

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Fish and Aquatic Habitat

Report: 26. Site C Fisheries Studies – Juvenile Fish and Fish Habitat Inventory of Peace River Tributaries in Summer 2008

Prepared by: Mainstream Aquatics Ltd.

Summary: The purpose of the Stage 2 tributary fisheries baseline study was to continue to build upon investigations describing fish use and habitat characteristics of the Peace River tributaries completed in 2005 and 2006. Water temperature and discharge, species composition, distribution and relative abundance of juvenile fish were measured, and juvenile fish rearing habitats in the tributaries were identified and characterized.

Results suggest that environmental conditions such as water temperature, discharge and sediment load had strong influences on availability and quality of juvenile fish habitats, and in limiting juvenile fish use in tributaries. These baseline results would assist BC Hydro in assessing the potential impacts of reservoir flooding, should the project proceed.