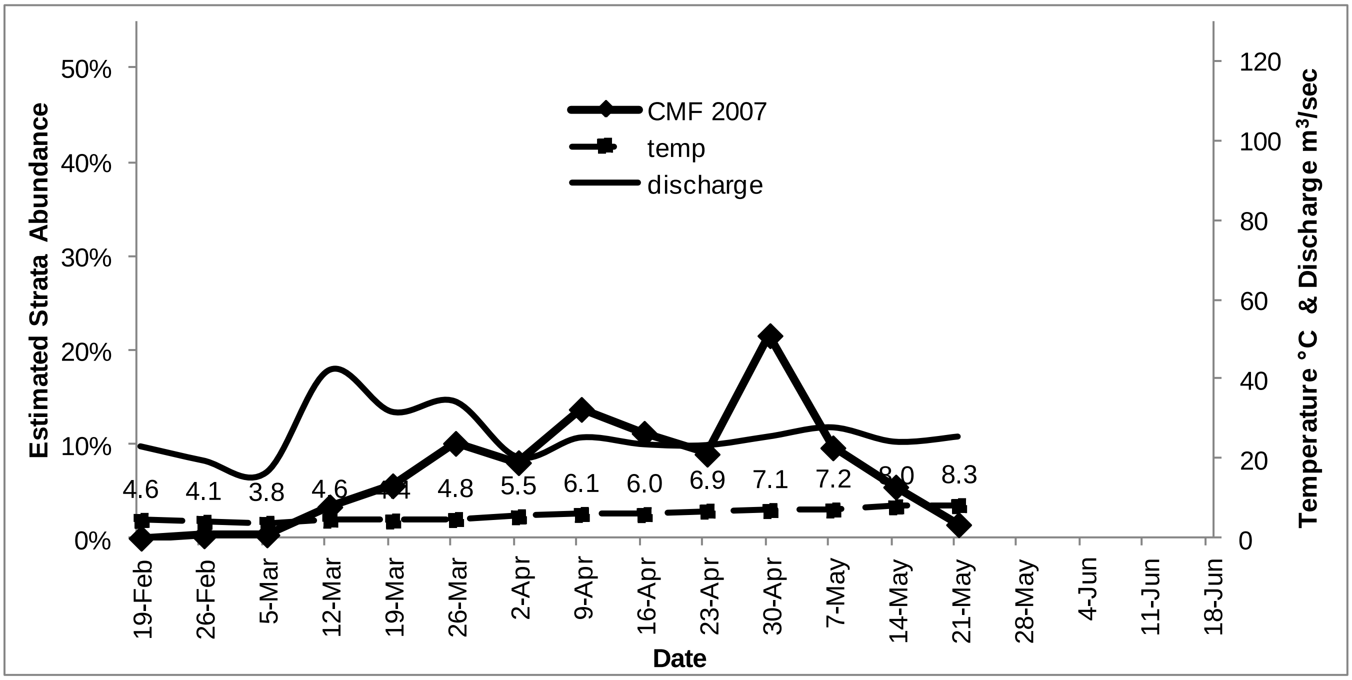

Figure 7A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2007 (Post-WUP)

