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## **Skeena Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Planning 2022**

Prepared for  
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation - CAT23-6-288  
BC Fish Passage Remediation Program  
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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on behalf of  
Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern British Columbia

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## Table of Contents

Acknowledgement .....	iv
1 Introduction .....	1
2 Background .....	3
3 Methods .....	21
4 Results and Discussion .....	31
5 Recommendations .....	43
Alvin Creek - 197379 - Appendix .....	45
Dale Creek - 198215 - Appendix .....	57
Tributary to Skeena River - 198216 & 198217 - Appendix .....	69
Tea Creek - 198220 - Appendix .....	85
Pinenut Creek - 198222 - Appendix .....	97
Sterritt creek - 198225 - Appendix .....	105
Tributary to Kitwanga River - 198236 - Appendix .....	113
Sandstone Creek - 8530 - Appendix .....	121
References .....	135
Changelog .....	141
Session Info .....	143
<b>Attachment 1 - Maps .....</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Attachment 2 - Phase 1 Data and Photos .....</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Attachment 3 - Habitat Assessment Data .....</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Attachment 4 - Bayesian analysis to map stream discharge and temperature causal effects pathways .....</b>	<b>159</b>



## **Acknowledgement**

Modern civilization has a long journey ahead to acknowledge and address the historic and ongoing impacts of colonialism that have resulted in harm to the cultures and livelihoods living interconnected with our ecosystems for many thousands of years.

The Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern British Columbia recognizes the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, BC Fish Passage Remediation Program and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for making a significant financial contributions to supporting Skeena Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Planning. Partnerships are key to conserving BC's wildlife, fish, and their habitats.



## 1 Introduction

This report is available as both a pdf and as an online interactive report at [https://newgraphenvironment.github.io/fish\\_passage\\_skeena\\_2022\\_reporting/](https://newgraphenvironment.github.io/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/). We recommend viewing online as the web-hosted version contains more features and is more easily navigable. Please reference the website for the latest version number and download the latest pdf from [https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish\\_passage\\_skeena\\_2022\\_reporting/raw/master/docs/skeena2022.pdf](https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/raw/master/docs/skeena2022.pdf)

Since 2020, the Society for Ecosystem Restoration Northern British Columbia (SERNbc) has been undertaking an initiative to plan and conduct fish passage restoration planning activities in the Bulkley River and Morice River watershed groups which are sub-basins of the Skeena River watershed. The study area was expanded in 2022 to include the Zymoetz Watershed Group and the Kispiox River watershed group.

This report builds on reporting from field activities conducted in 2020 (Irvine 2021) and 2021 which can be viewed interactively [here](#) and [here](#). Additionally, although part of the same overall initiative, to facilitate timelines, reporting for field activities conducted in the Bulkley River Watershed Group in 2022 have been included under separate cover and can be viewed [here](#).

Please note that at the time of reporting, this document was a living document changing over time. Version numbers are logged for each release with modifications, enhancements and other changes tracked [here](#). Issues and planned enhancements are tracked [here](#).

The health and viability of freshwater fish populations can depend on access to tributary and off channel areas which provide refuge during high flows, opportunities for foraging, overwintering habitat, spawning habitat and summer rearing habitat (Bramblett et al. 2002; Swales and Levings 1989; Diebel et al. 2015). Culverts can present barriers to fish migration due to low water depth, increased water velocity, turbulence, a vertical drop at the culvert outlet and/or maintenance issues (Slaney, Zaldokas, and Watershed Restoration Program (B.C.) 1997; Cote et al. 2005). As road crossing structures are commonly upgraded or removed there are numerous opportunities to restore connectivity by ensuring that fish passage considerations are incorporated into repair, replacement, relocation and deactivation designs.

Although remediation and replacement of stream crossing structures can have benefits to local fish populations, the costs of remedial works can be significant and the impacts of the work often complex to evaluate and quantify. Additionally, allocation of ecosystem restoration funding towards infrastructure upgrades on transportation right of ways are not always considered ethical under all circumstances from all perspectives. When funds are finite and invested groups are engaged in

## 1 Introduction

fund raising, cost benefits and the ethics of crossing replacements should be explored collaboratively alongside the cost benefits and ethics of alternative investment activities including transportation corridor relocation/deactivation, land procurement/covenant, cattle exclusion, riparian/floodplain restoration, habitat complexing, water conservation, commercial/recreational fishing management, salt water interventions and research.

## **2 Background**

The study area includes the Bulkley River, Zymoetz River, Kispiox River and Morice River watershed groups (Figure 2.1) and is within the traditional territories of the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en.

### **2.1 Wet'suwet'en**

Wet'suwet'en hereditary territory covers an area of 22,000km<sup>2</sup> including the Bulkley River and Morice River watersheds and portions of the Nechako River watershed. The Wet'suwet'en people are a matrilineal society organized into the Gilseyhu (Big Frog), Laksilyu (Small Frog), Tsayu (Beaver clan), Gitdumden (Wolf/Bear) and Laksamshu (Fireweed) clans. Within each of the clans there are a number of kin-based groups known as Yikhs or House groups. The Yikh is a partnership between the people and the territory. Thirteen Yikhs with Hereditary Chiefs manage a total of 38 distinct territories upon which they have jurisdiction. Within a clan, the head Chief is entrusted with the stewardship of the House territory to ensure the Land is managed in a sustainable manner. Inuk Nu'at'en (Wet'suwet'en law) governing the harvesting of fish within their lands are based on values founded on thousands of years of social, subsistence and environmental dynamics. The Yintahk (Land) is the centre of life as well as culture and its management is intended to provide security for sustaining salmon, wildlife, and natural foods to ensure the health and well-being of the Wet'suwet'en (Office of the Wet'suwet'en 2013; "Office of the Wet'suwet'en" 2021; FLNRORD 2017).

### **2.2 Gitxsan**

Gitxsan means "People of the River Mist". The Gitxsan Laxyip (traditional territories) covers an area of 33,000km<sup>2</sup> within the Skeena River and Nass River watersheds. The Laxyip is governed by 60 Simgiigyet (Hereditary Chiefs), within the traditional hereditary system made up of Wilps (House groups). Anaat are fisheries tenures found throughout the Laxyip. Traditional governance within a matrilineal society operates under the principles of Ayookw (Gitxsan law) ("Gitxsan Huwilp Government" 2021). Many band members live in Hazelton, Kispiox and Glen Vowell (the Eastern Gitxsan) as well as within Kitwanga, Kitwankool and Kitsegukla (the Western Gitxsan) (Powell, Jensen, and Pedersen 2018).

### 2.3 Project Location

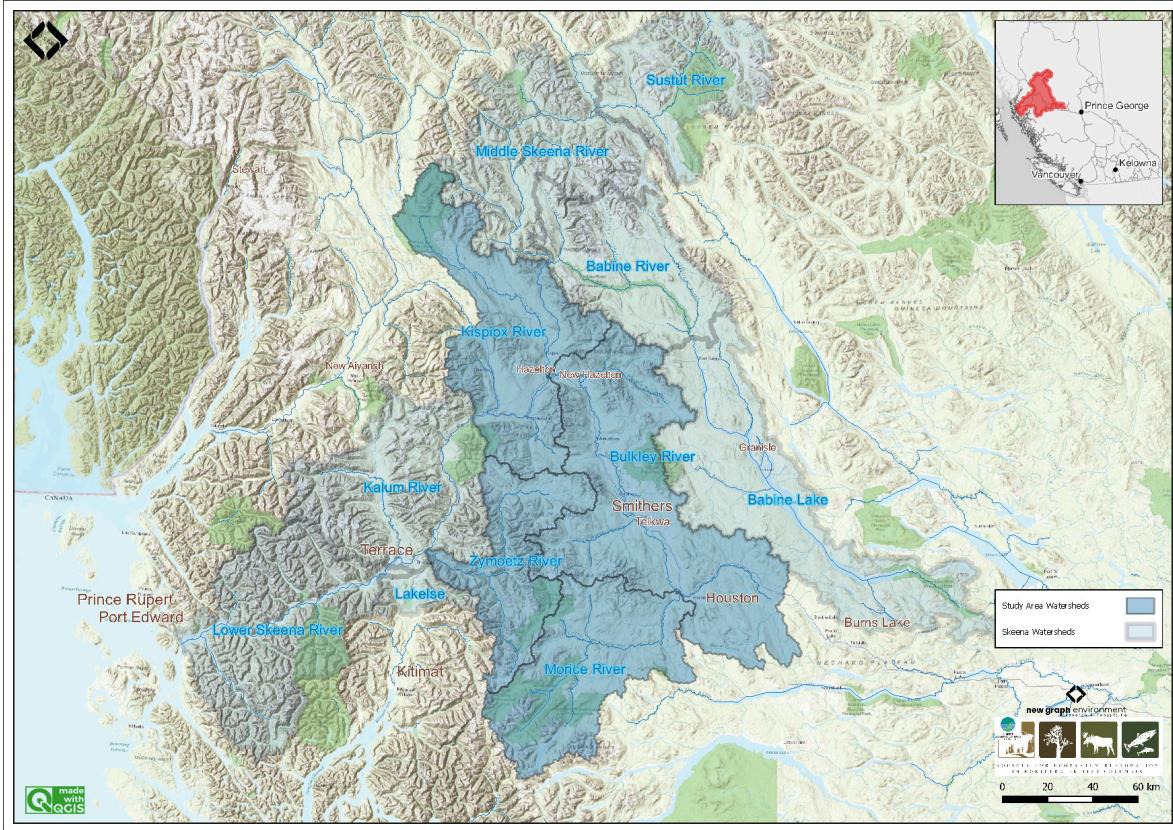


Figure 2.1: Overview map of Study Areas

#### 2.3.1 Bulkley River

The Bulkley River is an 8th order stream that drains an area of  $7,762 \text{ km}^2$  in a generally northerly direction from Bulkley Lake on the Nechako Plateau to its confluence with the Skeena River at Hazelton. It has a mean annual discharge of  $139.1 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  at station 08EE004 located near Quick (~27km south of Telkwa) and  $19.2 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  at station 08EE003 located upstream near Houston. Flow patterns at Quick are heavily influenced by inflows from the Morice River (enters just downstream of Houston) resulting in flow patterns typical of high elevation watersheds which receive large amounts of precipitation as snow leading to peak levels of discharge during snowmelt, typically from May to July (Figures 2.2 - 2.3). The hydrograph peaks faster and generally earlier (May - June) for the Bulkley River upstream of Houston where the topography is of lower lower elevation (Figures 2.2 and 2.4).

## 2.3 Project Location

Changes to the climate systems are causing impacts to natural and human systems on all continents with alterations to hydrological systems caused by changing precipitation or melting snow and ice increasing the frequency and magnitude of extreme events such as floods and droughts (IPCC 2014; ECCC 2016). These changes are resulting in modifications to the quantity and quality of water resources throughout British Columbia and are likely to compound issues related to drought and flooding in the Bulkley River watershed where numerous water licenses are held with a potential over-allocation of flows identified during low flow periods (ILMB 2007).

The valley bottom has seen extensive settlement over the past hundred years with major population centers including the Village of Hazelton, the Town of Smithers, the Village of Telkwa and the District Municipality of Houston. As a major access corridor to northwestern British Columbia, Highway 16 and the Canadian National Railway are major linear developments that run along the Bulkley River within and adjacent to the floodplain with numerous crossing structures impeding fish access into and potentially out from important fish habitats. Additionally, as the valley bottom contains some of the most productive land in the area, there has been extensive conversion of riparian ecosystems to hayfields and pastures leading to alterations in flow regimes, increases in water temperatures, reduced streambank stability, loss of overstream cover and channelization (ILMB 2007; Wilson and Rabnett 2007).

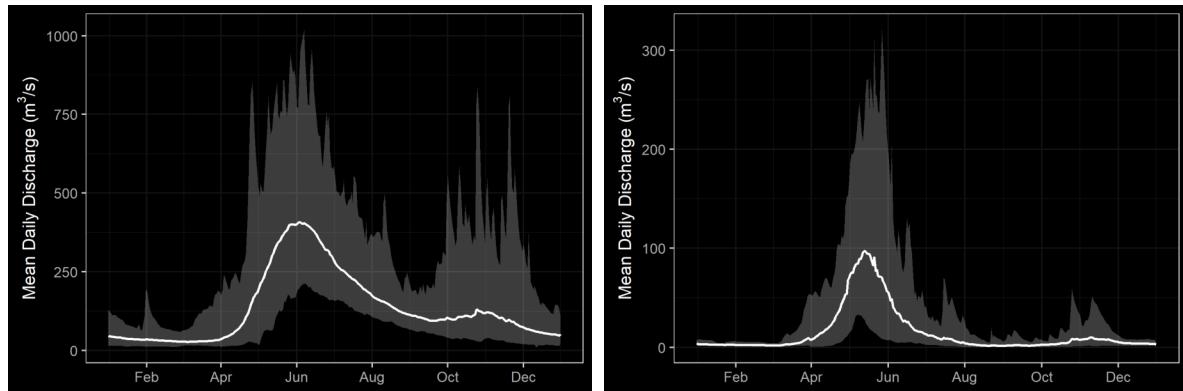


Figure 2.2: Hydrograph for Bulkley River at Quick (Station #08EE004) and near Houston (Station #08EE003).

## 2 Background

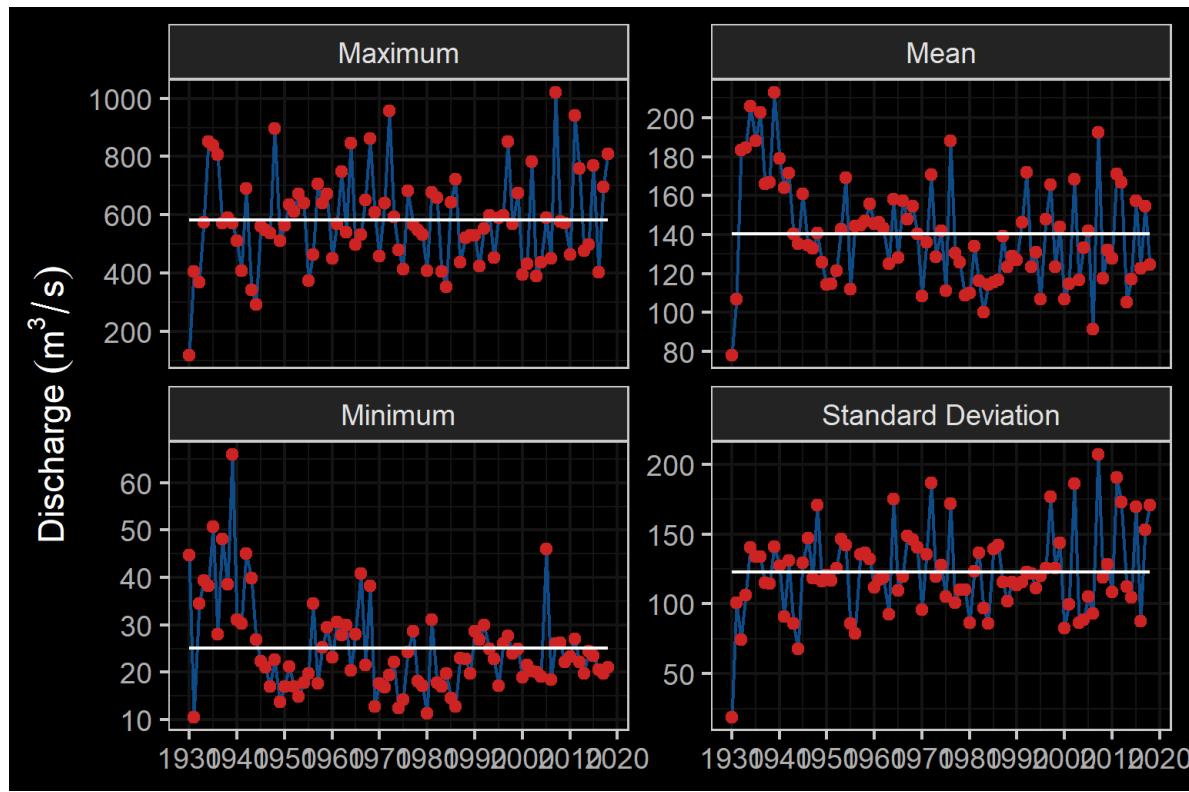


Figure 2.3: Summary of hydrology statistics for Bulkley River at Quick (Station #08EE004 - daily discharge data from 1930 to 2018).

## 2.3 Project Location

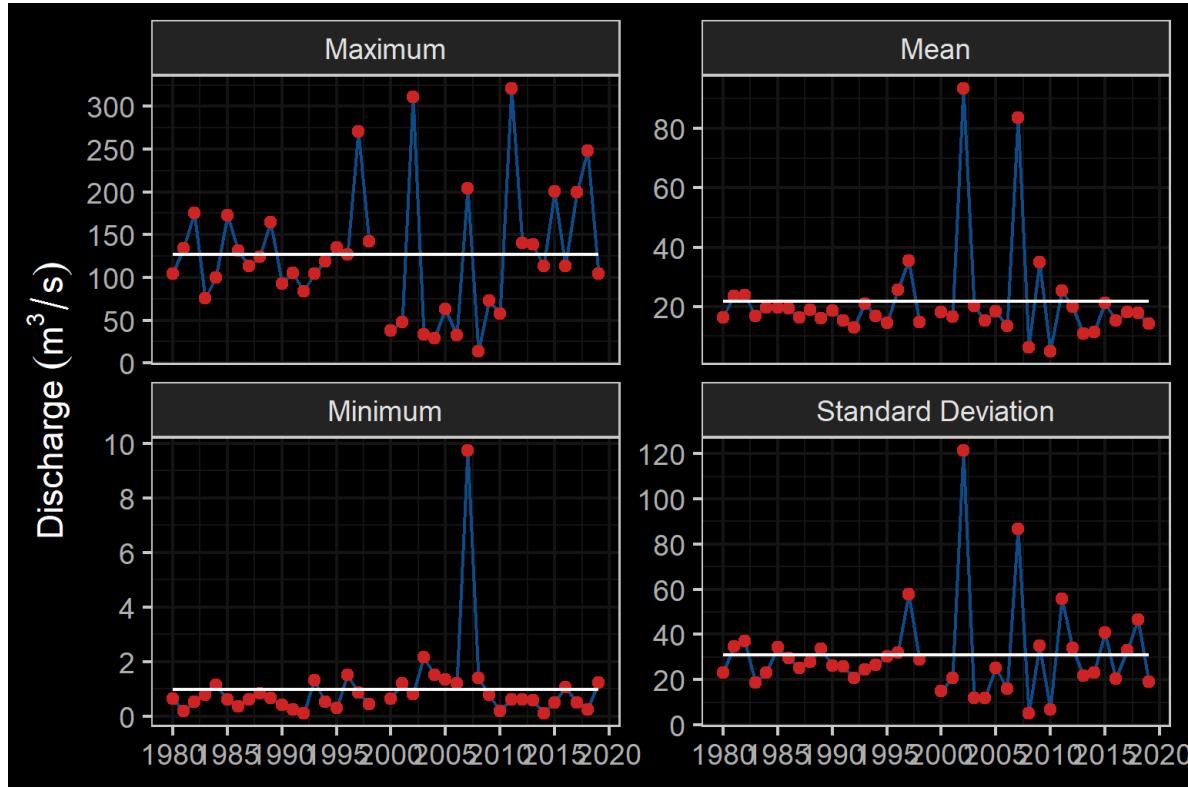


Figure 2.4: Summary of hydrology statistics for Bulkley River near Houston (Station #08EE003 - daily discharge data from 1980 to 2018).

### 2.3.2 Morice River

The Morice River watershed drains 4,379 km<sup>2</sup> of Coast Mountains and Interior Plateau in a generally south-eastern direction. The Morice River is an 8th order stream that flows approximately 80km from Morice Lake to the confluence with the upper Bulkley River just north of Houston. Major tributaries include the Nanika River, the Atna River, Gosnell Creek and the Thautil River. There are numerous large lakes situated on the south side of the watershed including Morice Lake, McBride Lake, Stepp Lake, Nanika Lake, Kid Price Lake, Owen Lake and others. There is one active hydrometric station on the mainstem of the Morice River near the outlet of Morice Lake and one historic station that was located at the mouth of the river near Houston that gathered data in 1971 only (Environment and Climate Change Canada 2021). An estimate of mean annual discharge for the one year of data available for the Morice near its confluence with the Bulkley River is 113.3 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Mean annual discharge is estimated at 75.4 m<sup>3</sup>/s at station 08ED002 located near the outlet of Morice Lake. Flow patterns are typical of high elevation watersheds influenced by coastal weather patterns which receive large amounts of winter precipitation as snow in the winter and large precipitation events in the fall. This leads to peak levels of discharge during snowmelt, typically from May to July with isolated high flows related to rain and rain on snow events common in the fall (Figures 2.5 - 2.6).

## 2 Background

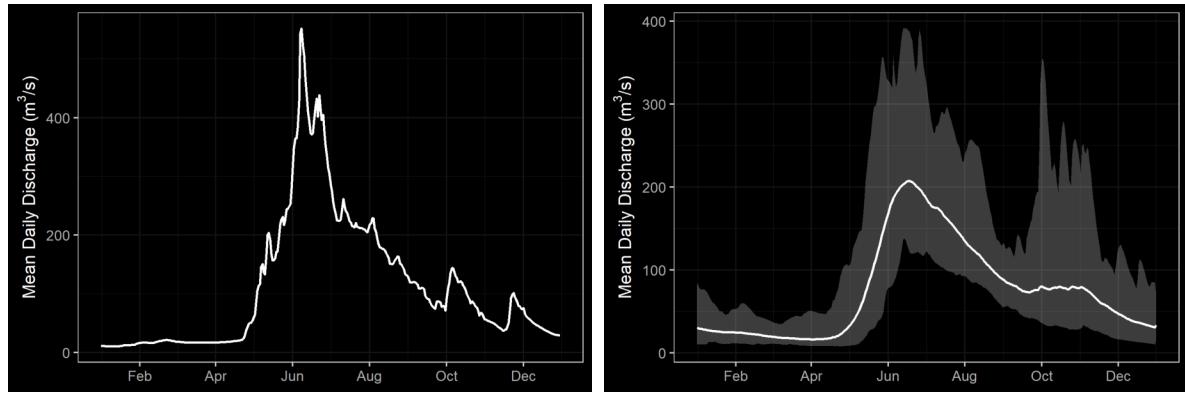


Figure 2.5: Left: Hydrograph for Morice River near Houston (Station #08ED003 - 1971 data only). Right: Hydrograph for Morice River near outlet of Morice Lake (Station #08ED002).

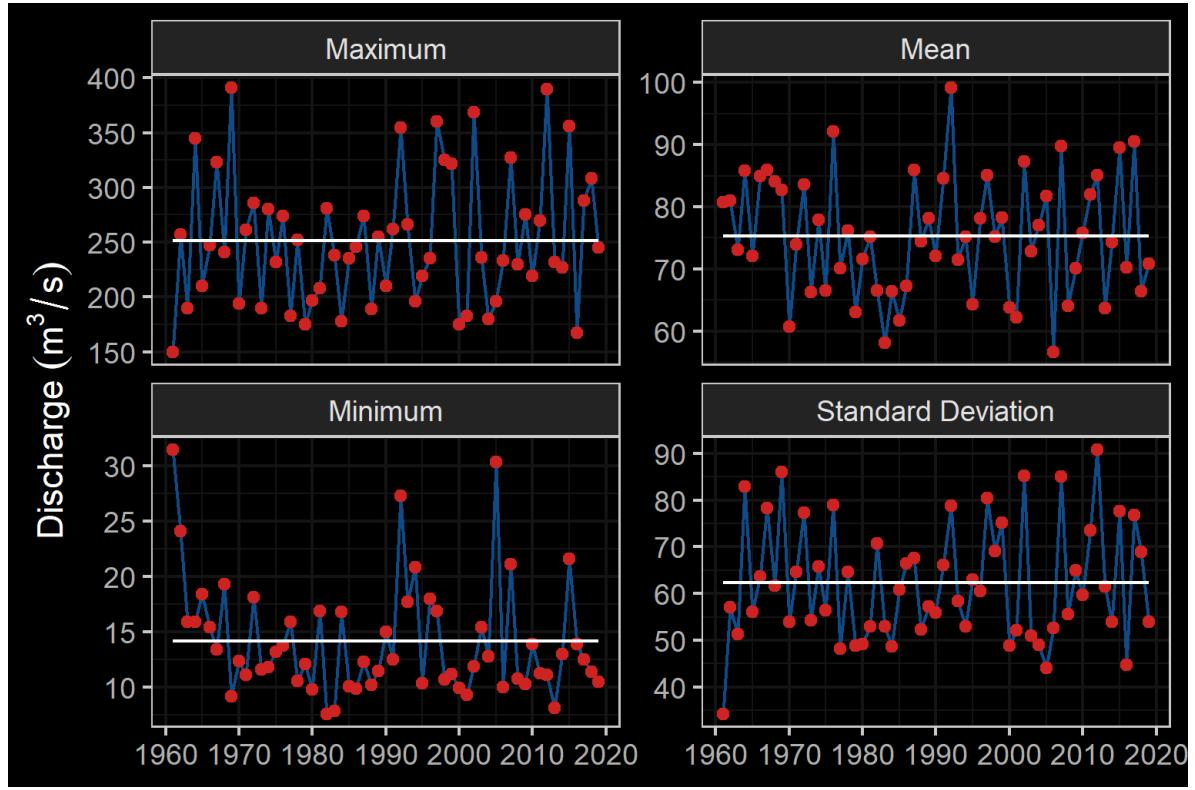


Figure 2.6: Summary of hydrology statistics for Morice River near outlet of Morice Lake (Station #08ED002 - Lat 54.116829 Lon -127.426582). Available daily discharge data from 1961 to 2018.

