

Peace River Fish Index Study

Monitoring population response to Peace River Side Channel Project

The Peace Water Use Plan (WUP) Committee recommended that a study be implemented to assess the baseline and response of fish populations in the Peace River following the addition of in-stream physical work projects. The study set out to monitor target fish populations, distribution (location within the water column) and population growth.



Questions We Wanted to Answer

1. What is the population response of fish in the Peace River following the addition of physical work projects as part of the WUP?



Study Update

- The population estimate for Mountain Whitefish in 2014 was 35,000.
- Population estimates for the other target species are unlikely to be reliable because of the low number of fish.

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Lessons Learned

- While the program can successfully monitor changes in fish populations over time, it is unlikely that it could adequately link population changes to the physical works projects completed under the Peace River Side Channel Plan.



Key Findings and Next Steps

- Further work on GMSMON-2 has been suspended in acknowledgement of the ongoing development for the Site C hydroelectric project. Lessons learned will inform future monitoring studies undertaken by BC Hydro.