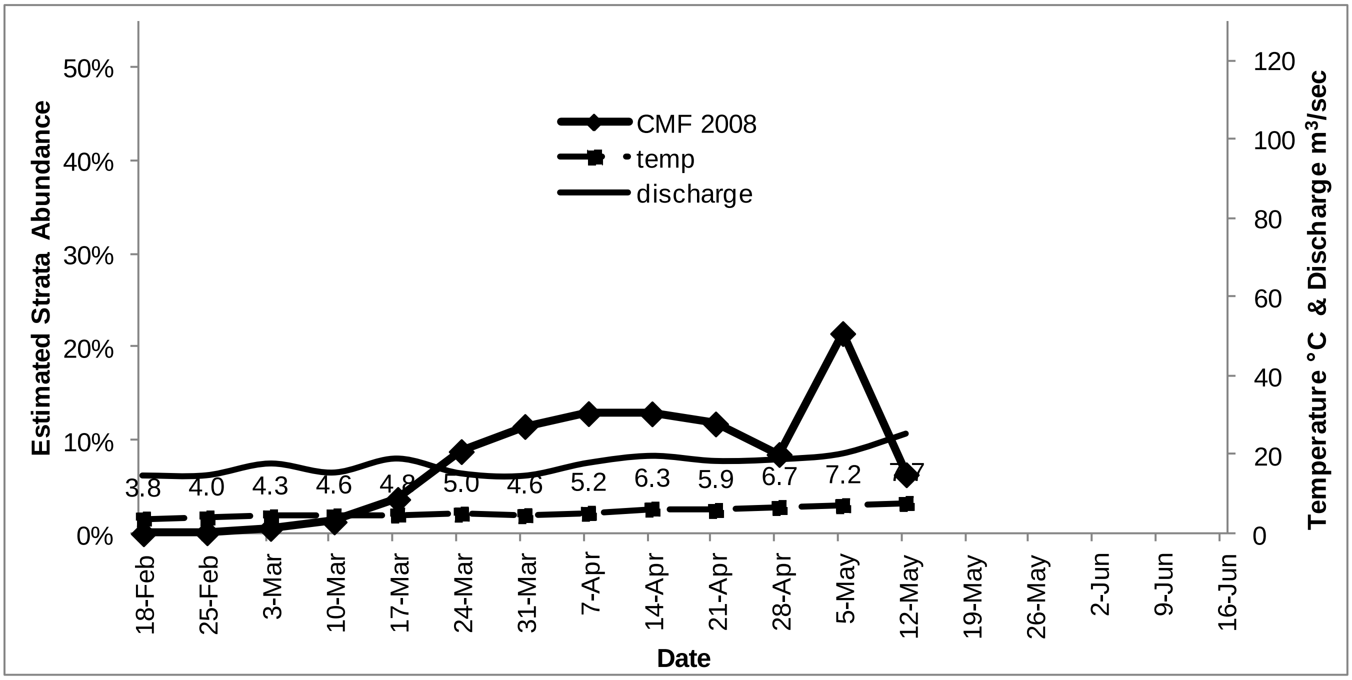

Figure 8A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2008 (Post-WUP)