## 2.3 Project Location

### 2.3.3 Zymoetz River

The Zymoetz River (known locally as the Copper River) watershed is an eighth order stream that drains an area of 3,028 km<sup>2</sup> in a generally westerly direction. It is considered a major tributary of the Skeena River, as it contributes approximately 10% of the flow. The headwater lakes are located approximately 20km southwest of Smithers, and they include Aldrich, Dennis and McDonell Lakes. The upper and lower portions of the watershed are accessed via logging roads off of Highway 16 from Smithers and Terrace, respectively. Access to the middle watershed is difficult due to road wash out. The Zymoetz River flows roughly 120km, starting just west of Hudson Bay mountain near Smithers and ending at the confluence of the Skeena River, approximately 8km north-east of Terrace. Elevations in the watershed range from 120m at the confluence, to 2740m in the Howson Range. The lower end of the Zymoetz watershed has seen a significant reduction in riparian habitat due to fires, forest development practices, pipe line and road construction (Allen Gottesfeld, Rabnett, and Hall 2002). Snowmelt plays a big role in controlling the stream hydrology, with a mean annual discharge estimated at 105.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s at station 08EF005 located near Smithers. Peak discharge happens in May to early June, which is typical of a high elevation watershed like this (Figures [2.7](#) - [2.8](#)).

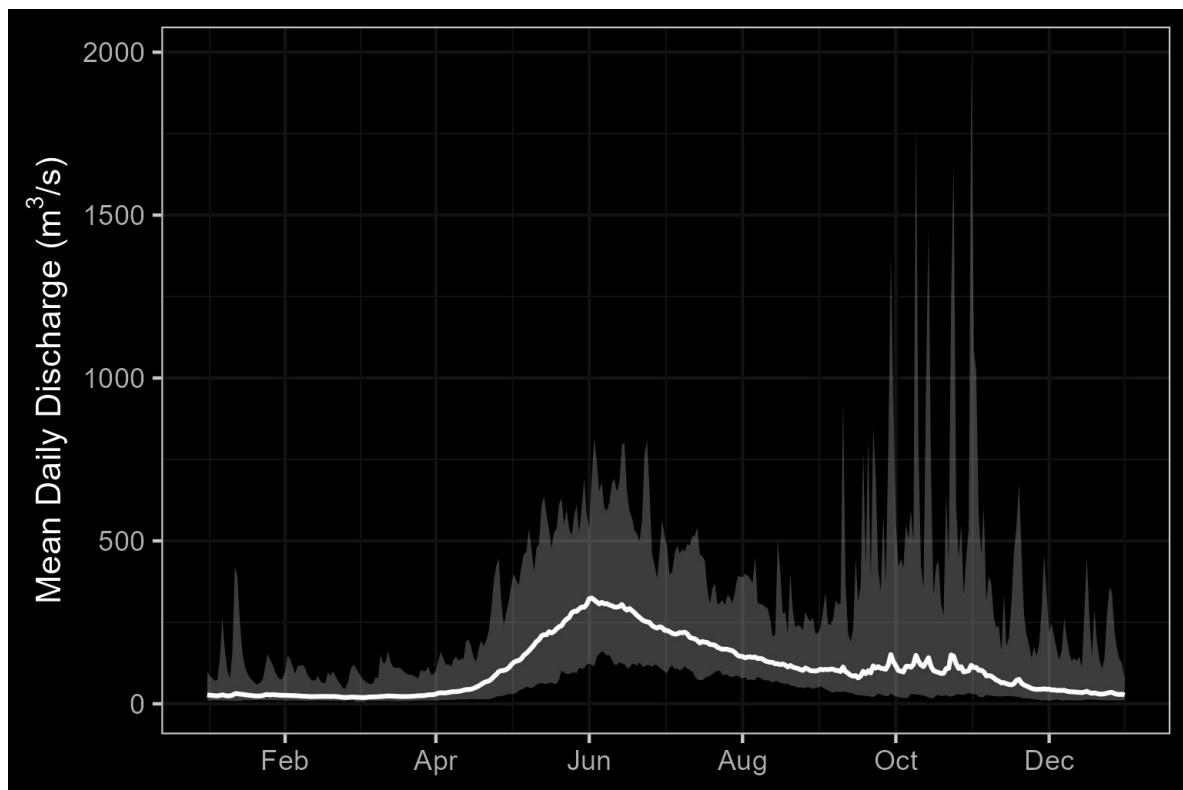


Figure 2.7: Hydrograph for Zymoetz River (Station #08EF005).

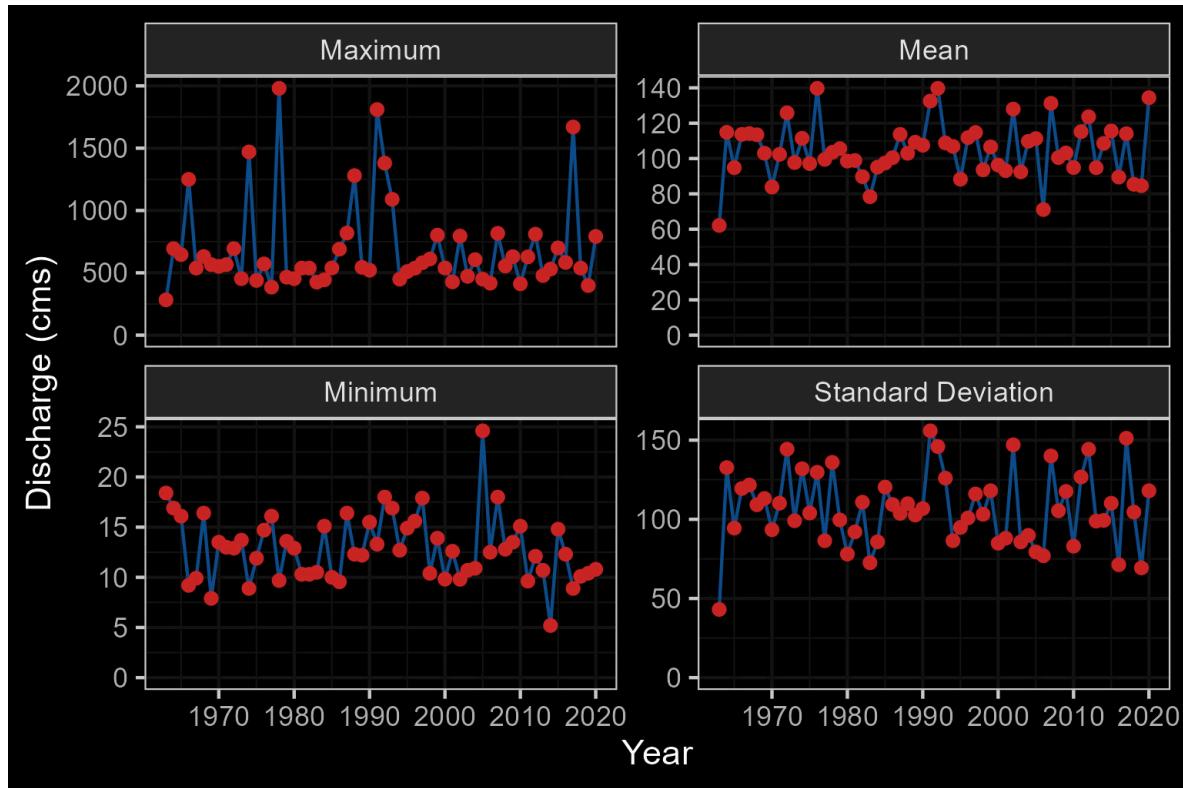


Figure 2.8: Summary of hydrology statistics for Zymoetz River (Station #08EF005 - Lat 54.116829 Lon -127.426582). Available daily discharge data from 1997 to 2021.

### 2.3.4 Kispiox River

The Kispiox River watershed is a seventh order stream that drains an area of  $2,088\text{km}^2$  in a south east direction. It is a large tributary of the Skeena River, contributing approximately 9% of its flow. It flows 140km to the confluence of the Skeena River, near Kispiox Village. Elevations in the watershed range from 200m at the mouth to as high as 2090m on Kispiox Mountain. The mainstream of the Kispiox is fed mainly by glacier melt and high elevation snow melt. Swan and Stephens Lakes (located in the upper watershed) are important sockeye systems. Swan Lake drains via Club Lake into Stephens Lake which in turn flows via Stephens Creek into the mainstem of the Kispiox River. Some of the biggest threats to aquatic ecosystems in the Kispiox valley are reported as erosion, obstructions, sedimentation, and altered water yield. The upper third of the Kispiox watershed (upstream of the Nangeline River) is well protected from development by the Swan Lake Kispiox River Provincial Park and because it contains few roads with little forestry development (Allen Gottesfeld, Rabnett, and Hall 2002). The Kispiox River has a mean annual discharge estimated at  $45.1 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  at station 08EB004 located near Hazelton. Peak discharge happens in May and June as a result of the spring snowmelt (Figures [2.9](#) - [2.10](#)).

## 2.3 Project Location

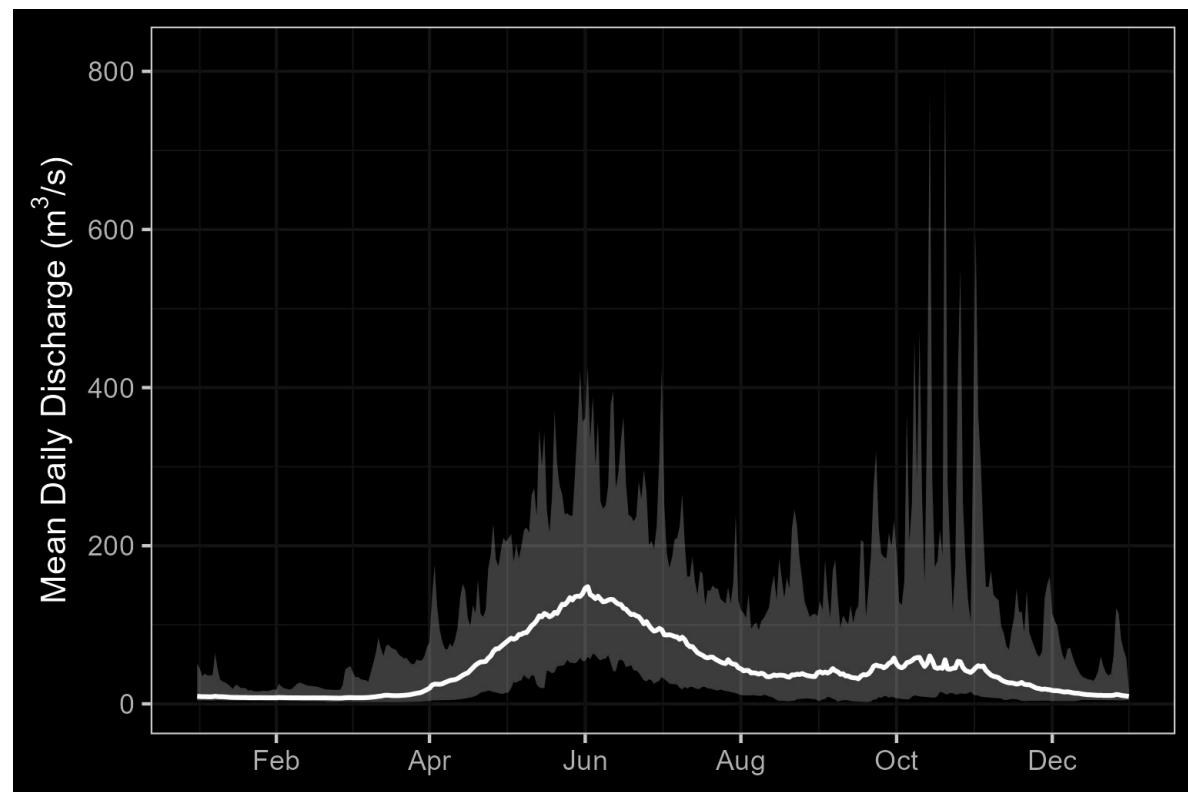


Figure 2.9: Hydrograph for Kispiox River near Hazelton (Station #08EB004).

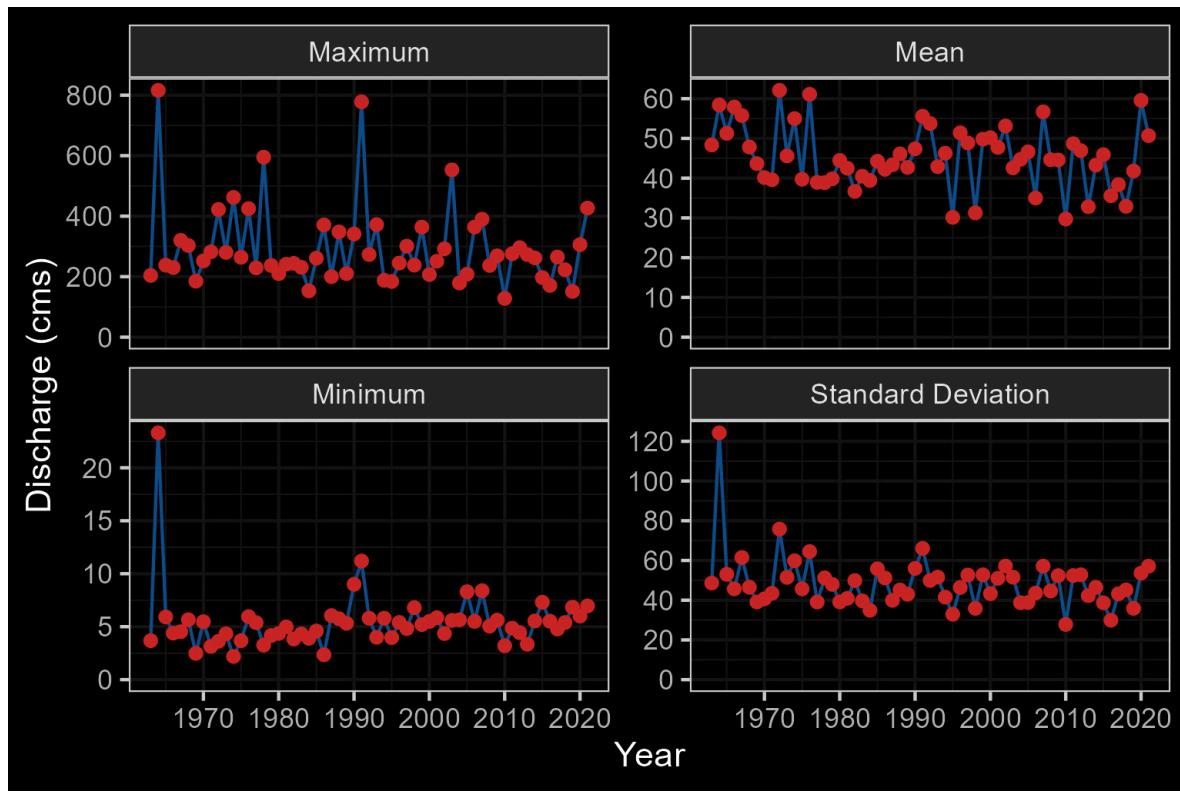


Figure 2.10: Summary of hydrology statistics for Kispiox River near Hazelton (Station #08EB004). Available daily discharge data from 1963 to 2021.

## 2.4 Fisheries

In 2004, IBM Business Consulting Services (2006) estimated the value of Skeena Fisheries at an annual average of \$110 million dollars. The Bulkley-Morice watershed is an integral part of the salmon production in the Skeena drainage and supports an internationally renown steelhead, chinook and coho sport fishery (Tamblyn 2005).

### 2.4.1 Bulkley River

Traditionally, the salmon stocks passing through and spawning in Bulkley River were the principal food source for the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en people living there (Wilson and Rabnett 2007). Wilson and Rabnett (2007) detail numerous fishing areas located within the lower Bulkley drainage (from the confluence of the Skeena to the confluence with the Telkwa River) and the upper Bulkley drainage which includes the mainstem Bulkley River and tributaries upstream of the Telkwa River confluence. Anadromous lamprey passing through and spawning in the upper Bulkley River were traditionally also an important food source for the Wet'suwet'en (Wilson and Rabnett 2007; pers comm. Mike Ridsdale, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Office of the Wet'suwet'en).

Approximately 11.3 km downstream of the Bulkley Lake outlet and just upstream of Watson Creek, the upper Bulkley falls is an approximately 4m high narrow rock sill that crosses the Bulkley River,

## 2.4 Fisheries

producing a steep cascade section. This obstacle to fish passage is recorded as an almost complete barrier to fish passage for salmon during low water flows. Coho have not been observed beyond the falls since 1972 (Wilson and Rabnett 2007).

Renowned as a world class recreational steelhead and coho fishery, the Bulkley River receives some of the heaviest angling pressure in the province. In response to longstanding angler concerns with respect to overcrowding, quality of experience and conflict amongst anglers, an Angling Management Plan was drafted for the river following the initiation of the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy process in 2006 and an extensive multi-year consultation process. The plan introduces a number of regulatory measures with the intent to provide Canadian resident anglers with quality steelhead fishing opportunities. Regulatory measures introduced with the Angling Management Plan include prohibited angling for non-guided non-resident aliens on Saturdays and Sundays, Sept 1 - Oct 31 within the Bulkley River, angling prohibited for non-guided non-resident aliens on Saturdays and Sundays, all year within the Suskwa River and angling prohibited for non-guided non-resident aliens Sept 1 - Oct 31 in the Telkwa River. There is no fishing permitted upstream of the Morice/Bulkley River Confluence (FLNRO 2013a, 2013b; FLNRORD 2019).

### 2.4.2 Morice River

Detailed reviews of Morice River watershed fisheries can be found in Bustard and Schell (2002), Allen Gottesfeld, Rabnett, and Hall (2002), Schell (2003), A. Gottesfeld and Rabnett (2007), and ILMB (2007) with a comprehensive review of water quality by Oliver (2018). Overall, the Morice watershed contains high fisheries values as a major producer of chinook, pink, sockeye, coho and steelhead.

### 2.4.3 Zymoetz River

Within the Zymoetz Watershed, there are many areas with high fishery values. Steelhead are the most extensively documented fish species in the Zymoetz River watershed. Adults enter the river from July to November and then go on to spawn the following year in late spring to early summer. The Zymoetz River is a relatively steep system. Two canyons are located 6.4 and 19.6 kilometers upstream of the Skeena River confluence. These canyons make access to the Zymoetz difficult for pink and chum salmon (Allen Gottesfeld, Rabnett, and Hall 2002). The Zymoetz River is renowned for its aggressive steelhead that have been known to take flies or lures. There is a 50km stretch upstream of Limonite Creek that's very remote and offers high quality fishing opportunities for anglers (FLNRORD 2013).

Traditional First Nations use of the upper Zymoetz River watershed by the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en people differed between community sites, residences, and fish houses, and was large and diverse. From the upper to lower Zymoetz River and to the Skeena River, a significant ancient grease trail connected, with a branch track forking through Limonite Creek and flowing down the

## 2 Background

Telkwa River. The fishery used a weir at the mouth of McDonell Lake and spears at Six Mile Flats, near Dennis Lake. There is no information on native fisheries on the lower Zymoetz River. The Zymoetz is considered to be one of the top ten steelhead rivers in BC (Allen Gottesfeld, Rabnett, and Hall 2002).

### 2.4.4 Kispiox River

Kispiox River salmon are a important food source and cultural symbol for the Gitxsan people with sockeye and coho historically the two most significant species. Gitangwalk and Lax Didax, two significant villages that were both abandoned in the early 1900s, were situated on the Kispiox in such a way as to block the sockeye and coho salmon's upstream migration to the Upper Kispiox River spawning grounds providing opportunities to gather and preserve a significant amount of high-quality food over relatively short time periods (Allen Gottesfeld, Rabnett, and Hall 2002). The 100 km of mainstem and 300km of tributary streams in the Kispiox River Watershed are considering high value fish habitat suprting migration, spawning and rearing for many fish species. The Kispiox fisheries supports both recreational and commercial fishing while also enhancing the ecology, nutrient regime, and structural diversity of the drainage. Since 1992, sockeye and coho escapements from the Kispiox Watershed have been documented by the Gitxsan Watershed Authorities as they creates strong cultural, economic, and symbolic ties for the local communities (Allen Gottesfeld, Rabnett, and Hall 2002).

### 2.4.5 Fish Species

Fish species recorded in the Morice, Zymoetz and Kispiox Rivers watershed groups are detailed in Table [2.1](#) (MoE 2020a). Coastal cutthroat trout and bull trout are considered of special concern (blue-listed) provincially. Summaries of some of the Skeena fish species life history, biology, stock status, and traditional use are documented in Schell (2003), Wilson and Rabnett (2007), Allen Gottesfeld, Rabnett, and Hall (2002) and Office of the Wet'suwet'en (2013). Wilson and Rabnett (2007) discuss chinook, pink, sockeye, coho, steelhead and indigenous freshwater Bulkley River fish stocks within the context of key lower and upper Bulkley River habitats such as the Suskwa River, Station Creek, Harold Price Creek, Telkwa River and Buck Creek. Key areas within the upper Bulkley River watershed with high fishery values, documented in Schell (2003), are the upper Bulkley mainstem, Buck Creek, Dungate Creek, Barren Creek, McQuarrie Creek, Byman Creek, Richfield Creek, Johnny David Creek, Aitken Creek and Emerson Creek.

Some key areas of high fisheries values for chinook, sockeye and coho are noted in Bustard and Schell (2002) as McBride Lake, Nanika Lake, and Morice Lake watersheds. A draft gantt chart for select species in the Morice River and Bulkley River watersheds was derived from reviews of the aforementioned references and is included as Figure [2.11](#). The data is considered in draft form and will be refined over the spring and summer of 2021 with local fisheries technicians and knowledge holders during the collaboratory assessment planning and fieldwork activities planned.

## 2.4 Fisheries

In the 1990's the Morice River watershed, A. Gottesfeld and Rabnett (2007) estimated that chinook comprised 30% of the total Skeena system chinook escapements. It is estimated that Morice River coho comprise approximatley 4% of the Skeena escapement with a declining trend noted since the 1950 in A. Gottesfeld and Rabnett (2007). Coho spawn in major tributaries and small streams ideally at locations where downstream dispersal can result in seeding of prime off channel habitats including warm productive sloughs and side channels. Of all the salmon species, coho rely on small tributaries the most (Bustard and Schell 2002). Bustard and Schell (2002) report that much of the distribution of coho into non-natal tributaries occurs during high flow periods of May - early July with road culverts blocking migration into these habitats.

Summaries of historical fish observations in the Bulkley River and Morice River watershed groups ( $n=4033$ ), graphed by remotely sensed average gradient as well as measured or modelled channel width categories for their associated stream segments where calculated with `bcfishpass` and `bcfishobs` and are provided in Figures [2.12](#) - [2.13](#).

