

## Peace River Fish Stranding Study

### Spillway operations and fish stranding

The Peace Water Use Plan (WUP) Committee recommended that a study be implemented to assess fish stranding or isolation from the river following spillway operations at Peace Canyon Dam. The objective of the study is to determine the impact and risks to fish of planned high flow pulses from spill operations as part of the WUP's Peace Spill Protocol and Flood Pulse Plan.



#### Questions We Wanted to Answer

1. What is the extent of fish stranding along the Peace River after a high flow spill event?
2. Is the level of stranding biologically significant to fish populations in the Peace River?
3. What areas of the Peace River have the highest risk of stranding?



#### Study Update

- Few stranded fish were observed during the July 2012 stranding survey. There was a relatively low extent of stranding along the Peace River.
- Mountain Whitefish was the only species found to be stranded and population-level effects are not likely to result from the extent of stranding.
- There was no apparent difference in stranding rates along different areas of the Peace River.

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## Lessons Learned

- The survey found that the areas where stranding could occur were small and uncommon in the study area.
- Air temperature likely plays a role in the fish survival rate during stranding and should be considered in further studies.



## Key Findings and Next Steps

- Further work on this Peace River monitoring study has been suspended in acknowledgement of the ongoing development for the Site C hydroelectric project. Lessons learned will inform future monitoring studies and projects undertaken by BC Hydro.