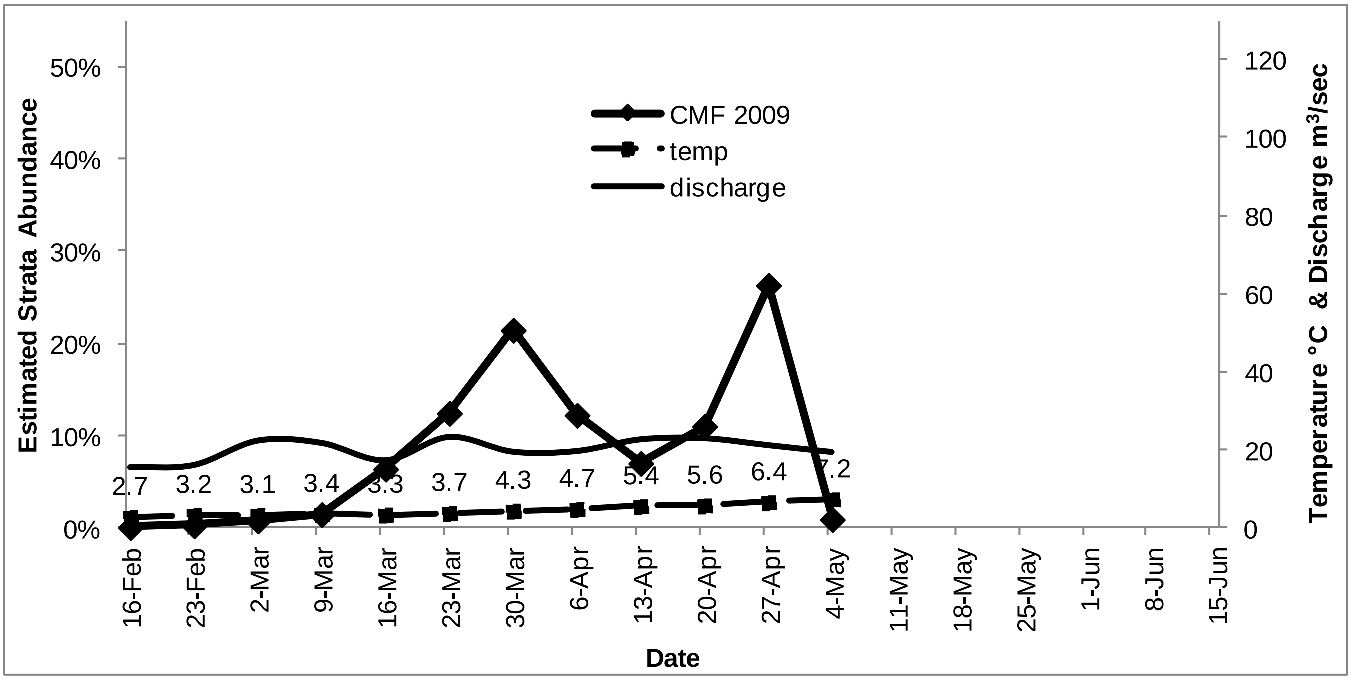

Figure 9A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2009 (Post-WUP)

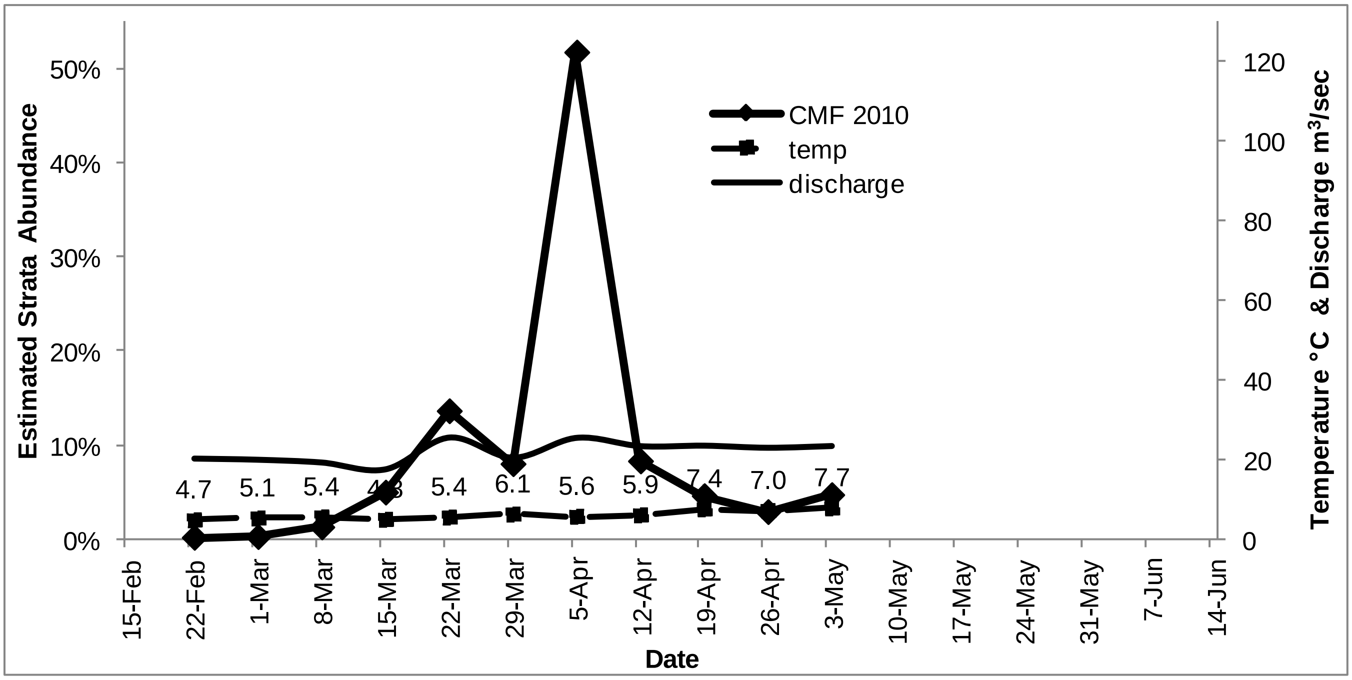

Figure 10A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2010 (Post-WUP)