**Table 2.1: Fish species recorded in the Morice River, Zymoetz River, and Kispiox River watershed groups.**

Scientific Name	Species Name	Species Code	BC List	Provincial FRPA	COSEWIC	SARA	Bulkley	Morice
<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	Longnose Sucker	LSU	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>	White Sucker	WSU	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i>	Largescale Sucker	CSU	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Chrosomus eos</i>	Northern Redbelly Dace	RDC	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	-
<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>	Lake Whitefish	LW	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Cottus aleuticus</i>	Coastrange Sculpin (formerly Aleutian Sculpin)	CAL	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Cottus asper</i>	Prickly Sculpin	CAS	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>	Lake Chub	LKC	Yellow	-	DD	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Entosphenus tridentatus</i>	Pacific Lamprey	PL	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i>	Brassy Minnow	BMC	No Status	-	-	-	Yes	-
<i>Lota lota</i>	Burbot	BB	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Mylocheilus caurinus</i>	Pearmouth Chub	PCC	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii</i>	Cutthroat Trout	CT	No Status	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii</i>	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	ACT	No Status	-	-	-	Yes	-
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>	Coastal Cutthroat Trout	CCT	Blue	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>	Pink Salmon	PK	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	Chum Salmon	CM	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Coho Salmon	CO	Yellow	-	-	-	Yes	Yes

## 2 Background

Scientific Name	Species Name	Species Code	BC List	Provincial FRPA	COSEWIC	SARA	Bulkley	Morice
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Rainbow Trout	RB	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Steelhead	ST	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Steelhead (Summer-run)	SST	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Oncorhynchus nerka	Kokanee	KO	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Oncorhynchus nerka	Sockeye Salmon	SK	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook Salmon	CH	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Prosopium coulterii	Pygmy Whitefish	PW	Yellow	–	NAR (Nov 2016)	–	Yes	Yes
Prosopium coulterii pop. 3	Giant Pygmy Whitefish	GPW	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	–
Prosopium williamsoni	Mountain Whitefish	MW	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Ptychocheilus oregonensis	Northern Pikeminnow	NSC	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Pungitius pungitius	Ninespine Stickleback	NSB	Unknown	–	–	–	Yes	–
Rhinichthys cataractae	Longnose Dace	LNC	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Rhinichthys falcatus	Leopard Dace	LDC	Yellow	–	NAR (May 1990)	–	–	Yes
Richardsonius balteatus	Redside Shiner	RSC	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Salvelinus confluentus pop. 26	Bull Trout	BT	Blue	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Salvelinus fontinalis	Brook Trout	EB	Exotic	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Salvelinus malma	Dolly Varden	DV	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Salvelinus namaycush	Lake Trout	LT	Yellow	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
–	Arctic Char	AC	–	–	–	–	–	Yes
–	Cutthroat/Rainbow cross	CRS	–	–	–	–	Yes	–
–	Dace (General)	DC	–	–	–	–	–	Yes
–	Lamprey (General)	L	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
–	Minnow (General)	C	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
–	Salmon (General)	SA	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
–	Sculpin (General)	CC	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
–	Sucker (General)	SU	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
–	Whitefish (General)	WF	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes

\* COSEWIC abbreviations :

SC - Special concern

DD - Data deficient

NAR - Not at risk

E - Endangered

T - Threatened

BC List definitions :

Yellow - Species that is apparently secure

Blue - Species that is of special concern

Exotic - Species that have been moved beyond their natural range as a result of human activity

## 2.4 Fisheries

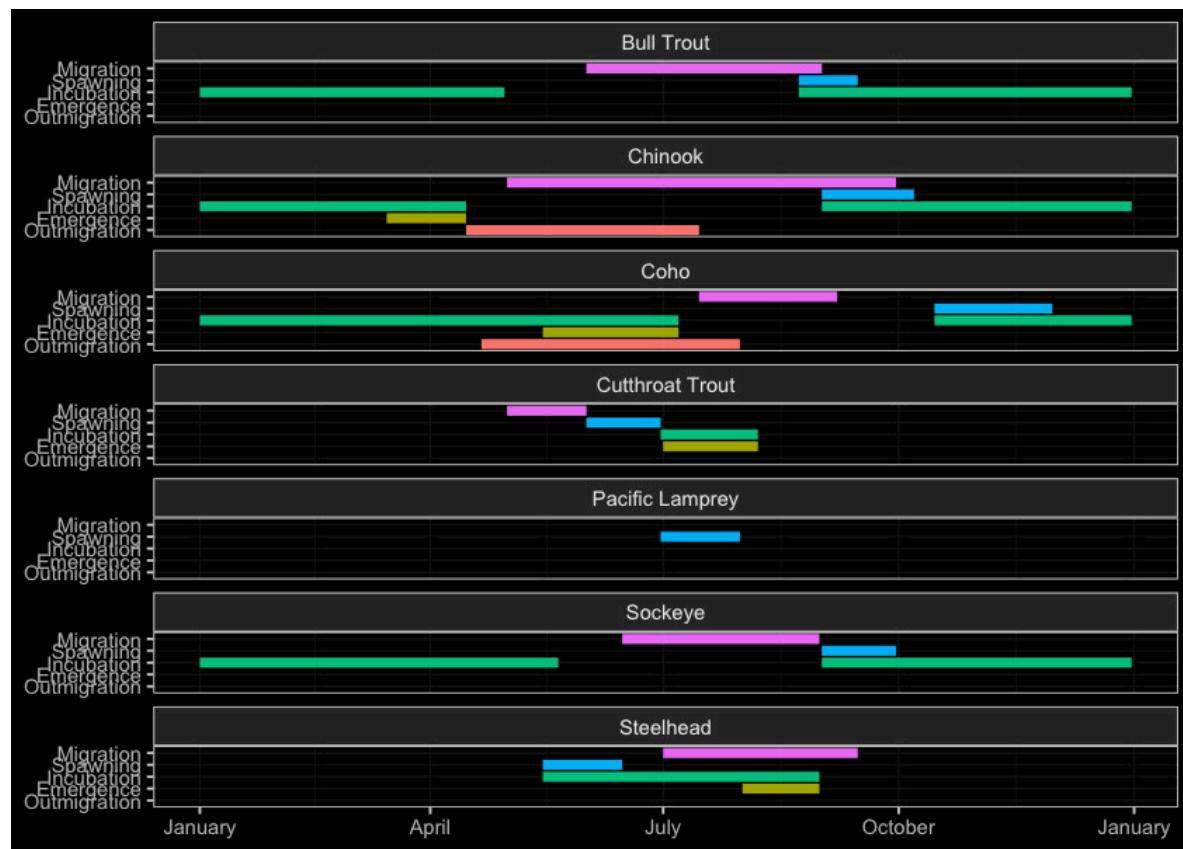


Figure 2.11: Gantt chart for select species in the Morice River and Bulkley River watersheds. To be updated in consultation with local fisheries technicians and knowledge holders.

## 2 Background

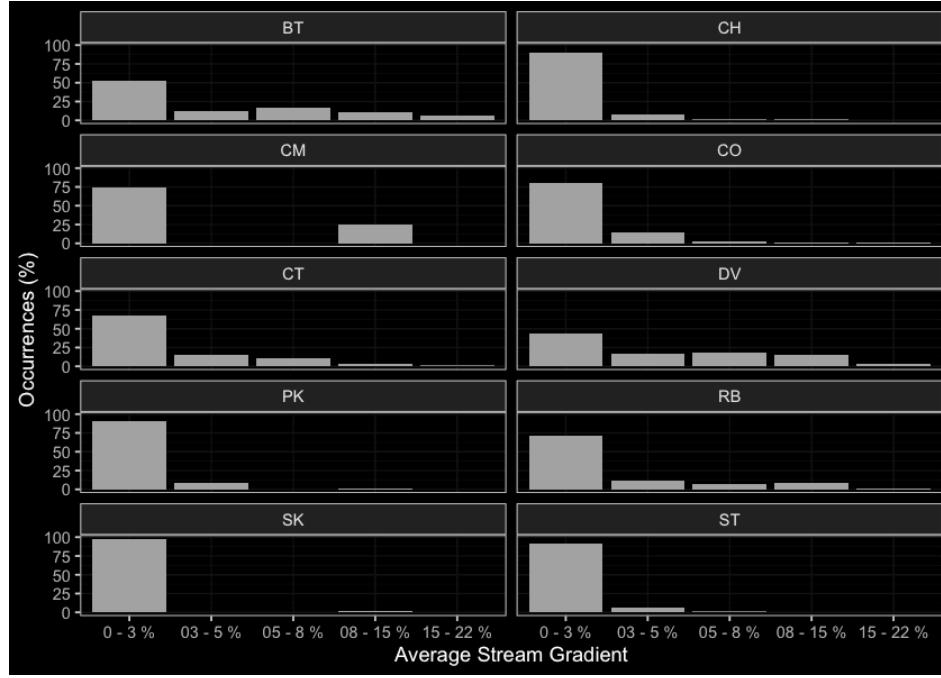


Figure 2.12: Summary of historic salmonid observations vs. stream gradient category for the Bulkley River watershed group.

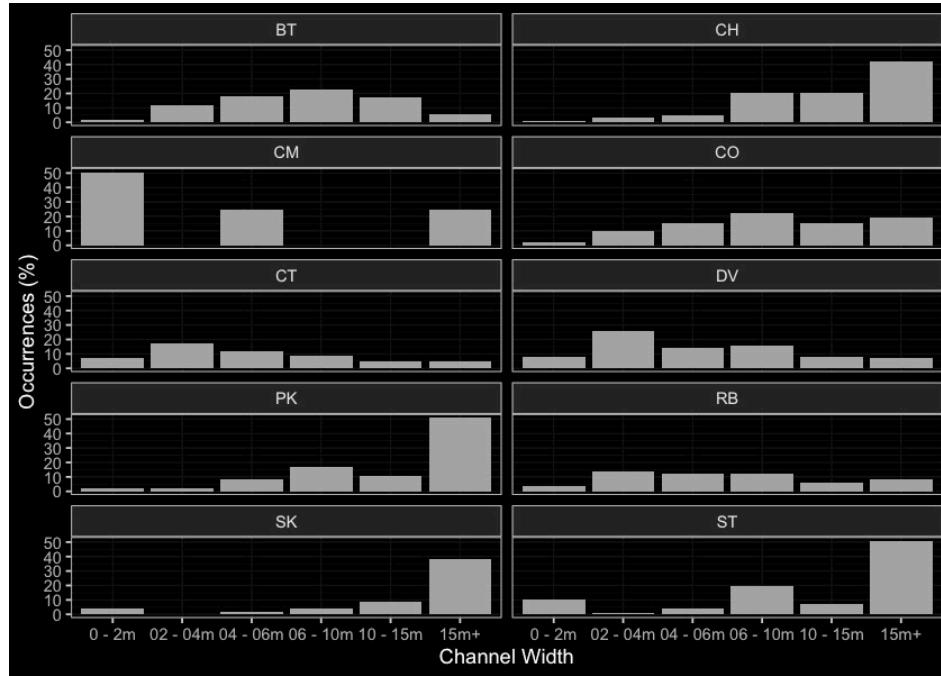


Figure 2.13: Summary of historic salmonid observations vs. channel width category for the Bulkley River watershed group.

## 2.4 Fisheries



## **3 Methods**

Workflows for the project have been classified into planning, fish passage assessments, habitat confirmation assessments, reporting and mapping. All components leveraged R, SQL or Python programming languages to facilitate workflow tracking, collaboration, transparency and continually improving research. Project workflows utilized local and remote PostgreSQL databases as well as a “snapshot” of select datasets contained within a local sqlite database. A data and script repository to facilitate this reporting is located on [Github](#).

### **3.1 Planning**

To identify priorities for crossing structure rehabilitation, background literature, fisheries information, PSCIS, and bcfishpass (Norris 2021d) outputs were reviewed. bcfishpass is an updated open-source code repository comprised of tools ported over from the Fish Habitat Model (Norris and Mount 2016) developed by the BC Ministry of Environment along with a number of significant upgrades and new features. Scripts within bcfishpass also pull and analyze data using other open-source tools such as bcdata (Norris 2021b), bcfishobs (Norris 2021c), and fwapg (Norris 2021a) which serve numerous functions related to open-data access as well as the analysis of the BC Freshwater Atlas, roads, fish and fish habitat in British Columbia.

#### **3.1.1 Habitat Modelling**

bcfishpass calculates the average gradient of BC Freshwater Atlas stream network lines at minimum 100m long intervals starting from the downstream end of the streamline segment and working upstream. The network lines are broken into max gradient categories with new segments created if and when the average slope of the stream line segment exceeds user provided thresholds. For this project, the user provided gradient thresholds used to delineate “potentially accessible habitat” were based on estimated max gradients that salmon (15% - coho and chinook) and steelhead (20%) are likely to be capable of ascending.

Through this initiative and other SERN/New Graph led initiatives, the Provincial Fish Passage Remediation Program and connectivity restoration planning by the Canadian Wildlife Federation (Mazany-Wright et al. 2021), bcfishpass has been designed to prioritize potential fish passage barriers for assessment or remediation. The software is under continual development and has been designed and constructed by Norris (2021d) using sql and python based shell script libraries to generate a simple model of aquatic habitat connectivity. The model identifies natural barriers (ex. steep gradients for extended distances) and hydroelectric dams to classifying the accessibility upstream by fish (Norris 2021d). On potentially accessible streams, scripts identify known barriers (ex. waterfalls >5m high) and additional anthropogenic features which are primarily road/railway stream crossings (i.e. culverts) that are potentially barriers. To prioritize these features for assessment or remediation, scripts report on how much modelled potentially accessible aquatic habitat the barriers may obstruct. The model can be refined with known fish observations upstream of identified barriers and for each crossing location, the area of lake and wetland habitat upstream, species documented upstream/downstream, an estimate of watershed area (on 2nd order and

### 3 Methods

higher streams), mean annual precipitation weighted to upstream watershed area and channel width can be collated using `bcfishpass`, `fwapg` and `bcfishobs`. This, information, can be used to provides an indication of the potential quantity and quality of habitat potentially gained should fish passage be restored by comparing to user defined thresholds for the aforementioned parameters. A discussion of the methodology to derive channel width is below.

Gradient, channel size and stream discharge are key determinants of channel morphology and subsequently fish distribution. High value rearing, overwintering and spawning habitat preferred by numerous species/life stages of fish are often located within channel types that have relatively low gradients and large channel widths (also quantified by the amount of flow in the stream). Following delineation of “potentially accessible habitat”, the average gradient of each stream segment within habitat classified as below the 15% and 20% thresholds was calculated and summed within species and life stage specific gradient categories. Average gradient of stream line segments can be calculated from elevations contained in the provincial freshwater atlas streamline dataset. To obtain estimates of channel width upstream of crossing locations, Where available, `bcfishpass` was utilized to pull average channel gradients from Fisheries Information Summary System (FISS) site assessment data (MoE 2020d) or PSCIS assessment data (MoE 2021) and associate with stream segment lines. When both FISS and PSCIS values were associated with a particular stream segment, FISS channel width was used. When multiple FISS sites were associated with a particular stream segment a mean of the average channel widths was taken. To model channel width for 2nd order and above stream segments without associated FISS or PSCIS sites, first `fwapg` was used to estimate the drainage area upstream of the segment. Then, rasters from ClimateBC (Wang et al. 2012) were sampled for each stream segments and a mean annual precipitation weighted by upstream watershed area was calculated. Mean annual precipitation was then combined with the channel widths and BEC zone information (gathered through a spatial query tied to the bottom of the stream segment) into a dataset ( $n = 22990$ ) for analysis fo the relationship between these variables. The details of this analysis and resulting formula used to estimate channel width on stream segments in the Skeena Watershed is included as a technical appendix at <https://www.poissonconsulting.ca/f/859859031>.

`bcfishpass` and associated tools have been designed to be flexible in analysis, accepting user defined gradient, channel width and stream discharge categories (MoE 2020d). Although currently in draft form, and subject to development revisions, gradient and channel width thresholds for habitat with the highest intrinsic value for a number of fish species in the Skeena watershed groups have been specified and applied to model habitat upstream of stream crossing locations with the highest intrinsic value (Table 3.1). Thresholds were derived based on a literature review with references provided in Table 3.2. Output parameters for modelling are presented in Table 3.3.

### 3.2 Fish Passage Assessments

**Table 3.1: Stream gradient and channel width thresholds used to model potentially highest value fish habitat.**

Variable	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead	Sockeye Salmon
Spawning Gradient Max (%)	4	5	4	2
Spawning Width Min (m)	4	2	4	2
Rearing Gradient Max (%)	5.0	5.0	7.4	—
Rearing Width Min (m)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

**Table 3.2: References for stream gradient and channel width thresholds used to model potentially highest value fish habitat. Preliminary and subject to revisions.**

Variable	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead	Sockeye Salmon
Spawning Gradient Max (%)	0.03 (Kirsch et al. 2004, Busch et al. 2011, Cooney and Holzer 2006)	0.05 (Roberge et al. 2002, Sloat et al. 2017)	0.04 (Scheer and Steel 2006, Cooney and Holzer 2006)	0.02 (Lake 1999, Hoopes 1972)
Spawning Width Min (m)	3.7 (Busch et al. 2011, Cooney and Holzer 2006)	2 (Sloat et al 2017)	3.8 (Cooney and Holzer 2006)	2 (Woll et al. 2017)
Rearing Gradient Max (%)	0.05 (Woll et al. 2017, Porter et al. 2008)	0.05 (Kirsch et al. 2004, Porter et al. 2008, Rosenfeld et al. 2000)	0.074 (Porter et al. 2008)	—

**Table 3.3: bcfishpass outputs and associated definitions**

Attribute	Definition
ST Network (km)	Steelhead model, total length of stream network potentially accessible upstream of point
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	Steelhead model, total area lakes and reservoirs potentially accessible upstream of point
ST Wetland (ha)	Steelhead model, total area wetlands potentially accessible upstream of point
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	Steelhead model, length of stream connectors (in waterbodies) potentially accessible upstream of point with slope 0-3%
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	Steelhead model, length of stream potentially accessible upstream of point with slope 0-3%
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	Steelhead model, length of stream potentially accessible upstream of point with slope 3-5%
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	Steelhead model, length of stream potentially accessible upstream of point with slope 5-8%
ST Spawning (km)	Length of stream upstream of point modelled as potential Steelhead spawning habitat
ST Rearing (km)	Length of stream upstream of point modelled as potential Steelhead rearing habitat
CH Spawning (km)	Length of stream upstream of point modelled as potential Chinook spawning habitat
CH Rearing (km)	Length of stream upstream of point modelled as potential Chinook rearing habitat
CO Spawning (km)	Length of stream upstream of point modelled as potential Coho spawning habitat
CO Rearing (km)	Length of stream upstream of point modelled as potential Coho rearing habitat
CO Rearing (ha)	Area of wetlands upstream of point modelled as potential Coho rearing habitat
SK Spawning (km)	Length of stream upstream of point modelled as potential Sockeye spawning habitat
SK Rearing (km)	Length of stream upstream of point modelled as potential Sockeye rearing habitat
SK Rearing (ha)	Area of lakes upstream of point modelled as potential Sockeye rearing habitat

\* Steelhead model uses a gradient threshold of maximum 20% to determine if access is likely possible

### 3.2 Fish Passage Assessments

In the field, crossings prioritized for follow-up were first assessed for fish passage following the procedures outlined in “Field Assessment for Determining Fish Passage Status of Closed Bottomed

### 3 Methods

Structures" (MoE 2011a). Crossings surveyed included closed bottom structures (CBS), open bottom structures (OBS) and crossings considered "other" (i.e. fords). Photos were taken at surveyed crossings and when possible included images of the road, crossing inlet, crossing outlet, crossing barrel, channel downstream and channel upstream of the crossing and any other relevant features. The following information was recorded for all surveyed crossings: date of inspection, crossing reference, crew member initials, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates, stream name, road name and kilometer, road tenure information, crossing type, crossing subtype, culvert diameter or span for OBS, culvert length or width for OBS. A more detailed "full assessment" was completed for all closed bottom structures and included the following parameters: presence/absence of continuous culvert embedment (yes/no), average depth of embedment, whether or not the culvert bed resembled the native stream bed, presence of and percentage backwatering, fill depth, outlet drop, outlet pool depth, inlet drop, culvert slope, average downstream channel width, stream slope, presence/absence of beaver activity, presence/absence of fish at time of survey, type of valley fill, and a habitat value rating. Habitat value ratings were based on channel morphology, flow characteristics (perennial, intermittent, ephemeral), fish migration patterns, the presence/absence of deep pools, un-embedded boulders, substrate, woody debris, undercut banks, aquatic vegetation and overhanging riparian vegetation (Table 3.4). For crossings determined to be potential barriers or barriers based on the data (see [Barrier Scoring \(page 25\)](#)), a culvert fix and recommended diameter/span was proposed.

Table 3.4: Table 3.5: Habitat value criteria (Fish Passage Technical Working Group, 2011).

Habitat Value	Fish Habitat Criteria
High	The presence of high value spawning or rearing habitat (e.g., locations with abundance of suitably sized gravels, deep pools, undercut banks, or stable debris) which are critical to the fish population.
Medium	Important migration corridor. Presence of suitable spawning habitat. Habitat with moderate rearing potential for the fish species present.
Low	No suitable spawning habitat, and habitat with low rearing potential (e.g., locations without deep pools, undercut banks, or stable debris, and with little or no suitably sized spawning gravels for the fish species present).

## 3.2 Fish Passage Assessments

### 3.2.1 Barrier Scoring

Fish passage potential was determined for each stream crossing identified as a closed bottom structure as per MoE (2011a). The combined scores from five criteria: depth and degree to which the structure is embedded, outlet drop, stream width ratio, culvert slope, and culvert length were used to screen whether each culvert was a likely barrier to some fish species and life stages (Table 3.6, Table 3.7). These criteria were developed based on data obtained from various studies and reflect an estimation for the passage of a juvenile salmon or small resident rainbow trout (Clarkin et al. 2005 ; Bell 1991; Thompson 2013).

Table 3.6: Fish Barrier Risk Assessment (MoE 2011).

Risk	LOW	MOD	HIGH
Embedded	>30cm or >20% of diameter and continuous	<30cm or 20% of diameter but continuous	No embedment or discontinuous
Value	0	5	10
Outlet Drop (cm)	<15	15-30	>30
Value	0	5	10
SWR	<1.0	1.0-1.3	>1.3
Value	0	3	6
Slope (%)	<1	1-3	>3
Value	0	5	10
Length (m)	<15	15-30	>30
Value	0	3	6

Table 3.7: Fish  
Barrier Scoring  
Results (MoE  
2011).

Cumulative Score	Result
0-14	passable
15-19	potential barrier
>20	barrier

### 3.2.2 Cost Benefit Analysis

A cost benefit analysis was conducted for each crossing determined to be a barrier based on an estimate of cost associated with remediation or replacement of the crossing with a structure that facilitates fish passage and the amount of potential habitat that would be made available by remediating fish passage at the site (habitat gain index).

### 3.2.2.1 Habitat Gain Index

The habitat gain index is the quantity of modelled habitat upstream of the subject crossing and represents an estimate of habitat gained with remediation of fish passage at the crossing. For this project, a gradient threshold between accessible and non-accessible habitat was set at 20% (for a minimum length of 100m) intended to represent the maximum gradient of which the strongest swimmers of anadromous species (steelhead) are likely to be able to migrate upstream.

For reporting of Phase 1 - fish passage assessments within the body of this report (Table 3.6), a “total” value of habitat <20% output from bcfishpass was used to estimate the amount of habitat upstream of each crossing less than 20% gradient before a falls of height >5m - as recorded in MoE (2020c) or documented in other bcfishpass online documentation. For Phase 2 - habitat confirmation sites, conservative estimates of the linear quantity of habitat to be potentially gained by fish passage restoration, steelhead rearing maximum gradient threshold (7.4%) was used. To generate areas of habitat upstream, the estimated linear length was multiplied by half the downstream channel width measured (overall triangular channel shape) as part of the fish passage assessment protocol. Although these estimates are not generally conservative, have low accuracy and do not account for upstream stream crossing structures they allow a rough idea of the best candidates for follow up.

Potential options to remediate fish passage were selected from MoE (2011a) and included:

- Removal (RM) - Complete removal of the structure and deactivation of the road.
- Open Bottom Structure (OBS) - Replacement of the culvert with a bridge or other open bottom structure. Based on consultation with FLNR road crossing engineering experts, for this project we considered bridges as the only viable option for OBS type .
- Streambed Simulation (SS) - Replacement of the structure with a streambed simulation design culvert. Often achieved by embedding the culvert by 40% or more. Based on consultation with FLNR engineering experts, we considered crossings on streams with a channel width of <2m and a stream gradient of <8% as candidates for replacement with streambed simulations.
- Additional Substrate Material (EM) - Add additional substrate to the culvert and/or downstream weir to embed culvert and reduce overall velocity/turbulence. This option was considered only when outlet drop = 0, culvert slope <1.0% and stream width ratio < 1.0.
- Backwater (BW) - Backwatering of the structure to reduce velocity and turbulence. This option was considered only when outlet drop < 0.3m, culvert slope <2.0%, stream width ratio < 1.2 and stream profiling indicates it would be effective..

Cost estimates for structure replacement with bridges and embedded culverts were generated based on the channel width, slope of the culvert, depth of fill, road class and road surface type. Road details were sourced from FLNRORD (2020b) and FLNRORD (2020a) through bcfishpass. Interviews with Phil MacDonald, Engineering Specialist FLNR - Kootenay, Steve Page, Area

### 3.2 Fish Passage Assessments

Engineer - FLNR - Northern Engineering Group and Matt Hawkins - MoTi - Design Supervisor for Highway Design and Survey - Nelson were utilized to help refine estimates.

Base costs for installation of bridges on forest service roads and permit roads with surfaces specified in provincial GIS road layers as rough and loose was estimated at \$25000/linear m and assumed that the road could be closed during construction and a minimum bridge span of 15m. For streams with channel widths <2m, embedded culverts were reported as an effective solution with total installation costs estimated at \$50k/crossing (pers. comm. Phil MacDonald, Steve Page) adjusted for inflation. For larger streams (>6m), span width increased proportionally to the size of the stream (ex. for an 8m wide stream a 12m wide span was prescribed). For crossings with large amounts of fill (>3m), the replacement bridge span was increased by an additional 3m for each 1m of fill >3m to account for cutslopes to the stream at a 1.5:1 ratio. To account for road type, a multiplier table was also generated to estimate incremental cost increases with costs estimated for structure replacement on paved surfaces, railways and arterial/highways costing up to 20 times more than forest service roads due to expenses associated with design/engineering requirements, traffic control and paving. The cost multiplier table (Table 3.8) should be considered very approximate with refinement recommended for future projects.

Table 3.8: Cost multiplier table based on road class and surface type.

Class	Surface	Class Multiplier	Surface Multiplier	Bridge \$K/10m	Streambed Simulation \$K
FSR	Rough	1	1	300	50
FSR	Loose	1	1	300	50
Resource	Loose	1	1	300	50
Resource	Rough	1	1	300	50
Permit	Loose	1	1	300	50
Unclassified	Loose	1	1	300	50
Unclassified	Rough	1	1	300	50
Unclassified	Paved	1	2	500	100
Unclassified	Unknown	1	2	500	100
Local	Loose	4	1	1000	200
Local	Paved	4	2	2000	400
Arterial	Paved	15	2	7500	1500
Highway	Paved	15	2	7500	1500
Rail	Rail	15	2	7500	1500

### 3.3 Habitat Confirmation Assessments

Following fish passage assessments, habitat confirmations were completed in accordance with procedures outlined in the document “A Checklist for Fish Habitat Confirmation Prior to the Rehabilitation of a Stream Crossing” (Fish Passage Technical Working Group 2011). The main objective of the field surveys was to document upstream habitat quantity and quality and to determine if any other obstructions exist above or below the crossing. Habitat value was assessed based on channel morphology, flow characteristics (perennial, intermittent, ephemeral), the presence/absence of deep pools, un-embedded boulders, substrate, woody debris, undercut banks, aquatic vegetation and overhanging riparian vegetation. Criteria used to rank habitat value was based on guidelines in Fish Passage Technical Working Group (2011) (Table [3.4](#)).

