

Peace River Side Channel Fisheries Study

Monitoring fish and habitat response to side channel enhancement

The Peace Water Use Plan (WUP) recommended a physical works project to enhance side channel habitat that was impacted from decreased flows and less peaking flows as a result of flow regulation at Peace Canyon Dam. This monitoring study looks to assess the fish and habitat response to the side channel enhancement works carried out under the WUP.



Questions We Wanted to Answer

1. What is the population response of fish and fish habitat following the trial physical works project completed under the Peace River side channel improvements?



Study Update

- One year of baseline data was collected in 2013 prior to construction.
- A combination of spring construction activities and changes to channel flows was monitored in 2014.
- Monitoring was unable to detect a response.

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Lessons Learned

- The side channel improvements likely resulted in effects to fish and fish habitat.
- Many years of monitoring is required to study the effects of habitat changes created through trial enhancement work.



Key Findings and Next Steps

- Further work on this study 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.