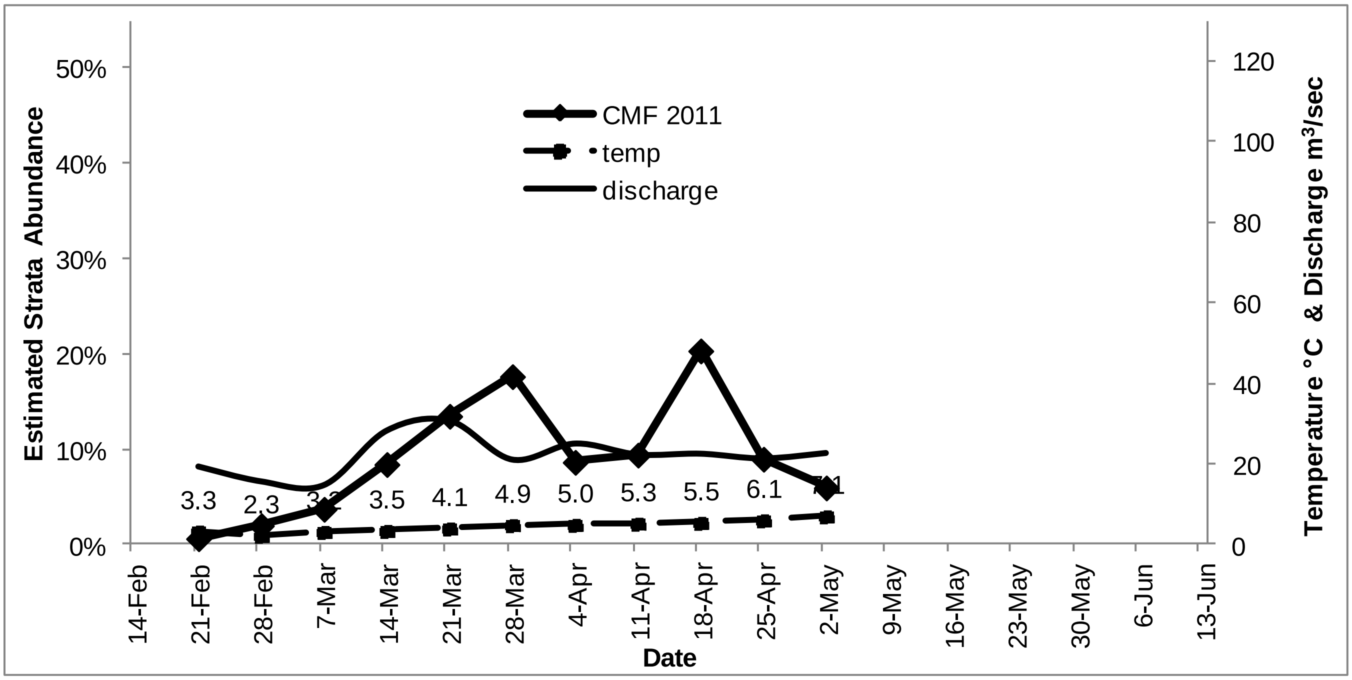

Figure 11A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2011 (Post-WUP)