During habitat confirmations, to standardize data collected and facilitate submission of the data to provincial databases, information was collected on [“Site Cards”](#). Habitat characteristics recorded included channel widths, wetted widths, residual pool depths, gradients, bankfull depths, stage, temperature, conductivity, pH, cover by type, substrate and channel morphology (among others). When possible, the crew surveyed downstream of the crossing to the point where fish presence had been previously confirmed and upstream to a minimum distance of 600m. Any potential obstacles to fish passage were inventoried with photos, physical descriptions and locations recorded on site cards. Surveyed routes were recorded with time-signatures on handheld GPS units.

Fish sampling was conducted on a subset of sites when biological data was considered to add significant value to the physical habitat assessment information. When possible, electrofishing was utilized within discrete site units both upstream and downstream of the subject crossing with electrofisher settings, water quality parameters (i.e. conductivity, temperature and ph), start location, length of site and wetted widths (average of a minimum of three) recorded. For each fish captured, fork length and species was recorded, with results included within the fish data submission spreadsheet. Fish information and habitat data will be submitted to the province under scientific fish collection permit CB20-611971.

### 3.4 Climate Change Risk Assessment

#### 3.4 Climate Change Risk Assessment

In collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTi), a new climate change replacement program aims to prioritize vulnerable culverts for replacement (pers. comm Sean Wong, 2022) based on data collected and ranked related to three categories - culvert condition, vulnerability and priority. Within the “condition” risk category - data was collected and crossings were ranked based on erosion, embankment and blockage issues. The “climate” risk category included ranked assessments of the likelihood of both a flood event affecting the culvert as well as the consequence of a flood event affecting the culvert. Within the “priority” category the following factors were ranked - traffic volume, community access, cost, constructability, fish bearing status and environmental impacts (Table 3.9). This project is still in its early stages with methodology changes likely going forward.

Table 3.9: Climate change data collected at MoTi culvert sites

Parameter	Description
erosion_issues	Erosion (scale 1 low - 5 high)
embankment_fill_issues	Embankment fill issues 1 (low) 2 (medium) 3 (high)
blockage_issues	Blockage Issues 1 (0-30%) 2 (>30-75%) 3 (>75%)
condition_rank	Condition Rank = embankment + blockage + erosion
condition_notes	Describe details and rational for condition rankings
likelihood_flood_event_affecting_culvert	Likelihood Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)
consequence_flood_event_affecting_culvert	Consequence Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)
climate_change_flood_risk	Climate Change Flood Risk (likelihood x consequence) 1-6 (low) 6-12 (medium) 10-25 (high)
vulnerability_rank	Vulnerability Rank = Condition Rank + Climate Rank
climate_notes	Describe details and rational for climate risk rankings
traffic_volume	Traffic Volume 1 (low) 5 (medium) 10 (high)
community_access	Community Access - Scale - 1 (high - multiple road access) 5 (medium - some road access) 10 (low - one road access)
cost	Cost (scale: 1 high - 10 low)
constructability	Constructability (scale: 1 difficult -10 easy)
fish_bearing	Fish Bearing 10 (Yes) 0 (No) - see maps for fish points
environmental_impacts	Environmental Impacts (scale: 1 high -10 low)
priority_rank	Priority Rank = traffic volume + community access + cost + constructability + fish bearing + environmental impacts
overall_rank	Overall Rank = Vulnerability Rank + Priority Rank
priority_notes	Describe details and rational for priority rankings

#### 3.5 Reporting

Reporting was generated with bookdown (Xie 2016) from Rmarkdown (Allaire et al. 2024) with primarily R (R Core Team 2022) and SQL scripts. The R package fpr contains many specialized custom functions related to the work (Irvine [2022] 2022). In addition to numerous spatial layers sourced through the BC Data Catalogue then stored and queried in a local postgisql and sqlite databases [data inputs](#) for this project include:

- Populated [Fish Data Submission Spreadsheet Template - V 2.0, January 20, 2020](#)
- Populated [pscis\\_assessment\\_template\\_v24.xls](#)

### 3 Methods

- [bcfishpass](#) outputs.
- [Custom CSV file](#) detailing Phase 2 site:
  - priority level for proceeding to design for replacement
  - length of survey upstream and downstream
  - a conservative estimate of the linear length of mainstem habitat potentially available upstream of the crossing
  - fish species confirmed as present upstream of the crossing
- [GPS tracks](#) from field surveys.
- [Photos](#) and photo metadata

Version changes are tracked [here](#) and issues/planned enhancements tracked [here](#).

#### 3.6 Mapping

Mapping was completed by Hillcrest Geographics. pdf maps were generated using QGIS with data supplied via a PostgreSQL database. A QGIS layer file defining and symbolizing all layers required for general fish passage mapping was developed and at the time of reporting was kept under version control within bcfishpass.

## **4 Results and Discussion**

### **4.1 Fish Passage Assessment - Phase 1**

Field assessments were conducted between September 05 2022 and September 26 2022 by Allan Irvine, R.P.Bio. and Mateo Winterscheidt, B.Sc., Tieasha Pierre, Vern Joseph, Dallas Nikal, Alexandria Nikal, Jesse Olson and Colin Morrison. A total of 61 Phase 1 assessments at sites not yet inventoried into the PSCIS system included 18 crossings considered “passable”, 7 crossings considered “potential” barriers and 32 crossings considered “barriers” according to threshold values based on culvert embedment, outlet drop, slope, diameter (relative to channel size) and length (MoE 2011a). Additionally, although all were considered fully passable, 4 crossings assessed were fords and ranked as “unknown” according to the provincial protocol. A summary of crossings assessed, a cost estimate for remediation and a priority ranking for follow up for Phase 1 sites is presented in Table 4.1. Detailed data with photos are presented in [Attachment 2]([https://www.newgraphenvironment.com/fish\\_passage\\_skeena\\_2022\\_reporting/appendix---phase-1-fish-passage-assessment-data-and-photos.html](https://www.newgraphenvironment.com/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/appendix---phase-1-fish-passage-assessment-data-and-photos.html)).

“Barrier” and “Potential Barrier” rankings used in this project followed MoE (2011a) and reflect an assessment of passability for juvenile salmon or small resident rainbow trout at any flows potentially present throughout the year (Clarkin et al. 2005 ; Bell 1991; Thompson 2013). As noted in Bourne et al. (2011), with a detailed review of different criteria in Kemp and O’Hanley (2010), passability of barriers can be quantified in many different ways. Fish physiology (i.e. species, length, swim speeds) can make defining passability complex but with important implications for evaluating connectivity and prioritizing remediation candidates (Bourne et al. 2011; Shaw et al. 2016; Mahlum et al. 2014; Kemp and O’Hanley 2010). Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (2009) present criteria for assigning passability scores to culverts that have already been assessed as barriers in coarser level assessments. These passability scores provide additional information to feed into decision making processes related to the prioritization of remediation site candidates and have potential for application in British Columbia.

## 4 Results and Discussion

**Table 4.1: Upstream habitat estimates and cost benefit analysis for Phase 1 assessments conducted on sites not yet inventoried in PSCIS. Steelhead network model (total length stream network <20% gradient).**

PSCIS ID	External ID	Stream	Road	Result	Habitat value	Stream Width (m)	Priority	Fix	Cost Est (\$K)
2880		– Mooluck Creek	Kuldo FSR	Barrier	Medium	3.50	mod	SS-CBS	50
8525		– Tributary to Coal Creek	McDonell FSR	Barrier	Medium	1.40	mod	SS-CBS	50
8527		– Tributary to Zymoetz River	McDonell FSR	Barrier	Low	1.50	low	SS-CBS	50
196441		– Cullon Creek	Kuldo FSR	Potential	High	3.00	mod	OBS	300
198182	8302064	Tributary to Kispiox River	Helen Lake Rd	Barrier	Medium	1.40	mod	SS-CBS	50
198183	8302070	Tributary to Kispiox River	Helen Lake Rd	Barrier	Medium	2.30	mod	OBS	300
198184	8302074	Tributary to Kispiox River	Helen Lake Rd	Barrier	Low	1.10	low	SS-CBS	50
198185	8300115	Trib to McCully Creek	Helen Lake Rd	Barrier	Low	1.30	low	SS-CBS	200
198186	8300162	Tributary to Kispiox River	Poplar Park Rd	Potential	Low	1.20	low	SS-CBS	200
198187	2798180	Tributary to Kispiox River	Poplar Park Rd	Barrier	Low	2.10	low	OBS	–
198188	8300161	Tributary to Kispiox River	Poplar Park Rd	Barrier	Low	2.30	low	OBS	1000
198190	8302683	Sweetie River	Nangeese FSR	Barrier	Low	1.90	low	SS-CBS	50
198191	8302061	Tributary to Kispiox River	Corral Main	Barrier	Medium	1.50	mod	SS-CBS	50
198192	8302062	Tributary to Kispiox River	Corral Main	Barrier	Low	1.90	low	SS-CBS	50
198193	8301747	Tributary to Cullon Creek	Kuldo FSR	Barrier	Low	1.80	low	SS-CBS	50
198194	8301750	Tributary to Cullon Creek	Kuldo FSR	Barrier	Medium	1.90	mod	SS-CBS	50
198195	8301761	Tributary to Cullon Creek	Kuldo FSR	Barrier	Low	1.50	low	SS-CBS	50
198196	8300186	Tributary to Kispiox River	Kispiox Westside Rd	Barrier	Low	2.40	low	OBS	1000
198197	8300105	Tributary to Kispiox River	Kispiox Valley Rd	Barrier	Low	1.80	low	SS-CBS	200
198198	8300104	Tributary to Kispiox River	Kispiox Valley Rd	Potential	Low	1.20	low	SS-CBS	200
198199	8300103	Tributary to Kispiox River	Kispiox Valley Rd	Barrier	Low	1.40	low	SS-CBS	200
198202	8300188	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Hwy 37	Potential	Low	1.80	low	SS-CBS	50
198203	2022090901	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Kitwancool Branch 2 FSR	Potential	Medium	1.70	low	SS-CBS	50
198204	8302421	Tributary to Kispiox River	Helen 9000	Potential	Low	15.00	low	OBS	600
198205	8302065	Tributary to Kispiox River	Helen Lake Rd	Barrier	Low	2.20	low	OBS	300
198206	8300118	Tributary to McCully Creek	Helen Lake Rd	Barrier	Low	2.00	low	OBS	–
198207	2022090501	Tributary to Kispiox River	Poplar Park Rd	Barrier	High	2.20	high	OBS	–

## 4.2 Habitat Confirmation - Phase 2

PSCIS ID	External ID	Stream	Road	Result	Habitat value	Stream Width (m)	Priority	Fix	Cost Est (\$K)
198208	8300030	Tributary to Sweetin River	Kispiox Valley Rd	Barrier	Low	0.80	low	SS-CBS	200
198209	8300111	Tributary to Kispiox River	Kispiox Valley Rd	Barrier	Low	1.90	low	SS-CBS	200
198210	8302403	Tributary to Kispiox River	Mitten Mainline	Potential	Low	4.30	low	OBS	300
198213	8301749	Tributary to Cullon Creek	Kuldo FSR	Barrier	Low	1.00	low	SS-CBS	50
198214	8301748	Tributary to Cullon Creek	Kuldo FSR	Barrier	Low	1.60	low	SS-CBS	50
198215	8300042	Tributary to Kispiox River	Kispiox Westside Rd	Barrier	High	5.30	high	OBS	1750
198217	8301485	Tributary to Skeena River	Sik e Dakh Water Tower Rd	Barrier	High	5.60	high	OBS	300
198218	2787053	Tributary to Kispiox River	Kispiox Valley Rd	Barrier	Medium	2.00	mod	OBS	-
198219	8300033	Tributary to Kispiox River	Seventeen Mile Rd	Potential	Medium	2.50	low	OBS	1000
198220	8300095	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Hwy 37	Barrier	High	5.00	high	OBS	22875
198221	8300178	Tributary to Kitwanga River	11A Ave	Barrier	Medium	4.00	mod	OBS	-
198222	8302257	Pinenut Creek	Babine Slide FSR	Barrier	High	8.20	high	OBS	390
198224	4601067	Tributary to Zymoetz River	Hankin FSR	Barrier	Medium	1.45	mod	SS-CBS	50
198225	8300128	Sterritt creek	Babine Slide FSR	Barrier	Low	3.70	low	OBS	390
198230	8300108	Trib to Sammon Lake	Kispiox Valley Rd	Barrier	Medium	1.90	mod	SS-CBS	200
198236	8301994	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Kitwancool Branch 2 FSR	Barrier	High	2.30	high	OBS	300

## 4.2 Habitat Confirmation - Phase 2

During 2022 field assessments, habitat confirmation assessments were conducted at 8 sites in the Morice River, Zymoetz River and Kispiox River watersheds. A total of approximately 7km of stream was assessed, fish sampling utilizing electrofishing surveys were conducted at two streams.

Georeferenced field maps are presented in Attachment 1.

As collaborative decision making was ongoing at the time of reporting, site prioritization can be considered preliminary. In total, 5 crossings were rated as high priorities for proceeding to design for replacement, 2 crossings were rated as moderate priorities, and 0 crossings were rated as low priorities. Results are summarized in Tables 4.2 - 4.6 with raw habitat and fish sampling data included in digital format [here](#). A summary of preliminary modelling results illustrating the quantity of chinook, coho and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat potentially available upstream of each crossing as estimated by measured/modelled channel width and upstream accessible stream length are presented in Figure 4.1. Detailed information for each site assessed with Phase 2 assessments (including maps) are presented within site specific appendices to this document.

## 4 Results and Discussion

**Table 4.2: Overview of habitat confirmation sites. Steelhead rearing model used for habitat estimates (total length of stream segments <7.5% gradient)**

PSCIS ID	Stream	Road	UTM (11U)	Fish Species	Habitat Gain (km)	Habitat Value	Priority	Comments
8530	Sandstone Creek	Mcdonell FSR	582704 6073877	CT, DV, RB	5.7	Medium	high	Medium value habitat. Abundant cover from woody debris, overhanging veg and undercut banks. Wide channel throughout with graveled areas suitable for spawning. Trace distribution of deep pools suitable for rearing. A couple smaller cascades (<1m in height) that may block smaller fish. 11:23:33
197379	Alvin Creek	Morice-Owen FSR	640961 6005930	CO, RB, CT, DV	0.8	High	high	Adjacent to Huckleberry remote work camp set up for pipeline construction. Draft design completed for replacement by Ministry of Forests. Habitat confirmation assessment was conducted at the site in 2021 with the site revisited for fish sampling (electrofishing and tagging) in the summers of 2022 and 2023. Good flow present in 2021 however, stream contained only isolated pools in 2022 with fish captured tagged with PIT tags. Site revisited in 2023 to resample however no water was present except small outlet pool. One fish was observed in the outlet pool in 2023 (rainbow trout ~110mm long with no tag present) and one PIT tag was discovered in a dry area of the channel near the outlet pool. All areas fished in 2022 - both upstream and downstream of the FSR - were scanned with PIT tag reader in 2023 however only the one tag was discovered downstream. Abundant undercut banks with some pools. Healthy riparian vegetation providing cover and woody debris to habitat.
198215	Dale Creek	Kispiox Westside Rd	582154 6135026	RB, CT, DV	0.8	High	moderate	Moderate value habitat. Immediately adjacent to the community of Kispiox. Wide stream with numerous cascades and deep pools below. Two dams noted as upstream in provincial data layers (800m and 1000m upstream of the crossing) with upstream dam likely related to drinking water intake for Kispiox community but unconfirmed. Lower dam confirmed as not present. Large outlet drop. Site revisited in 2023 to conduct electrofishing.
198216	Tributary to Skeena River	Kispiox Valley Rd	583026 6130402	—	—	High	—	—
198217	Tributary to Skeena River	Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd	582851 6130491	CT, DV	0.8	High	high	High value habitat. Stream flows adjacent to community of Glen Vale and supplies community drinking water. Abundant gravels suitable for CO, ST, RB spawning. Local knowledge of historic CO spawning in system. Multiple large beaver dams in site. Upstream end of site was u/s of beaver dam complex on southern tributary. Update for 2024 - engineering design completed and funding obtained by Gitskan Watershed Authorities to replace crossing in 2024. Site sampled upstream and downstream of crossing in 2023 to serve as baseline data for effectiveness monitoring. All fish >60mm were tagged with raw data included in <a href="https://github">https://github</a>

## 4.2 Habitat Confirmation - Phase 2

PSCIS ID	Stream	Road	UTM (11U)	Fish Species	Habitat Gain (km)	Habitat Value	Priority	Comments
<a href="http://com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/tree/main/data/2023">.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/tree/main/data/2023</a> .								
198220	Tea Creek	Hwy 37	563431 6109637	CO,CRS,CT,DV,RB,ST	19.4	High	high	Moderate value habitat. Only a few areas with fines suitable for spawning. Mostly cobbles in stream. Wide channel throughout with a lot of woody debris. Large amounts of undercut banks that can provide cover. But not many deep pools. Some steep eroding banks found every so often.
198222	Pinenut Creek	Babine Slide FSR	587054 6138716	DV	3.9	High	high	Medium value habitat in high energy glaciated system with numerous areas of multiple channel and islands and elevated bars. Minnowtrapping conducted upstream and downstream with Dolly varden captured. 13:44:56
198225	Sterritt creek	Babine Slide FSR	584899 6152502	-	1.3	Low	no fix	Large system with steeper gradients. No historical fisheries data from upstream. Site revisited in 2023 to conduct fish sampling however surveyors observed a 2-3m high near vertical cascade flowing over bedrock into the small outlet pool just below the FSR. Site no longer considered priority as fish passage will not be rectified by structure replacement.
198236	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Kitwancool Branch 2 FSR	550300 6140708	-	2.4	Medium	moderate	Skeena Fisheries Commission site. High value habitat, abundant gravels suitable for resident and anadromous spawning. Debris in downstream section potentially an access issue. Frequent pools due to LWD in canyon that was not logged. 14:48

Table 4.3: Summary of Phase 2 fish passage reassessments.

PSCIS ID	Embedded	Outlet Drop (m)	Diameter (m)	SWR	Slope (%)	Length (m)	Final score	Barrier Result
8530	No	0.30	2.4	1.4	3.0	28	39	Barrier
197379	No	0.47	1.5	4.3	1.5	26	34	Barrier
198215	No	1.10	3.7	1.4	4.0	32	42	Barrier
198216	Yes	0.00	2.0	2.8	0.5	24	14	Passable
198217	No	0.60	2.5	2.2	3.5	10	36	Barrier
198220	No	0.72	4.8	1.0	1.5	75	34	Barrier
198222	No	0.45	3.8	2.2	2.5	30	37	Barrier
198225	No	2.00	2.4	1.5	3.5	30	42	Barrier
198236	No	0.24	1.7	1.4	2.0	10	26	Barrier

## 4 Results and Discussion

**Table 4.4: Cost benefit analysis for Phase 2 assessments. Steelhead rearing model used (total length of stream segments <7.5% gradient)**

PSCIS ID	Stream	Road	Result	Habitat value	Stream Width (m)	Fix	Cost Est (in \$K)	Habitat Upstream (m)	Cost Benefit (m / \$K)	Cost Benefit (m2 / \$K)
8530	Sandstone Creek	Mcdonell FSR	Barrier	Medium	3.8	OBS	450	5700	12.7	21.5
197379	Alvin Creek	Morice-Owen FSR	Barrier	High	6.4	OBS	800	840	1.0	3.4
198215	Dale Creek	Kispiox Westside Rd	Barrier	High	3.8	OBS	2050	800	0.4	1.0
198217	Tributary to Skeena River	Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd	Barrier	High	6.0	OBS	450	800	1.8	5.0
198220	Tea Creek	Hwy 37	Barrier	High	4.2	OBS	22875	19420	0.8	2.1
198222	Pinenut Creek	Babine Slide FSR	Barrier	High	13.1	OBS	450	3920	8.7	35.7
198236	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Kitwancool Branch 2 FSR	Barrier	Medium	3.0	OBS	450	2400	5.3	6.1

## 4.2 Habitat Confirmation - Phase 2

**Table 4.5: Summary of Phase 2 habitat confirmation details.**

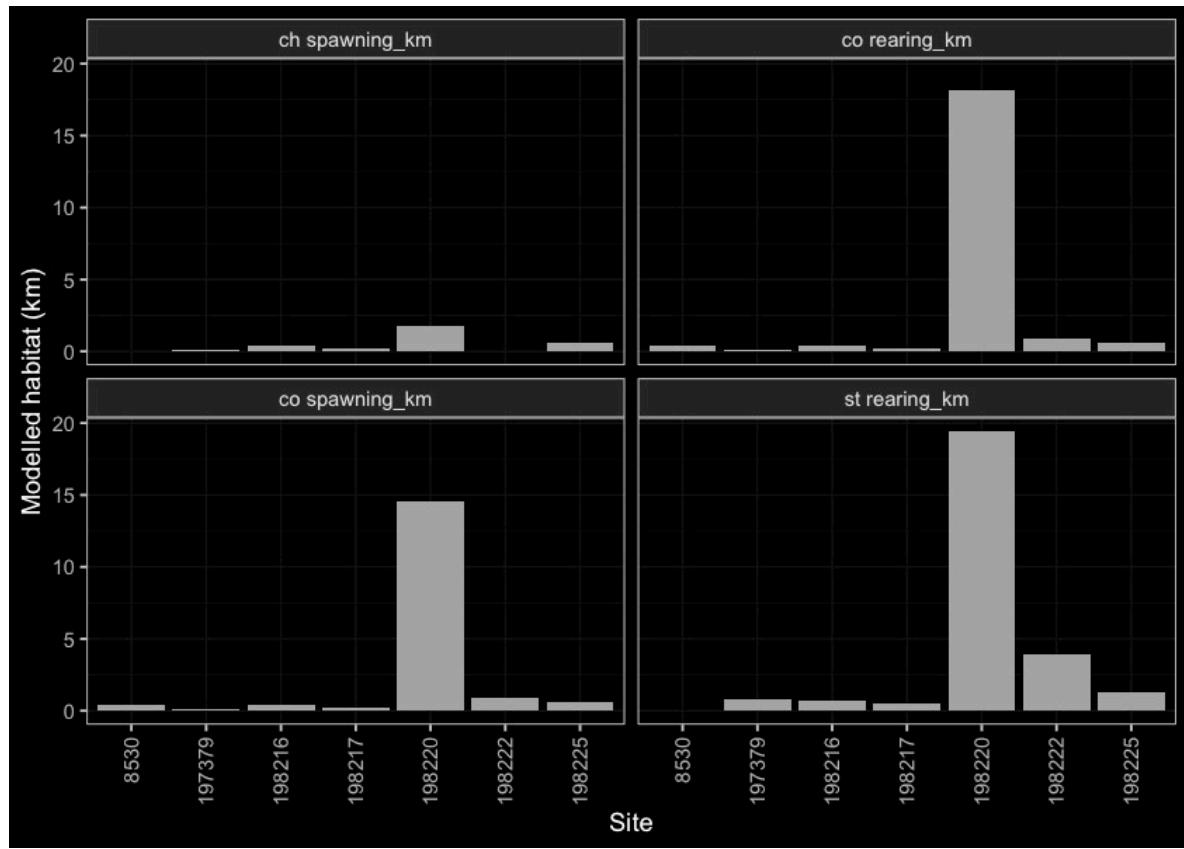
PSCIS ID	Length surveyed upstream (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
8530	600	3.8	2.3	0.6	3.2	moderate	high
197379	800	6.4	3.1	0.7	4.8	moderate	high
198215	800	3.8	2.3	0.5	7.0	moderate	medium
198217	300	6.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	moderate	high
198217	100	1.6	1.4	—	10.0	moderate	medium
198217	275	5.0	3.3	0.3	4.7	moderate	high
198220	600	4.2	2.8	0.4	3.9	moderate	medium
198222	650	13.1	5.7	0.4	3.6	trace	medium
198225	500	12.2	5.5	0.4	4.4	abundant	medium
198236	500	3.0	2.6	0.4	5.8	moderate	high

## 4 Results and Discussion

**Table 4.6: Summary of watershed area statistics upstream of Phase 2 crossings.**

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Min	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
8530	14.2	814	810	1282	1040	1029	SSW
197379	32.9	672	688	1418	931	909	SSW
198215	8.8	250	359	1173	802	689	E
198216	5.5	237	243	1287	483	401	ESE
198217	5.5	245	243	1287	483	401	ESE
198220	52.2	251	229	1141	587	568	SSW
198222	21.5	277	420	1964	1077	1006	SW
198225	14.4	369	470	2296	1441	1334	SW
198236	4.8	449	528	1760	1001	916	SE

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above



**Figure 4.1: Summary of potential habitat upstream of habitat confirmation assessment sites estimated based on modelled channel width and upstream channel length.**

## 4.2 Habitat Confirmation - Phase 2

### 4.2.1 Fish Sampling

Fish sampling was conducted at 8 sites with a total of 146 fish captured. Fork length data was used to delineate salmonids based on life stages: fry (0 to 65mm), parr (>65 to 110mm), juvenile (>110mm to 140mm) and adult (>140mm) by visually assessing the histograms presented in Figure 4.2. A summary of sites assessed are included in Table 4.7 and raw data is provided in [Attachment 3](#). A summary of density results for all life stages combined of select species is also presented in Figure 4.3. Results are presented in greater detail within individual habitat confirmation site appendices.

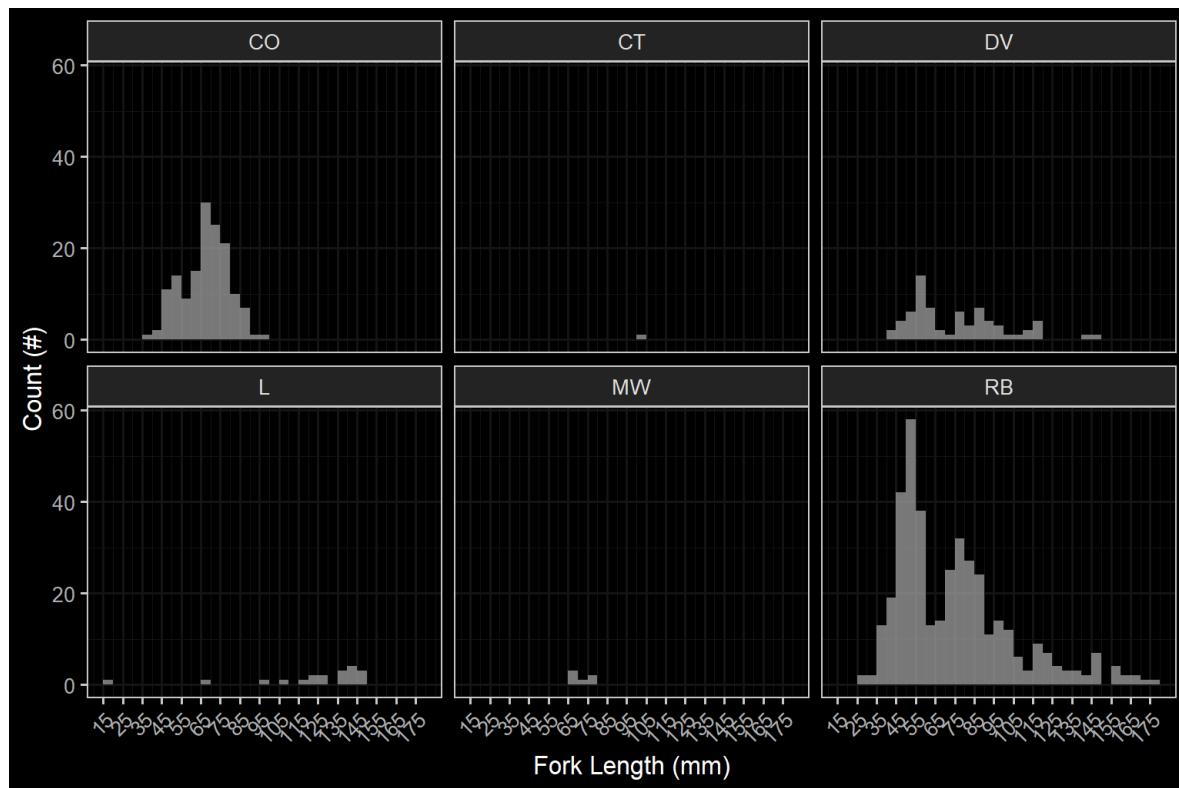


Figure 4.2: Histograms of fish lengths by species. Fish captured by electrofishing during habitat confirmation assessments.

## 4 Results and Discussion

Table 4.7: Summary of electrofishing sites.

site	passes	ef_length_m	ef_width_m	area_m2	enclosure
197379_ds_ef1	1	5	5.00	25.0	Open
197379_us_ef1	1	11	1.70	18.7	Open
8530_ds_ef1	1	14	2.40	33.6	Open
8530_ds_ef2	1	15	3.33	50.0	Open
8530_ds_ef3	1	11	4.15	45.7	Open
8530_us_ef1	1	17	2.40	40.8	Open
8530_us_ef2	1	21	2.40	50.4	Open
8530_us_ef3	1	21	2.80	58.8	Open

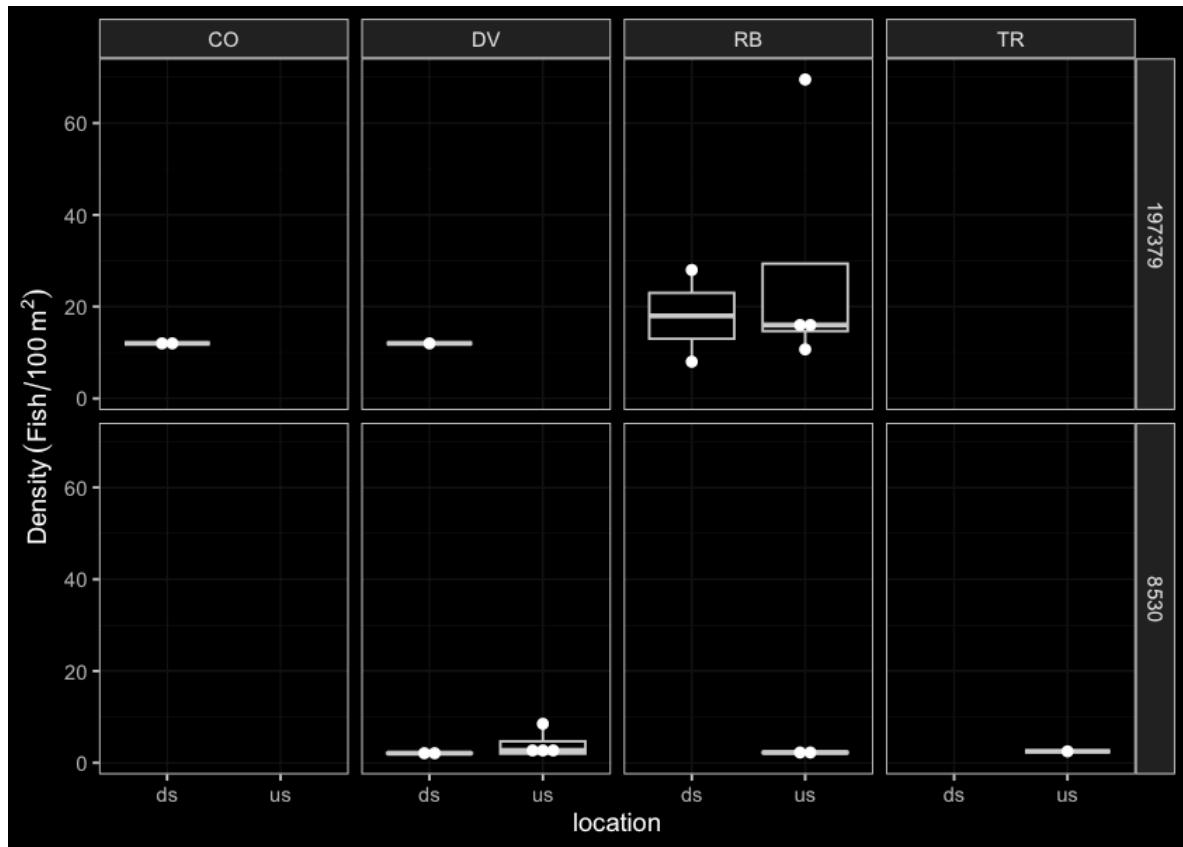


Figure 4.3: Boxplots of densities (fish/100m<sup>2</sup>) of fish captured by electrofishing during habitat confirmation assessments.

### 4.3 Engineering Design - Phase 3

Engineering designs have been completed for replacement of PSCIS crossing 58159 on McDowell Creek (Irvine 2021) with a clear-span bridge and for removal of the collapsed bridge (PSCIS crossing 197912) on Robert Hatch Creek. Designs for McDowell and Robert Hatch were procured by SERNbc and Canadian Wildlife Federation respectively. At the time of reporting, the Ministry of

## 4.4 Climate Change Risk Assessment

Transportation and Infrastructure, in collaboration with Canadian Wildlife Federation was in the process of procuring designs for remediation of fish passage at three sites documented in Irvine (2021) including PSCIS 123445 on Tyhee Creek, PSCIS 124500 on Helps Creek and PSCIS 197640 on a tributary to Buck Creek. Additionally, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure were procuring a design for PSCIS crossing 124420 on Station Creek (also known as Mission Creek) near New Hazelton (pers. comm. Sean Wong, Environmental Programs, MoTi).

### 4.4 Climate Change Risk Assessment

Preliminary climate change risk assessment data for Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure sites is presented below. Phase 1 sites are contained in Table 4.8, and Phase 2 sites are in Table 4.9. Raw data is provided [here](#).

**Table 4.8: Preliminary climate change risk assessment data for Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure sites (Phase 1 PSCIS)**

Site	198200	198215	198216	198197	198209	198206	198186	198221	198196	198202	198201	198207
External ID	8300012	8300042	8300054	8300105	8300111	8300118	8300162	8300178	8300186	8300188	8300917	2022090501
MoTi ID	1528424	1524776	3321227	3321236	1524149	1525645	1524552	1529688	1524780	1529371	1528426	1524566
Stream	Tea Creek	Dale Creek	Tributary to Skeena River	Tributary to Kispiox River	Tributary to Kispiox River	Tributary to McCully Creek	Tributary to Kispiox Creek	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Tributary to Kispiox River	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Tributary to Tea Creek	Tributary to Kispiox River
Road	Moore Road	Date Creek FSR	Kispiox Valley Road	Kispiox Valley Road	Kispiox Valley Road	Helen Lake Road	Poplar Park Road	11A Ave	Date Creek FSR	Hwy 37	Moore Road	Poplar Park Rd
Erosion (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1
Embankment fill issues 1 (low) 2 (medium) 3 (high)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Blockage Issues 1 (0-30%) 2 (>30-75%) 3 (>75%)	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
Condition Rank = embankment + blockage	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	6	4
Likelihood Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	3	2	1
Consequence Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	3	4	2	3	1	1	1	1	5	2	3
Climate Change Flood Risk (likelihood x consequence) 1- 6 (low) 6-12 (medium) 10-25 (high)	1	3	4	4	3	1	1	4	1	15	4	3
Vulnerability Rank =												

## 4 Results and Discussion

Site	198200	198215	198216	198197	198209	198206	198186	198221	198196	198202	198201	198207
Condition Rank + Climate Rank	4	7	8	8	6	4	5	8	5	18	10	7
Traffic Volume 1 (low) 5 (medium) 10 (high)	3	3	8	5	5	1	4	1	7	9	5	1
Community Access - Scale - 1 (high - multiple road access) 5 (medium - some road access) 10 (low - one road access)	8	3	10	7	5	5	8	1	9	8	9	1
Cost (scale: 1 high - 10 low)	8	5	2	4	7	1	7	1	6	2	8	10
Constructibility (scale: 1 difficult -10 easy)	9	5	2	6	7	10	8	9	5	4	8	10
Fish Bearing 10 (Yes) 0 (No) - see maps for fish points	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Environmental Impacts (scale: 1 high -10 low)	7	7	9	6	1	10	8	9	6	4	7	10
Priority Rank = traffic volume + community access + cost + constructability + fish bearing + environmental impacts	45	33	41	38	25	27	35	31	33	27	47	32
Overall Rank = Vulnerability Rank + Priority Rank	49	40	49	46	31	31	40	39	38	45	57	39

Table 4.9: Preliminary climate change risk assessment data for Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure sites (Phase 2 PSCIS)

Site	198215	198216	198220
MoTi ID	1524776	3321227	4092
Stream	Tributary to Kispiox River	Tributary to Skeena River	Tea Creek
Road	Date Creek FSR	Kispiox Valley Road	Highway 37
Erosion (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	1	3
Embankment fill issues 1 (low) 2 (medium) 3 (high)	1	1	1
Blockage Issues 1 (0-30%) 2 (>30-75%) 3 (>75%)	2	2	1
Condition Rank = embankment + blockage	4	4	5
Likelihood Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	1	1
Consequence Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	3	4	5
Climate Change Flood Risk (likelihood x consequence) 1-6 (low) 6-12 (medium) 10-25 (high)	3	4	5
Vulnerability Rank = Condition Rank + Climate Rank	7	8	10
Traffic Volume 1 (low) 5 (medium) 10 (high)	3	8	9
Community Access - Scale - 1 (high - multiple road access) 5 (medium - some road access) 10 (low - one road access)	3	10	1
Cost (scale: 1 high - 10 low)	5	2	1
Constructibility (scale: 1 difficult -10 easy)	5	2	2
Fish Bearing 10 (Yes) 0 (No) - see maps for fish points	10	10	10
Environmental Impacts (scale: 1 high -10 low)	7	9	2
Priority Rank = traffic volume + community access + cost + constructability + fish bearing + environmental impacts	33	41	25
Overall Rank = Vulnerability Rank + Priority Rank	40	49	35

## 5 Recommendations

Recommendations for potential incorporation into collaborative watershed connectivity planning include:

- Continue to acquire background information and leverage ongoing research initiatives in the region to collaboratively clarify current conditions and identify limiting factors to inform prioritization and effectiveness monitoring programs.
- Develop strategies to explore cost and fisheries production benefits of stream crossing structure upgrades alongside alternative/additional restoration and enhancement investments such as land conservation/procurement/covenant, cattle exclusion, riparian restoration, habitat complexing, water conservation, commercial/recreational fishing management, water treatment and research. Identify and pursue opportunities to collaborate and leverage initiatives together in study area watersheds (ex. fish passage rehabilitation, riparian restoration and cattle exclusion) for maximum likely restoration benefits.
- Refine barrier thresholds for road-stream crossing structures to explore metrics specific to life stage and life history types of species of interest. This will further focus efforts of potential remediation actions based on biological attributes (ex. timing of migration, size/direction of fish migrating, population dynamics, etc.) and could result in the consideration of interim “stop-gap” physical works to alter crossing characteristics that can address key connectivity issues yet be significantly less costly than structure replacements (ex. building up of downstream area with rock riffles to decrease the outlet drop size and/or increasing water depth within pipe with baffles and substrate additions).
- Model fish densities ( $\text{fish}/\text{m}^2$ ) vs. habitat/water quality characteristics (i.e. gradient, discharge, alkalinity, elevation, riparian health, distance from high order streams, etc.) using historically gathered electrofishing and remotely sensed geodata to inform crossing prioritization, future data acquisition needs and the monitoring of restoration actions.
- Continue to develop `bcfishpass`, `bcfishobs`, `fwapg`, `bcdatal` and `fpr` as well as to share open source data analysis and presentation tools that are scaleable and facilitate continual improvement. Tools should continue to be flexible and well documented to allow the future incorporation of alternative fragmentation indicators, habitat gain/value metrics and watershed sensitivity indicators.
- Continue to collaborate with potential partners to build relationships, explore perspectives and develop “road maps” for aquatic restoration in different situations (MoT roads, rail lines, permit roads of different usages, FSRs, etc.) – documenting the people involved, discussions and processes that are undertaken, funding options, synergies, measures of success, etc.



## **Alvin Creek - 197379 - Appendix**

### **Site Location**

PSCIS crossing 197379 is located on Alvin Creek 28km south-west of Houston, BC at approximately km 29.8 on the Morice-Owen Forest Service Road (FSR), approximately 0.2km upstream from the confluence with the Owen River. The stream is known locally as Alvin Creek, draining Alvin Lake however the naming convention is not documented for either the stream or the lake within the freshwater atlas of BC. This memo was previously titled “Tributary to Owen Creek - 197379”.

At the time of reporting in 2023, the Huckleberry Multi-Use Site was located immediately south of the subject stream at a location of approximately 1.1km upstream of the FSR. A remote workcamp, the site is reported as housing up to 800-1200 workers employed to construct TC Energy’s Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipeline project. Water for the camp (150,000 litres/day) was trucked in from the District of Houston with another 150,000 litres/day of effluent trucked back to Houston from disposal (Burns Lake Lakes District News 2022). This memo was originally drafted in 2023 but has been updated in the spring of 2024 with new information.

### **Background**

At crossing 197379, Alvin Creek is a third order stream with a watershed area upstream of the crossing of approximately 32.9km<sup>2</sup>. The elevation of the watershed ranges from a maximum of 1418m to 672m at the crossing (Table [5.1](#)). Upstream of crossing 197379, coho salmon and rainbow trout have previously been recorded (Norris 2022). A total of 67ha of lake and 129ha of wetland is modelled upstream of the Forest Service Road (Table [5.2](#)). PSCIS stream crossing 197379 was ranked as a moderate priority for follow up by Irvine (2021) with notes indicating than 1km of potential habitat but a very large channel width recorded in past PSCIS assessment. A map of the watershed is provided in map attachment [093L.103](#).

A habitat confirmation assessment was conducted at the site in 2021 with the site revisited in the summers of 2022 (September 15) and 2023 (September 13) for fish sampling (electrofishing and tagging).

Table 5.1: Summary of derived upstream  
watershed statistics for PSCIS crossing  
**197379.**

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
197379	32.9	672	1418	931	909	SSW

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

**Table 5.2: Summary of fish habitat modelling for PSCIS crossing 197379.**

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
ST Network (km)	0.8	0.8	100
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	–	0.0	–
ST Wetland (ha)	–	0.0	–
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	0.0	0.0	–
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	0.1	0.1	100
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	0.0	0.0	–
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	0.7	0.7	100
ST Spawning (km)	0.1	0.1	100
ST Rearing (km)	0.8	0.8	100
CH Spawning (km)	0.1	0.1	100
CH Rearing (km)	0.1	0.1	100
CO Spawning (km)	0.1	0.1	100
CO Rearing (km)	0.1	0.1	100
CO Rearing (ha)	–	0.0	–
SK Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	–
SK Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	–
SK Rearing (ha)	–	0.0	–

\* Model data is preliminary and subject to adjustments.

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

At the time of the survey, PSCIS crossing 197379 had an outlet drop of 0.5m, was un-embedded, non-backwatered and ranked as a barrier to upstream fish passage according to the provincial protocol (MoE 2011b) (Table 5.3). Water temperature was 12°C, pH was 7.9 and conductivity was 249uS/cm.

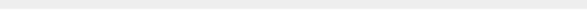
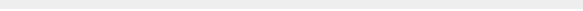
**Table 5.3: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 197379.**

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2021-09-07	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	197379	Diameter (m)	1.5
External ID	–	Length (m)	26
Crew	KP	Embedded	No
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	–
Easting	640960.8	Resemble Channel	No
Northing	6005930	Backwatered	No
Stream	Alvin Creek	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Morce-Owen FSR	Fill Depth (m)	5

Alvin Creek - 197379 - Appendix

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Road Tenure	FLNR DND 9947	Outlet Drop (m)	0.47
Channel Width (m)	6.4	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.9
Stream Slope (%)	4.8	Inlet Drop	No
Beaver Activity	No	Slope (%)	1.5
Habitat Value	High	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	34	Barrier Result	Barrier
Fix type	Replace with New Open Bottom Structure	Fix Span / Diameter	19

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Two thirds of culvert on upstream side has baffles. Fish sampling and PIT tagging conducted. Design underway by MoF. 13:18			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
 <p>2021-09-07 13:18 9U 640954 6005913</p>	 <p>2021-09-07 13:25 9U 640977 6005924</p>	 <p>2021-09-07 13:27 9U 640953 6005917</p>	 <p>2021-09-07 13:24 9U 640977 6005924</p>
 <p>2021-09-07 15:45 9U 641022 6005922</p>	 <p>2021-09-07 16:19 9U 640917 6005884</p>		

## Stream Characteristics Downstream

The stream was surveyed downstream from crossing 197379 for 190m (Figure [5.2](#)). The dominant substrate was cobbles with gravels sub-dominant. The average channel width was 4.3m, the average wetted width was 2.6m, and the average gradient was 3.3%. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with overhanging vegetation dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris and undercut banks. The stream had signs of high flow due to eroded banks. Habitat below the culvert was rated as medium value with likely important rearing areas for coho and steelhead rearing during high flow events in the Owen Creek mainstem.

## Stream Characteristics Upstream

The stream was surveyed for 800m in a downstream direction to the culvert from the location of an approximately 8m high waterfall (Figure [5.3](#)). The average channel width was 6.4m, the average wetted width was 3.1m, and the average gradient was 4.8%. The dominant substrate was cobbles with gravels sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with undercut banks dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, large woody debris, deep pools, and overhanging vegetation. Near the falls, bedrock dominated the stream substrate and the gradient was noted as 7%. The mixed deciduous and coniferous forest riparian was noted as healthy. Pockets of gravel suitable for coho, steelhead and resident rainbow trout/cutthroat trout were observed. Overall, the habitat upstream of the FSR was rated as high value, containing habitat suitable for rearing and spawning of both anadromous as well as resident fish species. Of note, when the site was revisited in 2022 the stream was primarily dewatered with numerous fish concentrated within isolated pools.

## Fish Sampling

Electrofishing results from sampling conducted in 2022 is summarised in Tables [5.5](#) - [5.6](#) and Figure [5.1](#). A total of 35 fish were captured upstream and 30 fish were captured downstream (Figure [5.5](#)). Although coho, dolly varden, rainbow trout and cutthroat trout (rainbow and cutthroat were potentially hybrid rainbow/cutthroat) parr (likely 1 year old fish) were captured downstream of the crossing, only rainbow trout and cutthroat trout were captured upstream. As noted, the stream was mostly dry at the time of electrofishing, with fish concentrated in pools. All fish over 60mm that were captured were tagged with Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT tags) with data stored [here](#).

The site was revisited in 2023 to resample to build the state of knowledge related to fish health and movement however no water was present in areas fished in 2022 with the exception of a very small outlet pool. One fish was observed in the outlet pool in 2023 (rainbow trout ~110mm long with no tag present) and one PIT tag was discovered in a dry area of the channel downstream near the outlet pool (fish had died). All areas fished in 2022 - both upstream and downstream of the FSR - were scanned with PIT tag reader in 2023 however only the one tag was discovered downstream.

## Structure Remediation and Cost Estimate

Should restoration/maintenance activities proceed, replacement of PSCIS crossing 197379 with a bridge (19m span) is recommended. The cost of the work was estimated by Mark Dewit (Ministry of Forest Area Engineer) at \$800,000 for a cost benefit of 1 linear m/\$1000 and  $3.4 \text{ m}^2/\$1000$  with the relatively high costs of the work predicted primarily related to the large amount of road fill present at the site, the large width of the two lane FSR and the subsequent significant excavation required to install the large replacement structure.

## Conclusion

Crossing 197379 on Alvin Creek was assessed for habitat characteristics in 2021 and for fish composition in 2022 and 2023. As electrofishing in 2022 captured coho, dolly varden, rainbow trout and cutthroat trout downstream of the crossing and only rainbow trout and cutthroat trout upstream, it appears as though the culvert was functioning as a barrier to upstream migration. Although, the absence of coho and dolly varden upstream of the crossing does indicate that these species were not able to migrate upstream through the crossing structure in the years previous to sampling it does not imply that rainbow and cutthroat could ascend as these species are likely resident within the watershed upstream of Morice-Owen Forest Service Road. Dry conditions within the stream in 2024 prevented insights into fish migration and health as no live tagged fish were present in the dewatered stream. Nevertheless, fish tagged during 2022 assessments may be present in the stream in future years and scanning fish captured in the stream with a PIT tag reader in the future will provide insight into fish movement and growth/health in the system if previously tagged fish are captured.

Although intermittent streams experience periods without streamflow, residual pools within these systems can provide valuable habitat for juvenile salmon encouraging high growth rates and subsequent increased rates of overwinter survival (Ebersole et al. 2006; Wigington Jr et al. 2006). Wigington Jr et al. (2006) measured overwinter survival rates of fish utilizing intermittent tributaries as higher than those in mainstem habitats with survival rates equivalent of those in perennial streams. They noted that fish tagged in mainstems moved into intermittent tributaries when streamflow resumed in the fall and hypothesized that use of residual pools during dry periods and migration into these systems during times of increased flow can result in positive outcomes for these fish due to lower competitive fish densities and higher food resources when compared to coho in perennial tributary habitat. Both Ebersole et al. (2006) and Wigington Jr et al. (2006) measured coho smolts from intermittent streams as considerably larger than those that used perennial habitats leading to greater overwinter survival illustrating the importance of maintaining connectivity in these systems.

There was 0.8km of habitat upstream of the culvert between the Morice-Owen FSR and the 8m high waterfall with habitat rated in 2022 as high value for coho, steelhead and resident rainbow/cutthroat rearing and spawning. Crossing 197379 was ranked as a high priority for proceeding to design for

replacement. At the time of reporting in 2024, a design for a replacement structure to more effectively facilitate upstream migration for all fish life stages and species had been developed by Mark Dewit from the Ministry of Forests. Additionally, the Office of Wet'suwet'en has initiated watershed level Nation led recovery/restoration planning for the greater Bii Wenii Kwa (Owen Creek) watershed which includes restoration of this site as a project priority consideration.