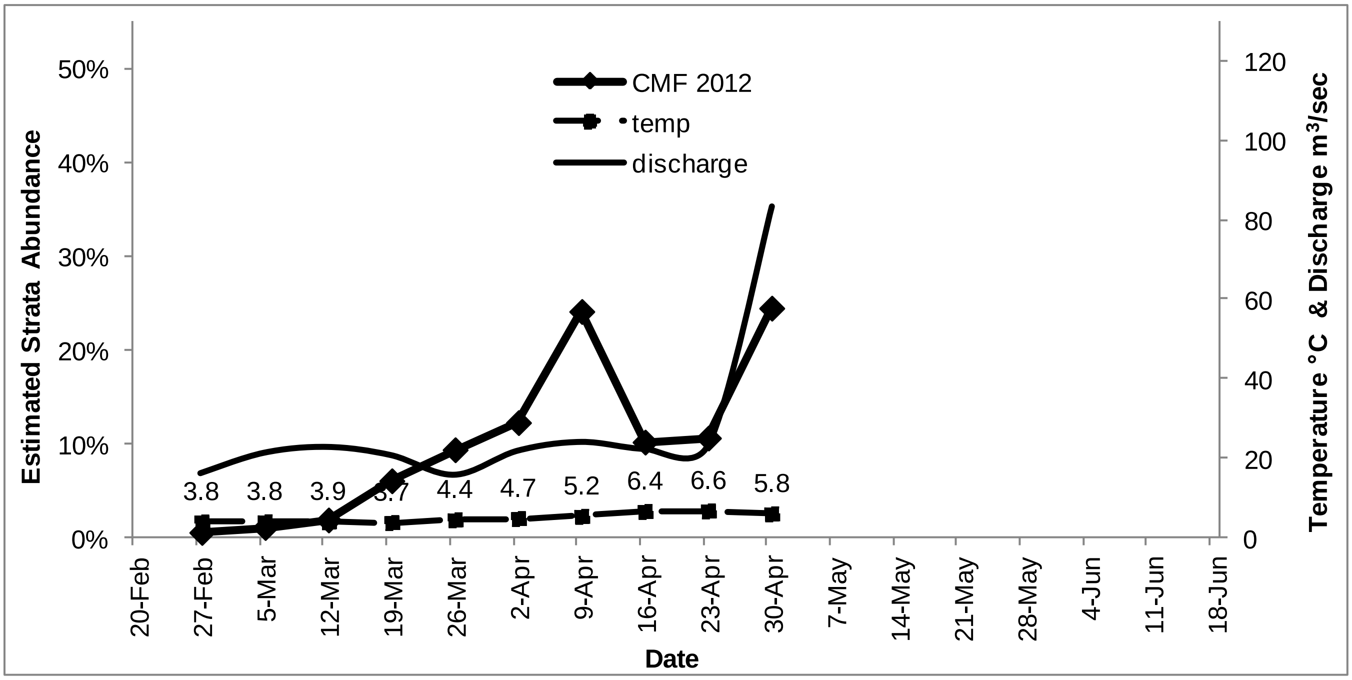

Figure 12A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2012 (Post-WUP)