## Conclusion

**Table 5.4: Summary of habitat details for PSCIS crossing 197379.**

Site	Location	Length Surveyed (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
197379	Downstream	190	4.3	2.6	0.3	3.3	moderate	medium
197379	Upstream	800	6.4	3.1	0.7	4.8	moderate	high

**Table 5.5: Fish sampling site summary for 197379.**

site	passes	ef_length_m	ef_width_m	area_m2	enclosure
197379_ds_ef1	1	5	5.0	25.0	Open
197379_us_ef1	1	11	1.7	18.7	Open

**Table 5.6: Fish sampling density results summary for 197379.**

local_name	species_code	life_stage	catch	density_100m2	nfc_pass
197379_ds_ef1	CO	fry	3	12.0	FALSE
197379_ds_ef1	CO	parr	3	12.0	FALSE
197379_ds_ef1	CT	fry	5	20.0	FALSE
197379_ds_ef1	CT	parr	7	28.0	FALSE
197379_ds_ef1	DV	parr	3	12.0	FALSE
197379_ds_ef1	RB	parr	7	28.0	FALSE
197379_ds_ef1	RB	juvenile	2	8.0	FALSE
197379_us_ef1	CT	fry	3	16.0	FALSE
197379_us_ef1	CT	parr	11	58.8	FALSE
197379_us_ef1	RB	fry	3	16.0	FALSE
197379_us_ef1	RB	parr	13	69.5	FALSE
197379_us_ef1	RB	juvenile	3	16.0	FALSE
197379_us_ef1	RB	adult	2	10.7	FALSE

\* nfc\_pass FALSE means fish were captured in final pass indicating more fish of this species/lifestage may have remained in site. Mark-recaptured required to reduce uncertainties.

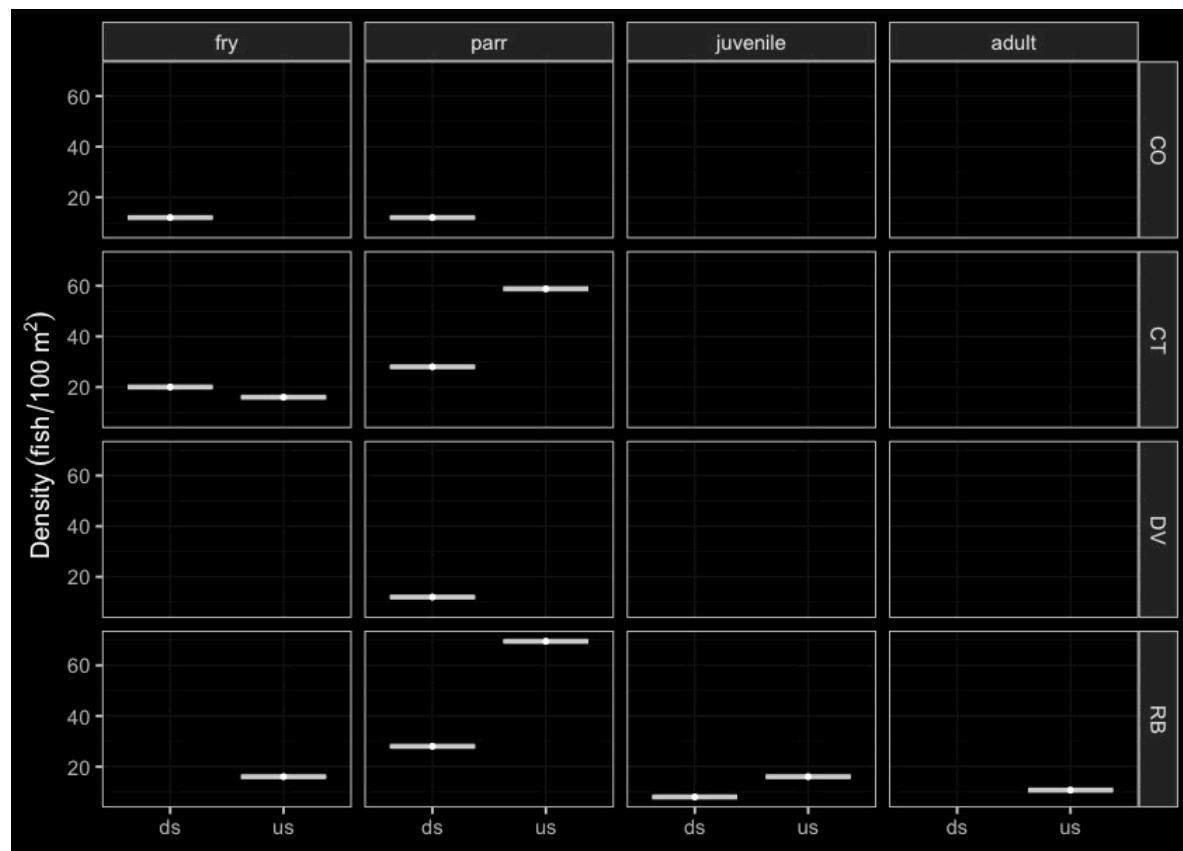


Figure 5.1: Densities of fish (fish/100m<sup>2</sup>) captured upstream of PSCIS crossing 197379.

## Conclusion



Figure 5.2: Left: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 197379. Right: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 197379.



Figure 5.3: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 197379. Right: Large woody debris jam upstream of PSCIS crossing 197379.

Alvin Creek - 197379 - Appendix



Figure 5.4: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 197379. Right: Waterfall upstream of PSCIS crossing 197379.



Figure 5.5: Left: Coho captured downstream of PSCIS crossing 197379. Right: Cutthroat trout captured upstream of PSCIS crossing 197379.

## Dale Creek - 198215 - Appendix

### Site Location

PSCIS crossing 198215 is located 0.1km upstream from the confluence with the Kispiox River, on Dale Creek. The site is located on Kispiox Westside Rd (also known as Date Creek FSR), just outside the Gitxsan village of Kispiox. This crossing is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (`chris_culvert_id = 1524775`). The Dale Creek watershed provides domestic water to the community of Kispiox (Rabnett, Gottesfeld, and Hall 2003).

### Background

At crossing 198215, Dale Creek is a third order stream with an upstream watershed area of approximately 8.8km<sup>2</sup>. The elevation of the watershed ranges from a maximum of 1173m to 359m near the crossing (Table 5.7). At the time of reporting, there was no fisheries information available for the area upstream of crossing 198215 (MoE 2020b; Norris 2022).

Two dams have been mapped as present on Dale Creek approximately 620m and 800m upstream of Kispiox Westside Rd with `dam_ids` within `bcfishpass` of 166c070f-a324-40fb-addb-886dd23a9fc1 and 0de8a19d-eb93-4102-b124-8738f27e9e13 respectively (Canadian Wildlife Federation 2023; Norris 2021d). These GIS points may have been historical mapped in relation to drinking water diversion, storage and treatment infrastructure.

The culverts and stream were initially assessed on September 9, 2022 and rated as moderate priority for proceeding to design for replacement, with a recommendation to conduct electrofishing to further inform prioritization. The site was revisited September 21, 2023 and electrofishing was conducted upstream and downstream of the crossing to provide insight into fish community composition and density, with results included in this report.

Table 5.7: Summary of derived upstream watershed statistics for PSCIS crossing 198215.

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Min	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
198215	8.8	250	359	1173	802	689	E

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above

A summary of habitat modelling outputs is presented in Table 5.8. A map of the watershed is provided in map attachment [093M.106](#).

**Table 5.8: Summary of fish habitat modelling for PSCIS crossing 198215.**

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
ST Network (km)	0.8	0.6	75
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	—	0.0	—
ST Wetland (ha)	—	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	0.6	0.6	100
ST Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	—
CH Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	—
CH Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	—
CO Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	—
CO Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	—
CO Rearing (ha)	—	0.0	—
SK Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	—
SK Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	—
SK Rearing (ha)	—	0.0	—

\* Model data is preliminary and subject to adjustments.

## 5.1 Climate Change Risk Assessment

Preliminary climate change risk assessment data for the site is presented in Tables [5.9](#) - [5.10](#).

**Table 5.9: Summary of climate change risk assessment for PSCIS crossing 198215.**

Condition and Climate Risk	Rank	Priority	Rank
Erosion (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	Traffic Volume 1 (low) 5 (medium) 10 (high)	3
Embankment fill issues 1 (low) 2 (medium) 3 (high)	1	Community Access - Scale - 1 (high - multiple road access) 5 (medium - some road access) 10 (low - one road access)	3
Blockage Issues 1 (0-30%) 2 (>30-75%) 3 (>75%)	2	Cost (scale: 1 high - 10 low)	5
Condition Rank = embankment + blockage + erosion	4	Constructability (scale: 1 difficult -10 easy)	5
Likelihood Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	Environmental Impacts (scale: 1 high -10 low)	7
Consequence Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	3	Fish Bearing 10 (Yes) 0 (No) - see maps for fish points	10
Climate Change Flood Risk (likelihood x consequence) 1-6 (low) 6-12 (medium) 10-25 (high)	3	Priority Rank = traffic volume + community access + cost + constructability + fish bearing + environmental impacts	33
Vulnerability Rank = Condition Rank + Climate Rank	7	Overall Rank = Vulnerability Rank + Priority Rank	40

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Table 5.10: Details and rational for climate risk rankings

Category	Comments
Condition	Right pipe completely blocked. Structure appears near the end of life. Although ineffective, historic work done downstream to try to backwater the structure.
Climate	Large tributary so significant flood events could wash out the Date Creek FSR.
Priority	Some residences on this road so potentially joint MoTi and MoF management. Deep fill will make replacement difficult, costs high and blow out consequences significant.

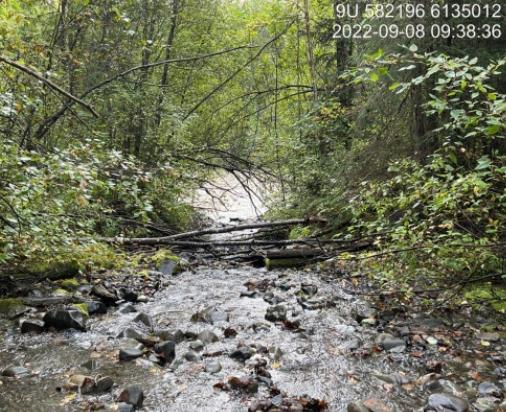
## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

At the time of the survey in 2022, PSCIS crossing 198215 was un-embedded, non-backwatered and ranked as a barrier to upstream fish passage according to the provincial protocol (MoE 2011b) (Table 5.11). There were two culverts side by side, but one was not functioning and had debris blocking the outlet. There was low flow through the functioning culvert at the time of survey. The outlet drop was significant at 1.1m. Water temperature was 10°C, pH was 8.3 and conductivity was 164uS/cm.

Table 5.11: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 198215.

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-09	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	198215	Diameter (m)	3.7
External ID	–	Length (m)	32
Crew	AI JO	Embedded	No
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	–
Easting	582153.7	Resemble Channel	No
Northing	6135026	Backwatered	No
Stream	Dale Creek	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Kispiox Westside Rd	Fill Depth (m)	5.5
Road Tenure	MoTi Local	Outlet Drop (m)	1.1
Channel Width (m)	5.3	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.85
Stream Slope (%)	5.5	Inlet Drop	No
Beaver Activity	No	Slope (%)	4
Habitat Value	High	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	42	Barrier Result	Barrier
Fix type	Replace with New Open Bottom Structure	Fix Span / Diameter	20.5

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: .75-.90 m lock block step located approximately 30 m down stream of culvert. Double pipe however right pipe is not functioning and is 50% blocked at the outlet. Both pipes are of same diameter (1.85m). 9:32			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
 <p>9U 582180 6134985 2022-09-08 09:35:58</p>		 <p>9U 582201 6135021 2022-09-08 09:38:16</p>	
 <p>9U 582125 6135109 2022-09-08 10:21:22</p>		 <p>9U 582200 6135010 2022-09-08 09:37:58</p>	
 <p>9U 582147 6135015 2022-09-08 09:52:44</p>		 <p>9U 582196 6135012 2022-09-08 09:38:36</p>	

## Stream Characteristics Downstream

The stream was surveyed downstream from crossing 198215 for 60m to the confluence with the Kispiox River (Figure [5.7](#)). The average channel width was 5.3m, the average wetted width was 2.1m, and the average gradient was 11%. The dominant substrate was cobbles with gravels sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as trace with boulders dominant. Cover was also present as large woody debris and overhanging vegetation. This stretch of stream was steep with one lock block step approximately 30m downstream of the culvert that was approximately 1m in height, which could block upstream migration for non adult fish species. It is thought that the lock blocks were likely originally placed in this location to backwater the site, minimize the culvert outlet drop and facilitate upstream fish passage. The habitat was rated as medium value for salmonid rearing and spawning.

## Stream Characteristics Upstream

The stream was surveyed upstream from crossing 198215 for 800m (Figure [5.8](#)). The dominant substrate was cobbles with boulders sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with large woody debris dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, boulders, deep pools, and overhanging vegetation. The average channel width was 3.8m, the average wetted width was 2.3m, and the average gradient was 7%. Surveyors noted numerous cascades to approximately 1m in height with deep pools downstream and significant amounts of large woody debris. There were trace amount of gravels suitable for spawning. After the first 500m of the survey, it was noted that there were logs present perpendicular to the flow within the streambed at regular intervals that were potentially placed to capture substrate and provide complexity. The stream was surveyed to the mapped location of the first mapped dam at 800m upstream of the FSR. Although the dam was not present, there appeared to be some remnants of a historic structure in the form of logs (Figure [5.9](#)). The habitat was rated as medium value as an important migration corridor containing spawning habitat suitable for coho and steelhead and having moderate rearing potential for both species.

## Fish Sampling

As per recommendations from the 2022 survey, crossing 198215 was revisited on September 21, 2023 and electrofishing was conducted with results summarised in Tables [5.13 - 5.14](#) and Figure [5.6](#). A total of 42 fish were captured upstream, including cutthroat trout and rainbow trout, and 44 fish were captured downstream, including cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and dolly varden (Figures [5.10](#)). All fish captured with a fork length greater than 60mm were tagged with Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT tags) with data stored [here](#).

## Structure Remediation and Cost Estimate

Should restoration/maintenance activities proceed, replacement of PSCIS crossing 198215 with a bridge (20.5m span) is recommended. The cost of the work is estimated at \$2,050,000 for a cost benefit of 0.4 linear m/\$1000 and 1 m<sup>2</sup>/\$1000 with the relatively high costs of the work predicted

## Conclusion

primarily related to the large amount of road fill present at the site and the subsequent significant excavation required to install the large replacement structure.

### **Conclusion**

The BC freshwater atlas streamline indicates the stream gradient upstream of the FSR at 7.5% which coincides approximately with stream measurements. This value barely exceeds the 7.4% cutoff used in our reporting for modelling potential steelhead rearing habitat, so we elected to include an estimate of 0.8km of upstream habitat presett suitable for steelhead rearing to a point where mapping indicates gradients increase to 11%. Areas surveyed were rated as medium value for salmonid rearing and spawning. Although there were no dam structures located at the two mapped locations upstream of the crossing, Dale Creek watershed does provide the community of Kispiox with domestic water so it is possible there could be a dam or other diversion structure present farther upstream. Nevertheless, there were no natural or man-made barriers observed within the 800m of habitat assessed upstream of Kispiox Westside Rd during the 2022 field surveys.

Following the 2022 survey, the site was ranked as moderate priority for proceeding to design for replacement, with a recommendation to conduct electrofishing to help further inform prioritization. As also noted above, the site was revisited in September of 2023 with electrofishing conducted upstream and downstream of the crossing. Cutthroat trout and rainbow trout were captured upstream of with cutthroat, rainbow and dolly varden captured downstream. All fish over 60mm in size were tagged with PIT tags so that their movement and health can be tracked over time to help inform prioritization and effectiveness monitoring should restoration activities advance.

Table 5.12: Summary of habitat details for PSCIS crossing 198215.

Site	Location	Length Surveyed (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
198215	Downstream	60	5.3	2.1	0.8	11	trace	medium
198215	Upstream	800	3.8	2.3	0.5	7	moderate	medium

Table 5.13: Fish sampling site summary for 198215.

site	passes	ef_length_m	ef_width_m	area_m2	enclosure
198215_ds_ef1	1	5	5.10	25.5	Open
198215_ds_ef2	1	3	4.10	12.3	Open
198215_ds_ef3	1	15	2.03	30.4	Open
198215_us_ef1	1	13	2.30	29.9	Open
198215_us_ef2	1	10	1.53	15.3	Open
198215_us_ef3	1	12	2.00	24.0	Open

Table 5.14: Fish sampling density results summary for 198215.

local_name	species_code	life_stage	catch	density_100m2	nfc_pass
198215_ds_ef1	CT	fry	5	19.6	FALSE
198215_ds_ef1	CT	parr	7	27.5	FALSE
198215_ds_ef1	CT	juvenile	5	19.6	FALSE
198215_ds_ef1	CT	adult	1	3.9	FALSE
198215_ds_ef1	RB	fry	2	7.8	FALSE
198215_ds_ef1	RB	parr	3	11.8	FALSE
198215_ds_ef2	CT	fry	5	40.7	FALSE
198215_ds_ef2	DV	parr	1	8.1	FALSE
198215_ds_ef2	RB	parr	1	8.1	FALSE
198215_ds_ef3	CT	fry	11	36.2	FALSE
198215_ds_ef3	DV	fry	1	3.3	FALSE
198215_ds_ef3	RB	fry	2	6.6	FALSE
198215_us_ef1	CT	fry	6	20.1	FALSE
198215_us_ef1	CT	parr	1	3.3	FALSE
198215_us_ef1	RB	fry	1	3.3	FALSE
198215_us_ef1	RB	parr	4	13.4	FALSE
198215_us_ef2	CT	fry	9	58.8	FALSE
198215_us_ef2	CT	parr	3	19.6	FALSE
198215_us_ef3	CT	fry	14	58.3	FALSE
198215_us_ef3	RB	fry	1	4.2	FALSE
198215_us_ef3	RB	parr	3	12.5	FALSE

\* nfc\_pass FALSE means fish were captured in final pass indicating more fish of this species/lifestage may have remained in site. Mark-recaptured required to reduce uncertainties.

## Conclusion

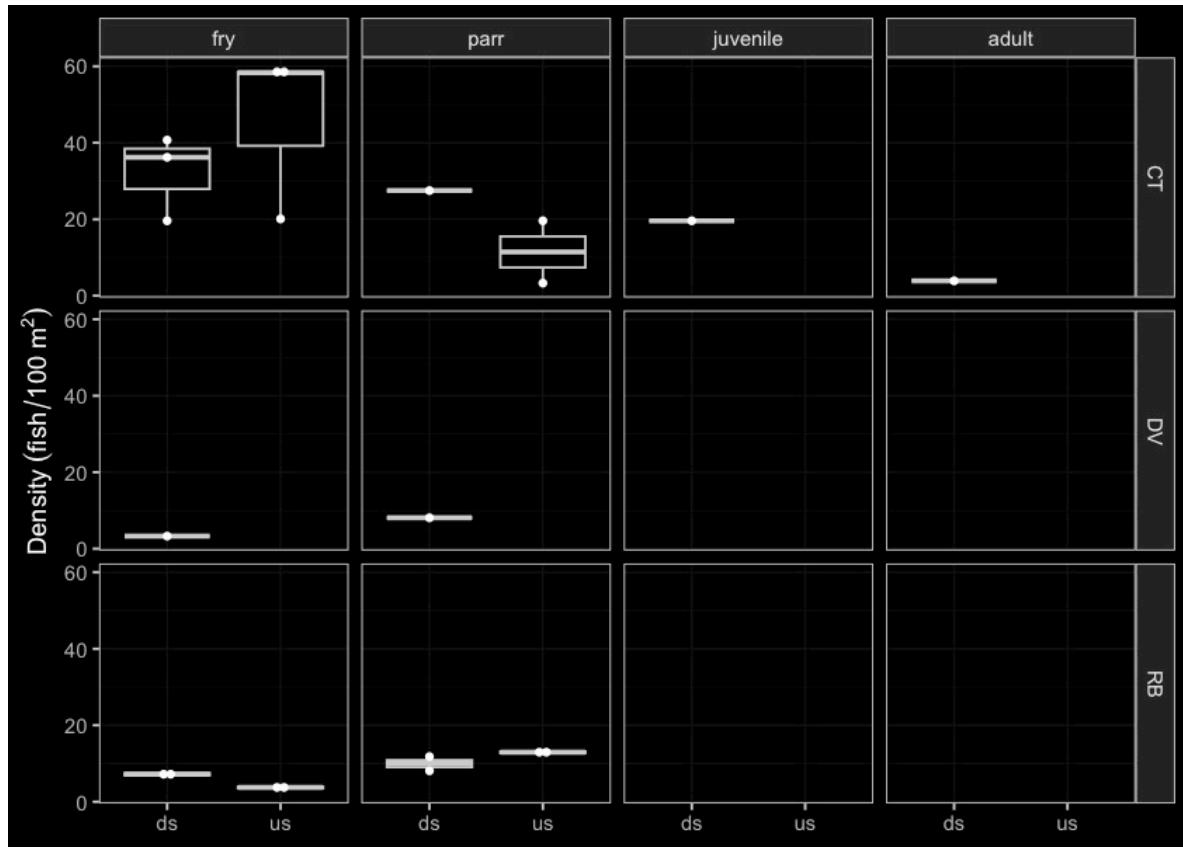


Figure 5.6: Densities of fish (fish/100m<sup>2</sup>) captured upstream and downstream of PSCIS crossing 198215.

Dale Creek - 198215 - Appendix

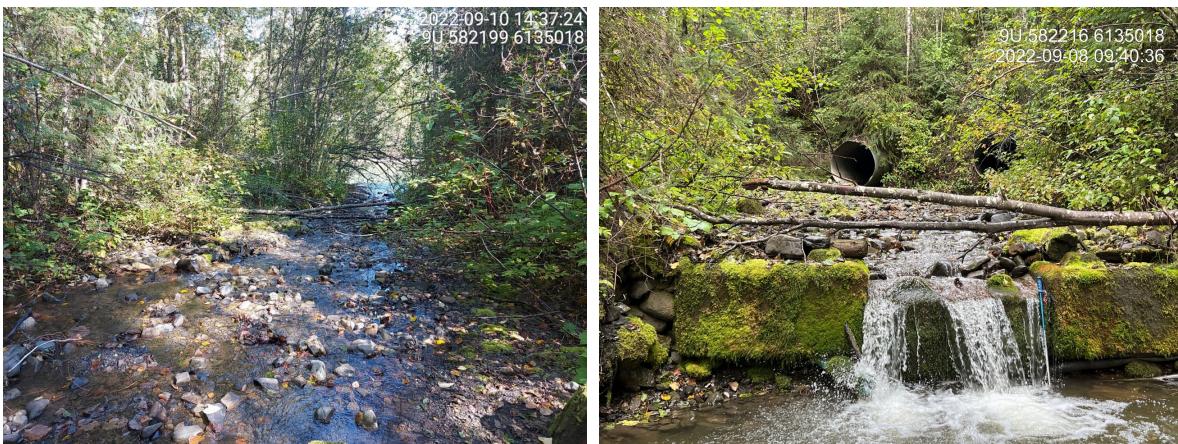


Figure 5.7: Left: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198215. Right: Lock block step downstream of PSCIS crossing 198215.



Figure 5.8: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198215. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198215.

## Conclusion



Figure 5.9: Left: Location of old historic dam, upstream of PSCIS crossing 198215. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198215.



Figure 5.10: Left: Cutthroat trout captured upstream of PSCIS crossing 198215. Right: Rainbow trout captured upstream of PSCIS crossing 198215.



## **Tributary to Skeena River - 198216 & 198217 - Appendix**

### **Site Location**

PSCIS crossing 198216 and 198217 are located on a Tributary to Skeena River, just outside the small community of Sik-E-Dakh (Glen Vowell). Crossing 198216 is located 1.8km upstream from the confluence with the Skeena River on Kispiox Valley Rd and is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Crossing 198217 is located on Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd 300m upstream from Kispiox Valley Rd and appears to be under the jurisdiction of the Sik-E-Dakh 2 Indian Reserve.

### **Background**

Located on the west side of the Skeena River, between Hazelton and Kispiox, Sik-E-Dakh is a Gitxsan community home to the Glen Vowell Band. “Sik-E-Dakh” means “Bright Lights Behind Mountain” (“Sik-E-Dakh (Glen Vowell Band)” 2023). The subject stream supplies drinking water to the community with drinking water storage and treatment infrastructure located on Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd beyond the location of 198217. The underlying territory of this stream is within the Xsu Wii Masxwit/ Antgililibixw Wilp.

Approximately 300m north of crossing 198217 on Kispiox Valley Road, GIS modelling indicates there is a crossing located on Glen Vowell Creek (modelled crossing ID 8300064). This area was canvassed and there was no culvert or structure found. In 2018, (Triton Environmental Consultants Ltd. 2020) electrofished a section of Glen Vowell Creek upstream of modelled crossing 8301266 and captured cutthroat and dolly varden. This stream is mapped as immediately north of the flows east before draining into the Skeena River. Immediately before the confluence, GIS modelling indicates there is a crossing located on Peter Brown Drive (modelled crossing ID 8300001) however, this location was also investigated and there was no crossing found. There are some discrepancies between the mapped stream channel locations in the BC freshwater atlas and the actual on the ground reality. This could be the result of anthropogenic influences (ie. dredged stream channels or channel redirection due to protection of road and community infrastructure).