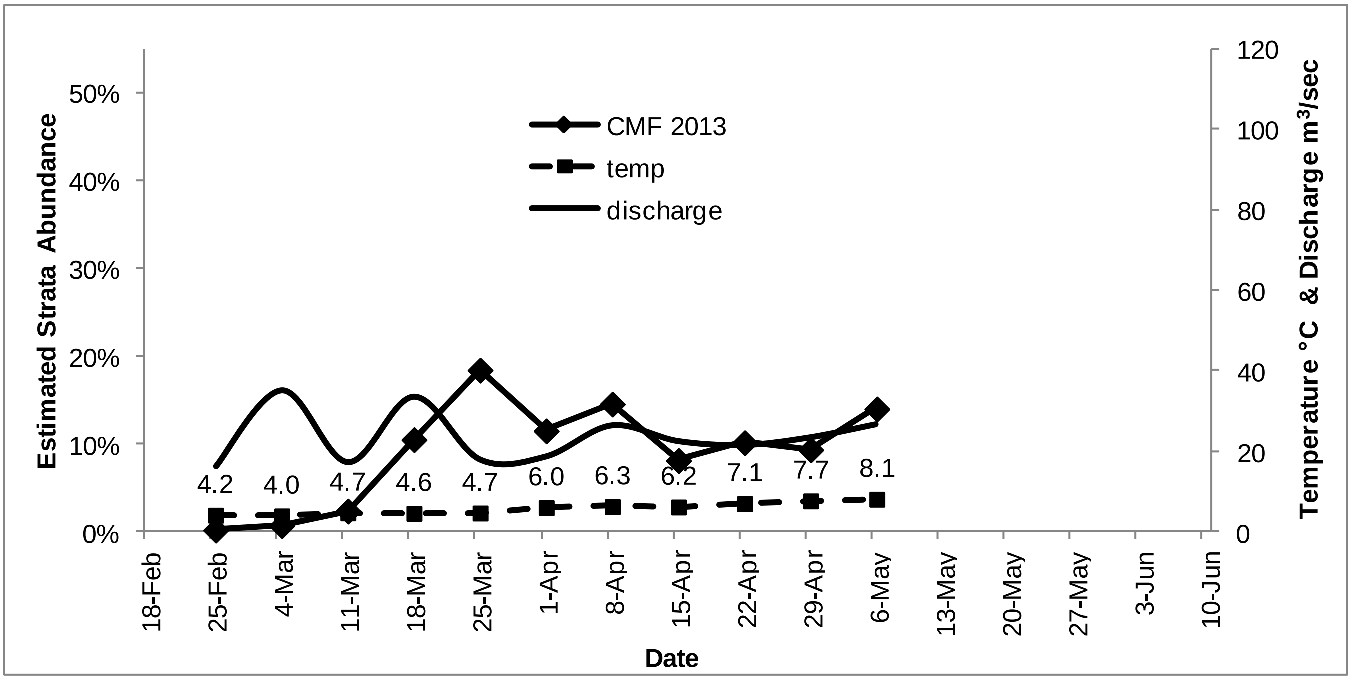

Figure 13A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2013 (Post-WUP)

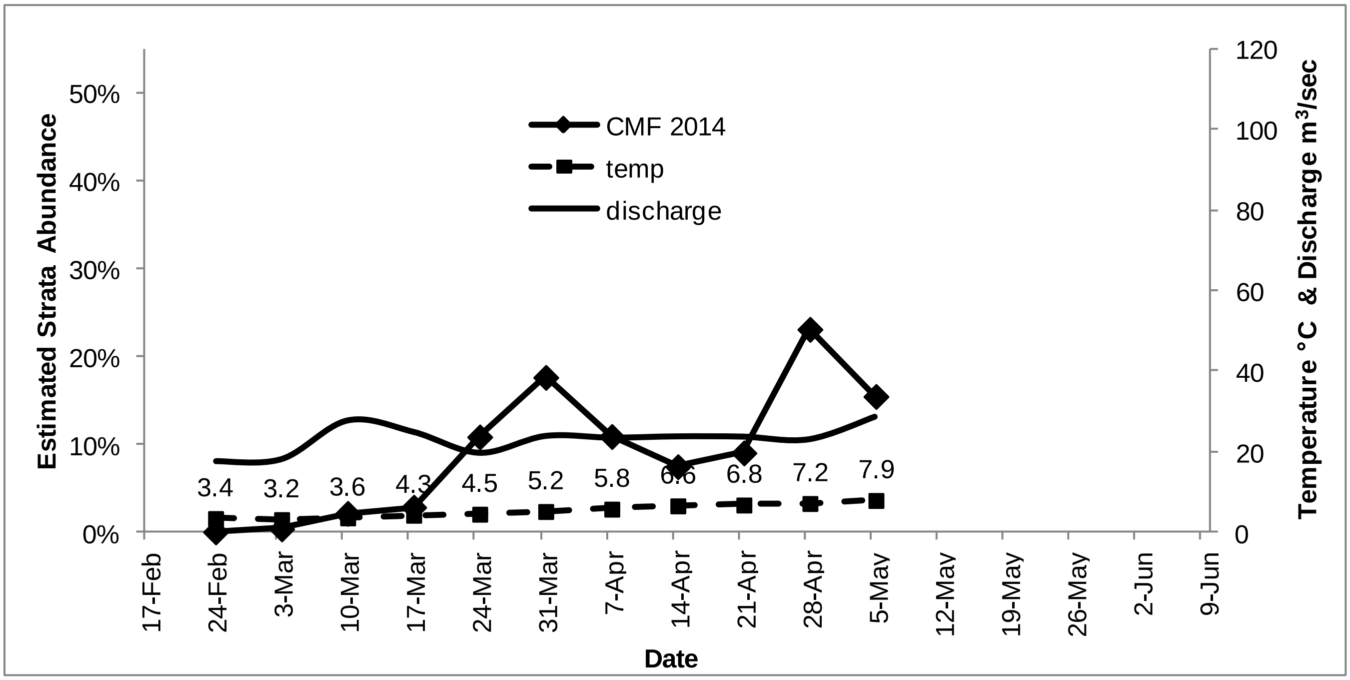

Figure 14A. Weekly abundance estimates of chum fry (solid line, diamonds) related to temperature in °C (broken line, squares) and discharge (solid line) from the Cheakamus River in 2014 (Post-WUP)