At crossing 198216, Tributary to Skeena River is a second order stream with a watershed area upstream of the crossing of approximately 5.5km<sup>2</sup>. The elevation of the watershed ranges from a maximum of 1287m to 243m near the crossing (Table 5.15). At the time of reporting, there was no fisheries information available for the area upstream of the highway crossing 198216 (MoE 2020b; Norris 2022). Local knowledge holder (Chief Francis), noted that the local community historically harvested coho from the stream. Gitksan Watershed Authorities and local residents are working together to gather information about the system from elders and other local knowledge holders in the community to help inform watershed restoration planning. There is concern in the community that the stream flows are not as consistent as in the past and there are hopes that restoration

activities could help increase fisheries productivity in the system. There is a network of dykes surrounding the Sik-e-Dakh community.

**Table 5.15: Summary of derived upstream watershed statistics for PSCIS crossing 198216.**

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Min	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
198216	5.5	237	243	1287	483	401	ESE

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above

A summary of habitat modelling outputs is presented in Table [5.16](#). Note that the BC freshwater atlas does not capture the upstream watershed, therefore the modelling is likely inaccurate. A map of the watershed is provided in map attachment [093M.106](#). A digital elevation model of the area is presented in Figure [5.11](#) (BC Government 2022).

**Table 5.16: Summary of fish habitat modelling for PSCIS crossing 198217.**

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
ST Network (km)	5.7	5.7	100
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	0.0	0.0	-
ST Wetland (ha)	6.6	6.6	100
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	0.6	0.0	0
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	1.2	1.2	100
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	0.0	0.0	-
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	2.0	2.0	100
ST Spawning (km)	0.2	0.2	100
ST Rearing (km)	0.5	0.5	100
CH Spawning (km)	0.2	0.2	100
CH Rearing (km)	0.2	0.2	100
CO Spawning (km)	0.2	0.2	100
CO Rearing (km)	0.2	0.2	100
CO Rearing (ha)	-	0.0	-
SK Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	-
SK Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	-
SK Rearing (ha)	-	0.0	-

\* Model data is preliminary and subject to adjustments.

## Background

Figure 5.11: Digital elevation model of the watershed outside the community of Sik-E-Dakh.

## 5.2 Climate Change Risk Assessment

Preliminary climate change risk assessment data for PSCIS site 198217 on Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd is presented in Tables [5.17](#) - [5.18](#).

**Table 5.17: Summary of climate change risk assessment for PSCIS crossing 198216.**

Condition and Climate Risk	Rank	Priority	Rank
Erosion (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	Traffic Volume 1 (low) 5 (medium) 10 (high)	8
Embankment fill issues 1 (low) 2 (medium) 3 (high)	1	Community Access - Scale - 1 (high - multiple road access) 5 (medium - some road access) 10 (low - one road access)	10
Blockage Issues 1 (0-30%) 2 (>30-75%) 3 (>75%)	2	Cost (scale: 1 high - 10 low)	2
Condition Rank = embankment + blockage + erosion	4	Constructability (scale: 1 difficult -10 easy)	2
Likelihood Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	Environmental Impacts (scale: 1 high -10 low)	9
Consequence Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	4	Fish Bearing 10 (Yes) 0 (No) - see maps for fish points	10
Climate Change Flood Risk (likelihood x consequence) 1- 6 (low) 6-12 (medium) 10-25 (high)	4	Priority Rank = traffic volume + community access + cost + constructability + fish bearing + environmental impacts	41
Vulnerability Rank = Condition Rank + Climate Rank	8	Overall Rank = Vulnerability Rank + Priority Rank	49

**Table 5.18: Details and rational for climate risk rankings**

Category	Comments
Condition	Large amount of flow is going in between the two pipes and not through them. Trash guards on inlets are quite damaged. Beaverdams located immediately down stream. Roadfill material is made of road barriers. Pipes are in bad shape.
Climate	Significant amounts of water moving through here and this highway is a major corridor for people living in the Kispiox community and associated valley upstream.
Priority	-

## Stream Characteristics at Crossings

PSCIS crossing 198216 was embedded, backwatered and ranked as passable to upstream fish passage (Table [5.19](#)). There were two culverts side by side, and both of them had trash racks on the inlet side that could be a barrier to adult coho. The trash rack had grid sizes of approximately 13cm by 13cm.

At the time of the survey, PSCIS crossing 198217 was comprised of two pipes. The outlet drops were measured as 0.6m with both pipes un-embedded and non-backwatered. The crossing ranked as a barrier to upstream fish passage according to the provincial protocol (MoE 2011b) (Table [5.20](#)). Water temperature was 9.2°C, pH was 7.6 and conductivity was 133uS/cm.

## Stream Characteristics at Crossings

Table 5.19: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 198216.

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-09	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	198216	Diameter (m)	2
External ID	–	Length (m)	24
Crew	AI	Embedded	Yes
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	0.2
Easting	583025.5	Resemble Channel	Yes
Northing	6130402	Backwatered	Yes
Stream	Tributary to Skeena River	Percent Backwatered	95
Road	Kispiox Valley Rd	Fill Depth (m)	3
Road Tenure	MoTi Arterial	Outlet Drop (m)	0
Channel Width (m)	5.6	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.8
Stream Slope (%)	1.5	Inlet Drop	Yes
Beaver Activity	Yes	Slope (%)	0.5
Habitat Value	High	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	14	Barrier Result	Passable
Fix type	–	Fix Span / Diameter	–

Tributary to Skeena River - 198216 & ...

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Culvert appears very old and near end of life. Nice gravels upstream. Flow is moving between the two 1 m pipes. Trash rack on inlet could be barrier to adult coho migrating upstream. 10:57			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
	9U 583025 6130401 2022-09-08 11:03:35		9U 583010 6130381 2022-09-08 11:07:24
	9U 583021 6130392 2022-09-08 11:04:25		9U 583038 6130358 2022-09-08 11:05:54
	9U 583024 6130411 2022-09-08 11:04:11		9U 583038 6130358 2022-09-08 11:05:50

## Stream Characteristics at Crossings

**Table 5.20: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 198217.**

<b>Location and Stream Data</b>		<b>Crossing Characteristics –</b>	
Date	2022-09-09	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	198217	Diameter (m)	2.5
External ID	–	Length (m)	10
Crew	AI	Embedded	No
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	–
Easting	582851.3	Resemble Channel	No
Northing	6130491	Backwatered	No
Stream	Tributary to Skeena River	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd	Fill Depth (m)	1
Road Tenure	Resource	Outlet Drop (m)	0.6
Channel Width (m)	5.6	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.7
Stream Slope (%)	1.5	Inlet Drop	Yes
Beaver Activity	Yes	Slope (%)	3.5
Habitat Value	High	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	36	Barrier Result	Barrier
Fix type	Replace with New Open Bottom Structure	Fix Span / Diameter	15

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
<p>Comments: Francis (chief) indicated this is historic coho harvest site for Glen Vowell community and historic coho spawning stream. 2 1.25m culverts side by side. Trash rack has been removed from inlet. Inlet has significant amount of debris. Extensive gravels present suitable for CO spawning upstream and downstream. Good flow and large stream. On road to water treatment plant. 12:20</p>			
<p>Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.</p>			
 <p>8301485</p>		 <p>9U 582856 6130493 2022-09-08 12:22:27</p>	
 <p>9U 582841 6130500 2022-09-08 12:34 PM</p>		 <p>9U 582868 6130475 2022-09-08 12:23:36</p>	
 <p>9U 582814 6130528 2022-09-08 12:34:44</p>		 <p>9U 582855 6130501 2022-09-08 12:30:14</p>	

## **Stream Characteristics Downstream of 198216**

The area downstream of crossing 198216 consisted of open wetland habitat with shrubs and floodplains. There was a beaver dam approximately 100m downstream of the culvert. Surveys were conducted with a remotely piloted aircraft with resulting images stitched into an orthomosaic presented [here](#) and [here](#).

## **Stream Characteristics Upstream of 198216 and Downstream of 198217**

The stream was surveyed downstream from crossing 198217 for 300m to crossing 198216 (Figure [5.13](#)). The dominant substrate was fines with gravels sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with large woody debris dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris. The average channel width was 5m, the average wetted width was 2.9m, and the average gradient was 1.8%. The area surveyed was mostly wetland habitat, with three large beaver dams spaced evenly along surveyed length. Multiple channels were present after the first beaver dam, separated by heavily vegetated banks. There was muddy bed material with some fines and gravels but nothing bigger. More gravels were present closer to crossing 198216 that were suitable for spawning. There were abundant deep pools present near wetland that could be suitable for rearing if habitat is opened up. The habitat was rated as medium value as an important migration corridor containing suitable spawning habitat and having moderate rearing potential for resident and anadromous salmonids. The area immediately upstream of 198216 was also surveyed by drone presented [here](#) and [here](#).

## **Stream Characteristics Upstream of 198217**

Three sections of stream upstream of Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd were surveyed. Two were located within the main drainage for the watershed with the third located within a smaller tributary to the mainstream that entered the system on the upstream side of a large beaver impounded area approximately 260m upstream of the road.

The first section of stream surveyed began in the main drainage for the watershed immediately upstream of crossing 198217 for 300m (Figure [5.14](#)). The average channel width was 6m, the average wetted width was 3.4m, and the average gradient was 2.5%. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with undercut banks dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, large woody debris, deep pools, and overhanging vegetation. The dominant substrate was gravels with cobbles sub-dominant. Abundant gravels were present suitable for coho, steelhead, and rainbow spawning. Multiple large beaver dams were present within the area surveyed with the upstream end of the site adjacent to a beaver dam complex. The habitat was rated as high value for salmonid rearing and spawning.

The second section of mainstem was surveyed for 275m with the downstream end of the area surveyed located approximately 360m upstream of Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd. The dominant substrate was gravels with cobbles sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with deep pools dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, large woody debris, boulders, undercut banks, and overhanging vegetation. The average channel width was 5m, the average wetted width was 3.3m, and the average gradient was 4.7%. Abundant gravels were noted as present and suitable for spawning coho and other smaller resident salmonids. There were sporadic pools suitable for juvenile coho and steelhead overwintering and the mature old growth mixed riparian provided a stable channel with abundant large woody debris. Wildlife trails were found throughout the forest and the habitat was rated as high value for salmonid rearing and spawning.

The third section of stream surveyed was located on a smaller tributary that enters the main drainage in the watershed at the location of a large beaver impounded wetland. The surveyed site length was 100m. The dominant substrate was gravels with cobbles sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with undercut banks dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, large woody debris, and overhanging vegetation. The average channel width was 1.6m, the average wetted width was 1.4m, and the average gradient was 10%. Multiple small steps from large and small woody debris with heights ranging from 20-40cm were present at the time of survey. The stream was surrounded by an old growth riparian forest and habitat was rated as medium value for juvenile salmonid rearing. Habitat present likely provides areas of habitat suitable for spawning of resident salmonids but the smaller size of the stream is not likely suitable for adult anadromous salmonid spawning.

## Fish Sampling

In 2023, crossing 198217 was revisited and electrofishing was conducted with results summarised in Tables [5.22 - 5.23](#) and Figure [5.12](#). A total of 36 fish were captured upstream and 41 fish were captured downstream (Figures [5.15](#)). Cutthroat trout were captured downstream of the crossing, and dolly varden and cutthroat trout were captured downstream. All fish captured with a fork length greater than 60mm were tagged with Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT tags) with data stored [here](#).

## Structure Remediation and Cost Estimate

Although replacement of PSCIS crossing 198217 with a bridge (15m span with a cost estimated at \$375,000) is tentatively recommended. However, as alternative options may provide greater restoration actions (ex. relocation of the crossing structure), conditions within the greater watershed should be assessed more comprehensively first to determine how the channel alignment and wetland configuration/capacity (between Water Tower Road and the Skeena River) have been impacted by the installation of roads and Sik-E-Dakh community infrastructure.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

There was more than 0.8km of habitat modelled upstream of crossing 198217 with gradients less than 10%. Habitat within areas surveyed rated as high value for coho rearing and spawning. At the time of 2024 reporting, in collaboration with the local Sik-E-Dakh community, a plan to gather local knowledge, provide educational opportunities for local community members and eventually rehabilitate this system was underway - led by the Gitksan Watershed Authorities. Additionally, in 2023 Gitskan Watershed Authorities acquired Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund dollars to facilitate the physical works to replace the crossings on Sik-e-dakh Water Tower Rd. An engineering design was completed for this site in 2023 by Onsite Engineering with funding provided through SERNbc and replacement of the crossing is scheduled for the summer of 2024.

Recommendations from reporting conducted in 2023 are included below with updates from 2024 include in red where applicable:

- If it can be located, conduct an assessment of modelled crossing 8301266, located approximately 375m further up Water Tower Road from crossing 198217. During the assessment, survey upstream and downstream (several hundred meters if possible) to try to determine if (and how much) water flows where this stream segment has been mapped in the freshwater atlas of BC.

**Update 2024: Survey crews from Onsite engineering attempted to locate modelled crossing 8301266 in the summer of 2023. The crossing was not located and is not likely present.**

- As the extent/duration of seasonal dewatering could decrease and the amount of rearing habitat available increased by encouraging water retention in beaver influenced wetland areas, an inventory of beaver dams, analysis of the watershed with the beaver restoration assessment tool and wetland mapping is recommended. Additionally, we recommend engaging with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure representatives and contractors to understand site constraints, road maintenance issues and explore the possibility of increasing water storage within the wetland areas located upstream and downstream of the highway.
- Electrofishing and PIT tagging within the main drainage of the watershed upstream and downstream of crossing 198217 is recommended to provide insight into fish community composition, density, survival and movement.

**Update 2024: Baseline assessemnt work conducted in the summer of 2023 with results presented within this memo. Fish over 60mm were tagged with PIT tags so that their movement and health can be tracked as part of effectiveness monitoring at the site.**

- Acquisition of lidar data for areas to the west of current data available on LidarBC (includes area of water intake facilities) to provide information about potential channel and wetland locations. Analysis of this data could provide insight into historic channel dredging/redirections and inform restoration actions.

Update 2024: Lidar data was acquired in summer of 2023 and loaded to collaborative QGIS project hosted on cloud server (Mergin Maps). Review of data provided no indication of historic channel dredging/redirections and indicates that - as expected - the mapped location of main flow in the watershed is erroneous in the BC freshwater atlas.

- Acquisition of temperature data at points likely to contain water all year long (ex. outlet of culverts and upstream of culvert on water tower road). Acquire data for the entire growing season and include areas from main north channel to elevations where coho are expected to populate. The growing season can be defined as per Coleman and Fausch (2007), which delineate the beginning as the first day of the week that average stream temperatures exceed 5°C in the spring and the end as the last day of the week that average stream temperature drops below 4°C.
- Delineation of reaches and acquisition of habitat data incorporating Fish Habitat Assessment Procedures (Johnston and Slaney 1996) within all reaches expected to be populated by coho. An adaptation of assessments (ex. degree of channel incision and percentage of floodplain utilized by the stream) developed to informed low-tech process-based restoration activities (beaver dam analogues and post assisted log structures) could be incorporated into FHAP assessments as per Wheaton et al. (2019).
- Acquire high resolution RGB imagery for the entire area from the confluence to above the water intake infrastructure. Include areas on the west side of the highway where there is the remnant channel on the south of water tower culverts and wetland areas to the north.

Update 2024: High resolution imagery was collected at the same time as lidar data acquisition for the same area surveyed with lidar (primarily upstream of the highway to above the water intake facility) data acquired in summer of 2023 and loaded to collaborative QGIS project hosted on cloud server (Mergin Maps). Review of data provided no indication of historic channel dredging/redirections and indicates that - as expected - the mapped location of main flow in the watershed is erroneous in the BC freshwater atlas.

- Coho spawner surveys to coincide with known spawning timing in neighbouring systems.
- Snorkel and/or go pro surveys of plunge pool areas below culverts at times of steelhead and coho migrations to scope for adults attempting to ascend the watershed.
- Overall outreach program to gather historic fisheries information for the system and to scope for knowledge regarding alterations to the subject stream trajectory/floodplain. Through this process of two way education, Kispiox valley residents and restoration practitioners could learn/teach about the role of beavers in local watershed health as well as the history of impacts to aquatic values due to road, community, and ranch development in the area.
- Acquisition of hydrometric information in accordance with the Manual of British Columbia Hydrometric Standards (Resources Information Standards Committee 2018) to build stage discharge curves for the watershed so the relationships between fish life history timings, physical habitat suitability, temperature and flows can be better understood.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

**Table 5.21: Summary of habitat details for PSCIS crossing 198216 and 198217.**

Site	Location	Length Surveyed (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
198216	Downstream	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	none
198217	Downstream	300	5.0	2.9	0.4	1.8	moderate	medium
198217	Upstream	300	6.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	moderate	high
198217	Upstream2	100	1.6	1.4	—	10.0	moderate	medium
198217	Upstream3	275	5.0	3.3	0.3	4.7	moderate	high

**Table 5.22: Fish sampling site summary for 198217.**

site	passes	ef_length_m	ef_width_m	area_m2	enclosure
198217_ds_ef1	1	6	4.03	24.2	Open
198217_ds_ef2	1	14	3.30	46.2	Open
198217_ds_ef3	1	1	5.30	5.3	Open
198217_us_ef1	1	10	3.17	31.7	Open
198217_us_ef2	1	13	3.63	47.2	Open
198217_us_ef3	1	8	2.87	23.0	Open

**Table 5.23: Fish sampling density results summary for 198217.**

local_name	species_code	life_stage	catch	density_100m2	nfc_pass
198217_ds_ef1	CT	fry	6	24.8	FALSE
198217_ds_ef2	CT	fry	8	17.3	FALSE
198217_ds_ef2	CT	parr	2	4.3	FALSE
198217_ds_ef2	DV	fry	2	4.3	FALSE
198217_ds_ef2	DV	adult	1	2.2	FALSE
198217_ds_ef3	CT	fry	1	18.9	FALSE
198217_ds_ef3	CT	parr	8	150.9	FALSE
198217_ds_ef3	CT	juvenile	2	37.7	FALSE
198217_ds_ef3	DV	fry	2	37.7	FALSE
198217_ds_ef3	DV	parr	2	37.7	FALSE
198217_ds_ef3	DV	juvenile	6	113.2	FALSE
198217_ds_ef3	DV	adult	1	18.9	FALSE
198217_us_ef1	CT	fry	11	34.7	FALSE
198217_us_ef1	CT	parr	2	6.3	FALSE
198217_us_ef2	CT	fry	9	19.1	FALSE
198217_us_ef2	CT	parr	4	8.5	FALSE
198217_us_ef2	CT	adult	1	2.1	FALSE
198217_us_ef3	CT	fry	1	4.3	FALSE
198217_us_ef3	CT	parr	3	13.0	FALSE
198217_us_ef3	CT	juvenile	2	8.7	FALSE
198217_us_ef3	CT	adult	3	13.0	FALSE

\* nfc\_pass FALSE means fish were captured in final pass indicating more fish of this species/lifestage may have remained in site. Mark-recaptured required to reduce uncertainties.

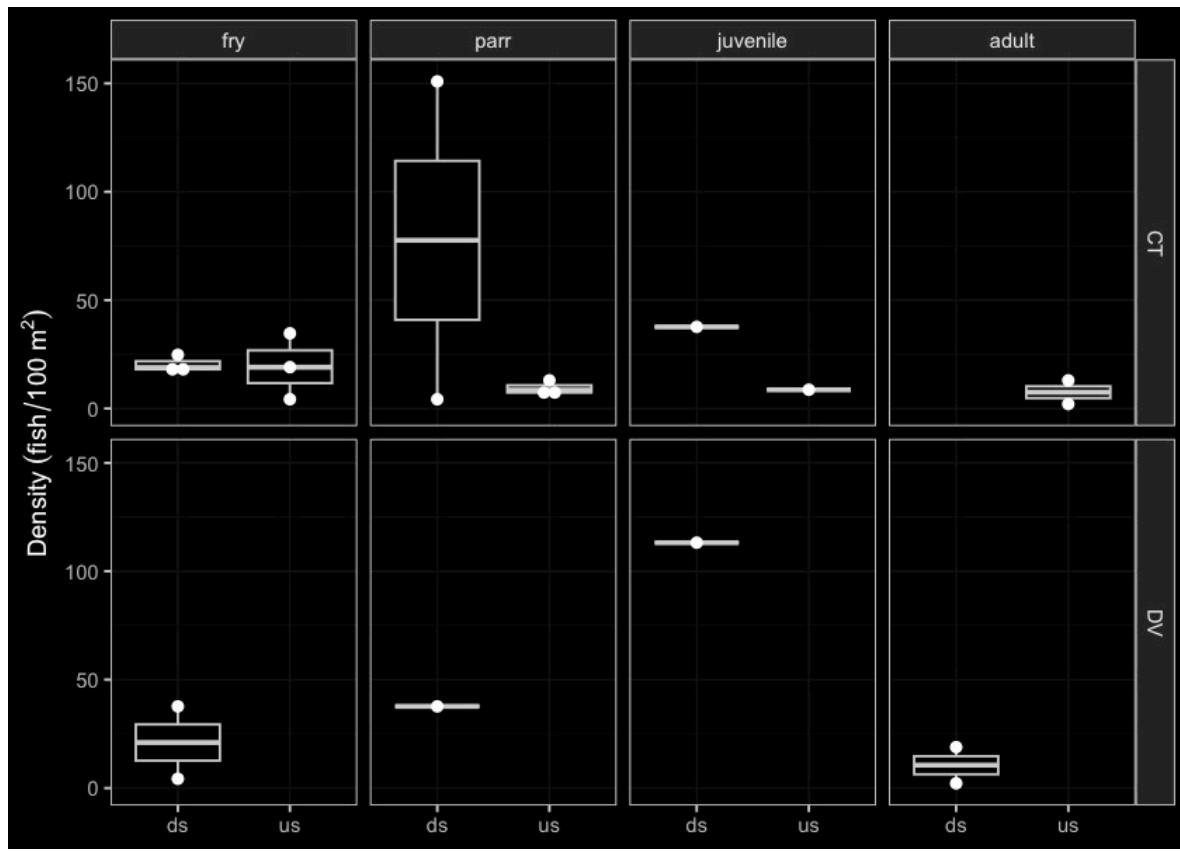


Figure 5.12: Densities of fish (fish/100m<sup>2</sup>) captured upstream and downstream of PSCIS crossing 198217.

## Conclusion and Recommendations



Figure 5.13: Left: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198217. Right: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198217.



Figure 5.14: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198217. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198217.



Figure 5.15: Left: Cutthroat trout captured upstream of PSCIS crossing 198217. Right: Dolly varden captured downstream of PSCIS crossing 198217.

## **Tea Creek - 198220 - Appendix**

### **Site Location**

PSCIS crossing 198220 (MoTi chris\_hwy\_structure\_road\_id 4092) is located on Tea Creek, approximately 4.5km north of the village of Kitwanga, on Hwy 37 approximately 0.8km upstream from the confluence with the Kitwanga River. PSCIS crossing 198200 on Moore Road (MoTi chris\_culvert\_id of 1528424) located approximately 200m upstream from the highway was also assessed and PSCIS crossing 198201 (MoTi chris\_culvert\_ids of 1528425 and 1528426) on Moore Road and a tributary to Tea Creek were also assessed. All crossings are the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Several other road stream crossings are modelled upstream however none are modelled as located on the mainstem of Tea Creek until approximately 4.5km upstream of Moore Road.

### **Background**

At crossing 198220, Tea Creek is a fourth order stream with a watershed area upstream of the crossing of approximately 52.2km<sup>2</sup>. The elevation of the watershed ranges from a maximum of 1141m to 251m near the crossing (Table 5.24). Upstream of crossing 198220, cutthroat trout, coho salmon, rainbow trout, steelhead, and dolly varden have previously been recorded (MoE 2020b; Norris 2022). Steelhead use of the system upstream of the highway was confirmed by a local landowner who reported historic spawning in the tributary to Tea Creek that flows into the stream just below Moore Road and PSCIS crossing 198200.

**Table 5.24: Summary of derived upstream watershed statistics for PSCIS crossing 198220.**

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Min	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
198220	52.2	251	229	1141	587	568	SSW

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above

In 1997, in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, and non-governmental organizations (Gitanyow Fisheries Authorities and the Steelhead Society of BC), the Ministry of Transportation conducted fish passage remediation activities on Tea Creek at both Highway 37 as well as on Moore Road. At the highway, backwater weir structures, comprised of notched pre-cast concrete lock block designed to reduce the outlet drop were installed below crossing 198220. At the Moore Road crossing, previously perched culverts were replaced with a bottomless pipe arch (Sweeting, n.d.).

PSCIS stream crossing 198220 was ranked as a high priority for follow up by the Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC due to the large size of the stream, with many species confirmed upstream. A summary of habitat modelling outputs is presented in Table 5.25. A map of the watershed is provided in map attachment [103P.105](#).

**Table 5.25: Summary of fish habitat modelling for PSCIS crossing 198220.**

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
ST Network (km)	100.1	16.4	16
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	8.8	0.0	0
ST Wetland (ha)	47.7	1.4	3
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	4.9	0.0	0
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	19.4	2.5	13
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	50.3	5.9	12
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	20.7	6.4	31
ST Spawning (km)	1.8	1.5	83
ST Rearing (km)	19.4	11.4	59
CH Spawning (km)	1.8	1.5	83
CH Rearing (km)	7.5	7.2	96
CO Spawning (km)	14.6	7.2	49
CO Rearing (km)	18.2	7.2	40
CO Rearing (ha)	24.1	0.0	0
SK Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	—
SK Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	—
SK Rearing (ha)	—	0.0	—

\* Model data is preliminary and subject to adjustments.

### 5.3 Climate Change Risk Assessment

Preliminary climate change risk assessment data is presented in Tables 5.26 - 5.27.

**Table 5.26: Summary of climate change risk assessment for PSCIS crossing 198220.**

Condition and Climate Risk	Rank	Priority	Rank
Erosion (scale 1 low - 5 high)	3	Traffic Volume 1 (low) 5 (medium) 10 (high)	9
Embankment fill issues 1 (low) 2 (medium) 3 (high)	1	Community Access - Scale - 1 (high - multiple road access) 5 (medium - some road access) 10 (low - one road access)	1
Blockage Issues 1 (0-30%) 2 (>30-75%) 3 (>75%)	1	Cost (scale: 1 high - 10 low)	1
Condition Rank = embankment + blockage + erosion	5	Constructability (scale: 1 difficult -10 easy)	2
Likelihood Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	1	Environmental Impacts (scale: 1 high -10 low)	2
Consequence Flood Event Affecting Culvert (scale 1 low - 5 high)	5	Fish Bearing 10 (Yes) 0 (No) - see maps for fish points	10
Climate Change Flood Risk (likelihood x consequence) 1-6 (low) 6-12 (medium) 10-25 (high)	5	Priority Rank = traffic volume + community access + cost + constructability + fish bearing + environmental impacts	25
Vulnerability Rank = Condition Rank + Climate Rank	10	Overall Rank = Vulnerability Rank + Priority Rank	35

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

**Table 5.27: Details and rational for climate risk rankings**

Category	Comments
Condition	Backwatering from previous remediation has failed. There is a big outlet drop.
Climate	Large system with a wide channel. Deep fill so failure would cause extensive damage to highway and dump large quantities of sediments into Kitwanga River.
Priority	Structure is located on major highway with large amounts of fill. Replacement would be very expensive with large impact on traffic flow.

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

At the time of the survey, PSCIS crossing 198220 was un-embedded, non-backwatered and ranked as a barrier to upstream fish passage according to the provincial protocol (MoE 2011b) (Table [5.28](#)). There was low flow through the culvert at the time of survey. Water temperature was 11.6°C, pH was 8.4 and conductivity was 291uS/cm.

PSCIS culvert 198200 culvert located on Moore Road approximately 220m upstream from the highway had a natural streambed and was ranked as passable to all species and life stages at the time of survey (Table [5.29](#)). Although this crossing was incorrectly recorded as a closed bottom structure in 2022, the crossing was more likely an open bottomed pipe arch as noted in Sweeting (n.d.).

PSCIS crossing 198201 located on Moore Road approximately 350m east of crossing 198200 was assessed and ranked as passable at the time of survey (Table [5.30](#)). There were two culverts side by side, with both embedded and non backwatered within a channel noted as 2.1m wide. Fish (up to 20cm in length) were observed within the culverts.

Table 5.28: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 198220.

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-09	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	198220	Diameter (m)	4.8
External ID	–	Length (m)	75
Crew	AI	Embedded	No
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	–
Easting	563431	Resemble Channel	No
Northing	6109637	Backwatered	No
Stream	Tea Creek	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Hwy 37	Fill Depth (m)	9.9
Road Tenure	MoTi Highway	Outlet Drop (m)	0.72
Channel Width (m)	5	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.75
Stream Slope (%)	2	Inlet Drop	No
Beaver Activity	No	Slope (%)	1.5
Habitat Value	High	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	34	Barrier Result	Barrier
Fix type	Replace with New Open Bottom Structure	Fix Span / Diameter	30.5

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Historic backwatering with 6 downstream lock block weirs. Skeena Fisheries Commission has assessed site in past. Very large system, pipe embedded until downstream 10m. Large outlet drop. Abundant algae. 10:46			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
 <p>9U 563415 6109648 2022-09-09 10:47:37</p>		 <p>9U 563442 6109647 2022-09-09 10:49:38</p>	
 <p>9U 563442 6109647 2022-09-09 10:49:27</p>		 <p>9U 563390 6109556 2022-09-09 11:09:40</p>	
 <p>9U 563439 6109658 2022-09-09 10:49:18</p>		 <p>9U 563390 6109556 2022-09-09 11:09:59</p>	

Table 5.29: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 8300012.

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-09	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	–	Diameter (m)	2.8
External ID	8300012	Length (m)	10
Crew	MW	Embedded	Yes
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	0.22
Easting	563541.6	Resemble Channel	Yes
Northing	6109765	Backwatered	No
Stream	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Moore Rd	Fill Depth (m)	1
Road Tenure	MoTi Local	Outlet Drop (m)	0.1
Channel Width (m)	4.3	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.1
Stream Slope (%)	2	Inlet Drop	No
Beaver Activity	No	Slope (%)	0
Habitat Value	High	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	11	Barrier Result	Passable
Fix type	–	Fix Span / Diameter	–

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Embedded with no outlet drop. Very wide channel with gravels and cobbles. 10:18			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
	2022-09-09 10:22:00 9U 563550 6109778		2022-09-09 10:24:34 9U 563543 6109778
	2022-09-09 10:24:38 9U 563543 6109780		2022-09-09 10:26:15 9U 563526 6109775
	2022-09-09 10:23:46 9U 563543 6109782		2022-09-09 10:26:21 9U 563534 6109764

Location and Stream Data		.	Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-09		Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	–		Diameter (m)	1.6
External ID	8300917		Length (m)	8
Crew	MW		Embedded	Yes
UTM Zone	9		Depth Embedded (m)	0.38
Easting	563869.2		Resemble Channel	Yes
Northing	6109781		Backwatered	No
Stream	Tributary to Kitwanga River		Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Moore Rd		Fill Depth (m)	0.7
Road Tenure	MoTi Unclassified		Outlet Drop (m)	0
Channel Width (m)	2.1		Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.2
Stream Slope (%)	1		Inlet Drop	No
Beaver Activity	No		Slope (%)	1.5
Habitat Value	High		Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	11		Barrier Result	Passable
Fix type	–		Fix Span / Diameter	–

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Two culverts, both embedded with no drop. Fish spotted in culvert(up to 20 cm in length) and downstream. Erosion near culvert. 10:50			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
 <p>2022-09-09 10:52:18 9U 563873 6109788</p>		 <p>2022-09-09 11:02:27 9U 563871 6109789</p>	
 <p>2022-09-09 11:02:18 9U 563873 6109787</p>		 <p>2022-09-09 11:02:46 9U 563864 6109781</p>	
 <p>2022-09-09 10:54:28 9U 563873 6109780</p>		 <p>2022-09-09 11:04:48 9U 563867 6109760</p>	

## **Stream Characteristics Downstream**

The stream was surveyed downstream from crossing 198220 for 400m (Figure [5.16](#)). The dominant substrate was gravels with cobbles sub-dominant. The average channel width was 5.4m, the average wetted width was 3.2m, and the average gradient was 3%. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with boulders dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, undercut banks, and overhanging vegetation. There was boulder cover and gravels throughout the survey but very few pools. The habitat was rated as high value for salmonid rearing and spawning.

## **Stream Characteristics Upstream**

The stream was surveyed upstream from crossing 198220 for 600m (Figure [5.17](#)). The dominant substrate was cobbles with gravels sub-dominant. The average channel width was 4.2m, the average wetted width was 2.8m, and the average gradient was 3.9%. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with small woody debris dominant. Cover was also present as large woody debris, boulders, undercut banks, and overhanging vegetation. Only a few areas contained gravels suitable for spawning. The channel was wide throughout with a lot of woody debris. There were large amounts of undercut banks that provided cover, but very few deep pools. Some steep eroding banks were seen in a few locations on the survey. Juvenile fish were spotted, in the culvert on Moore Road. Overall, the habitat was rated as medium value as an important migration corridor containing suitable spawning habitat and having moderate rearing potential.

## **Structure Remediation and Cost Estimate**

Should restoration/maintenance activities proceed, replacement of PSCIS crossing 198220 with a bridge (30.5m span) is recommended. The cost of the work is estimated at \$22,875,000 for a cost benefit of 0.8 linear m/\$1000 and 2.1 m<sup>2</sup>/\$1000.

## **Conclusion**

There was 19.4km of habitat modelled upstream of crossing 198220 with areas surveyed rated as medium value for salmonid rearing and spawning. 198220 was ranked as a high priority for proceeding to design for replacement. Electrofishing upstream and downstream of the culvert is recommended to provide insight into fish density and migration patterns.

## Conclusion

**Table 5.31: Summary of habitat details for PSCIS crossing 198220.**

Site Location	Length Surveyed (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
198220 Downstream	400	5.4	3.2	0.3	3.0	moderate	high
198220 Upstream	600	4.2	2.8	0.4	3.9	moderate	medium



Figure 5.16: Left: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198220. Right: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198220.



Figure 5.17: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198220. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198220.



Figure 5.18: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198220. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198220.

## Pinenut Creek - 198222 - Appendix

### Site Location

PSCIS crossing 198222 is located on Babine Slide FSR, on Pinenut Creek, approximately 15km north east of the small community of Glen Vowell, BC. Crossing 198222 was located on the east side of the Skeena River, approximately 0.6km upstream from the confluence.

### Background

At crossing 198222, Pinenut Creek is a third order stream with a watershed area upstream of the crossing of approximately 21.5km<sup>2</sup>. The elevation of the watershed ranges from a maximum of 1964m to 420m near the crossing (Table 5.32). At the time of reporting, there was no fisheries information available for the area upstream of crossing 198222(MoE 2020b; Norris 2022).

Table 5.32: Summary of derived upstream watershed statistics for PSCIS crossing 198222.

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Min	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
198222	21.5	277	420	1964	1077	1006	SW

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above

PSCIS stream crossing 198222 was ranked as a high priority for follow up by the Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC due to significant quantities of habitat upstream modelled by bcfishpass as likely suitable for salmon rearing. A summary of habitat modelling outputs is presented in Table 5.33 and a map of the watershed is provided in map attachment [093M.106](#).

Table 5.33: Summary of fish habitat modelling for PSCIS crossing 198222.

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
ST Network (km)	9.2	8.7	95
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	—	0.0	—
ST Wetland (ha)	—	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	0.9	0.9	100
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	3.2	3.2	100
ST Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Rearing (km)	3.9	3.9	100
CH Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	—
CH Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	—

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
CO Spawning (km)	0.9	0.9	100
CO Rearing (km)	0.9	0.9	100
CO Rearing (ha)	–	0.0	–
SK Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	–
SK Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	–
SK Rearing (ha)	–	0.0	–

\* Model data is preliminary and subject to adjustments.

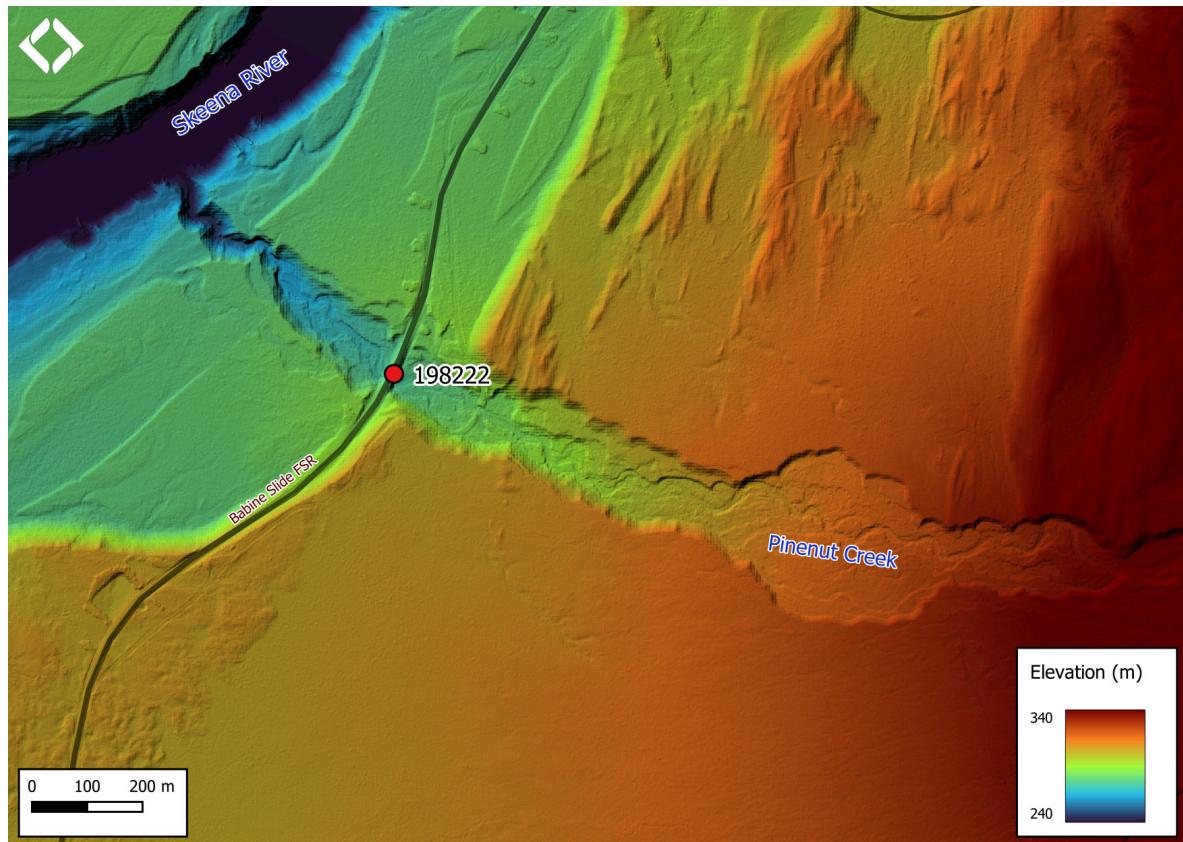


Figure 5.19: Lidar generated digital elevation model of Pinenut Creek at Babine Slide FSR (using elevation data from 2019).

### Stream Characteristics at Crossing

At the time of the survey, PSCIS crossing 198222 was un-embedded, non-backwatered and ranked as a barrier to upstream fish passage according to the provincial protocol (MoE 2011b) (Table 5.34). This crossing was replaced in 1985. Water temperature was 9.7°C, pH was 8.2 and conductivity was 75uS/cm.

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Table 5.34: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 198222.

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-08	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	198222	Diameter (m)	3.8
External ID	–	Length (m)	30
Crew	AI	Embedded	No
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	–
Easting	587054	Resemble Channel	No
Northing	6138716	Backwatered	No
Stream	Pinenut Creek	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Babine Slide FSR	Fill Depth (m)	4
Road Tenure	MoF 4841	Outlet Drop (m)	0.45
Channel Width (m)	8.2	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.4
Stream Slope (%)	4	Inlet Drop	No
Beaver Activity	No	Slope (%)	2.5
Habitat Value	High	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	37	Barrier Result	Barrier
Fix type	Replace with New Open Bottom Structure	Fix Span / Diameter	15

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Structure was replaced in 1985. Concrete wing walls on inlet. Structure is in decent shape. 13:39			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
 A photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense forest of coniferous trees. The road surface is dark and appears to be made of gravel or dirt. The surrounding vegetation is lush and green.	2022-09-11 11:57:00 9U 587034 6138678	 A photograph looking down a concrete culvert. The interior of the culvert is dark and curved. Water is flowing through it, creating white foam at the bottom. The exterior of the culvert is made of concrete and shows some weathering and moss.	2022-09-08, 1:47 PM 9U 587055 6138697
 A photograph showing water flowing out of a large, corrugated metal pipe into a stream bed. The pipe is partially buried in the soil. The water is moving quickly, creating white foam. The surrounding area is overgrown with ferns and other vegetation.	2022-09-08, 1:17 PM 9U 587061 6138705	 A photograph looking upstream through a large, corrugated metal pipe. The pipe is partially buried in the soil. The water is moving quickly, creating white foam. The surrounding area is overgrown with ferns and other vegetation.	2022-09-08, 1:54 PM 9U 587027 6138714
 A photograph looking downstream at a rocky stream bed. The water is clear and flowing over rocks of various sizes. There are fallen logs and branches in the water. The surrounding area is overgrown with ferns and other vegetation.	9U 587207 6138656 2022-09-08 14:06:45	 A photograph looking upstream at a rocky stream bed. The water is clear and flowing over rocks of various sizes. There are fallen logs and branches in the water. The surrounding area is overgrown with ferns and other vegetation.	2022-09-08, 1:54 PM 9U 587027 6138714

### Stream Characteristics Downstream

The stream was surveyed downstream from crossing 198222 for 150m (Figure 5.20). The dominant substrate was cobbles with gravels sub-dominant. The average channel width was 8.1m, the

## Stream Characteristics Upstream

average wetted width was 5.4m, and the average gradient was 4.5%. Total cover amount was rated as trace with boulders dominant. Cover was also present as undercut banks. The habitat was rated as medium value for salmonid rearing and spawning.

### Stream Characteristics Upstream

The stream was surveyed upstream from crossing 198222 for 650m (Figure 5.21). Total cover amount was rated as trace with boulders dominant. Cover was also present as undercut banks. The average channel width was 13.1m, the average wetted width was 5.7m, and the average gradient was 3.6%. The dominant substrate was cobbles with boulders sub-dominant. There is a collapsed bridge approximately 200m from crossing 198222. Some erosion was present along the sides of the bridge but there was no fish passage issue at the time of survey. This was a high energy system with numerous areas of multiple channels, islands and elevated bars. High flows were pushing most of the large woody debris out of the main channel, resulting in lower complexity. There were rare pockets of gravel suitable for spawning. Overall, the habitat surveyed upstream of the crossing was rated as medium value as an important migration corridor containing habitat suitable for spawning and rearing.

### Fish Sampling

To assess potential impacts of the culvert on fisheries values in the stream, minnowtrapping was conducted upstream and downstream of the crossing. Two traps were set downstream of the crossing and two were set upstream; traps were left overnight. 1 dolly varden was captured upstream and 6 dolly varden were captured downstream (Figure 5.23).

Table 5.35: Fish  
captured in  
minnowtraps set  
overnight upstream  
and downstream of  
PSCIS crossing  
198222.

Location	Species	parr	juvenile
Downstream	DV	3	3
Upstream	DV	0	1

### Structure Remediation and Cost Estimate

Should restoration/maintenance activities proceed, replacement of PSCIS crossing 198222 with a bridge (15m span) is recommended. The cost of the work is estimated at \$450,000 for a cost benefit of 8.7 linear m/\$1000 and 35.7 m<sup>2</sup>/\$1000.

## **Conclusion**

Modelling indicates there is 3.9km of habitat upstream of crossing 198222 suitable for steelhead rearing, with areas surveyed rated as medium value for rearing and spawning. Although minnow trapping is not considered a robust sampling method to definitively determine species composition - results indicated only dolly varden presence immediately adjacent to the crossing. Besides the drop at the outlet, crossing 198222 was in good condition and backwatering of the pipe could be considered if cost of replacement precludes remediation efforts. Overall the site was ranked as a high priority for proceeding to design for replacement.

## Conclusion

Table 5.36: Summary of habitat details for PSCIS crossing 198222.

Site Location	Length Surveyed (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
198222 Downstream	150	8.1	5.4	0.5	4.5	trace	medium
198222 Upstream	650	13.1	5.7	0.4	3.6	trace	medium



Figure 5.20: Left: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198222. Right: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198222.

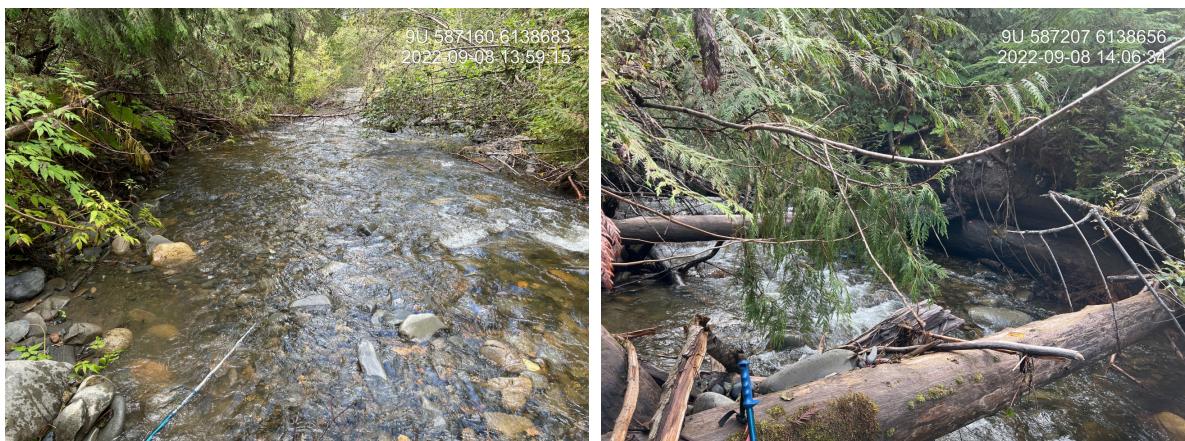


Figure 5.21: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198222. Right: Collapsed bridge upstream of PSCIS crossing 198222.



Figure 5.22: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198222. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198222.



Figure 5.23: Left: Dolly Varden captured downstream of PSCIS crossing 198222. Right: Dolly Varden captured upstream of PSCIS crossing 198222.

## Sterritt creek - 198225 - Appendix

### Site Location

PSCIS crossing 198225 is located on Sterritt creek. This site is located on Babine Slide FSR, approximately 1.1km upstream from the confluence with the Skeena River.

### Background

At crossing 198225, Sterritt creek is a fourth order stream with a watershed area upstream of the crossing of approximately 14.4km<sup>2</sup>. The elevation of the watershed ranges from a maximum of 2296m to 470m near the crossing (Table 5.37). At the time of reporting, there was no fisheries information available for the areas upstream of crossing 198225.

The stream was initially assessed on September 23, 2022, with much of this memo drafted then including recommendations for follow up fish sampling. The site was revisited on September 21, 2024. Results from the 2023 site visit is also now included in this updated report.

Table 5.37: Summary of derived upstream watershed statistics for PSCIS crossing 198225.

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Min	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
198225	14.4	369	470	2296	1441	1334	SW

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above

A summary of habitat modelling outputs is presented in Table 5.38. A map of the watershed is provided in map attachment [093M.111](#).

Table 5.38: Summary of fish habitat modelling for PSCIS crossing 198225.

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
ST Network (km)	3.4	0.6	18
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	—	0.0	—
ST Wetland (ha)	—	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	0.0	0.0	—
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	0.6	0.6	100
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	0.7	0.0	0
ST Spawning (km)	0.6	0.6	100
ST Rearing (km)	1.3	0.6	46
CH Spawning (km)	0.6	0.6	100

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
CH Rearing (km)	0.6	0.6	100
CO Spawning (km)	0.6	0.6	100
CO Rearing (km)	0.6	0.6	100
CO Rearing (ha)	—	0.0	—
SK Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	—
SK Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	—
SK Rearing (ha)	—	0.0	—

\* Model data is preliminary and subject to adjustments.

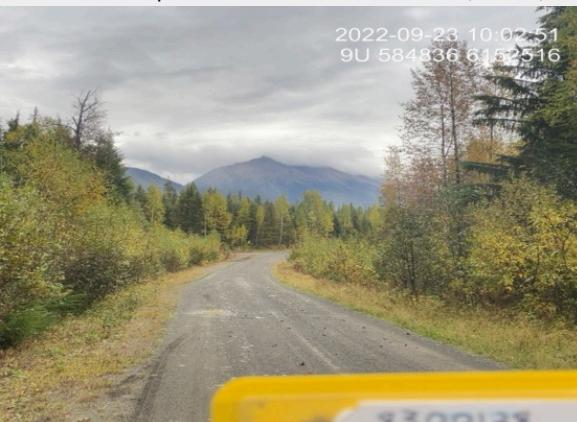
## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

At the time of the survey, PSCIS crossing 198225 was un-embedded, non-backwatered and ranked as a barrier to upstream fish passage according to the provincial protocol (MoE 2011b) ([Table 5.39](#)). There was high flow through the culvert at the time of survey. A deep outlet pool (2m) and a large outlet drop (2m) indicate that the culvert may be undersized. Water temperature was 8°C, pH was 7.9 and conductivity was 46uS/cm.

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Table 5.39: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 198225.

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-23	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	198225	Diameter (m)	2.4
External ID	–	Length (m)	30
Crew	JO	Embedded	No
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	–
Easting	584898.7	Resemble Channel	No
Northing	6152502	Backwatered	No
Stream	Sterritt creek	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Babine Slide FSR	Fill Depth (m)	4
Road Tenure	MoF 4841	Outlet Drop (m)	2
Channel Width (m)	3.7	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	2
Stream Slope (%)	4.5	Inlet Drop	Yes
Beaver Activity	No	Slope (%)	3.5
Habitat Value	Low	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	42	Barrier Result	Barrier
Fix type	Replace with New Open Bottom Structure	Fix Span / Diameter	15

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Culvert is separating 10 meters in from upstream, top of culvert slumping in. 10:06			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
 <p>2022-09-23 10:02:51 9U 584836 6152516</p>		 <p>2022-09-23 10:16:46 9U 584896 6152497</p>	
 <p>2022-09-23 10:17:08 9U 584902 6152507</p>		 <p>2022-09-23 10:58:24 9U 584867 6152480</p>	
 <p>2022-09-23 10:16:55 9U 584896 6152497</p>		 <p>2022-09-23 10:59:53 9U 584859 6152480</p>	

### Stream Characteristics Downstream

The stream was surveyed downstream from crossing 198225 for 260m in 2022 (Figure 5.24). The average channel width was 7.5m, the average wetted width was 5.6m, and the average gradient

## Stream Characteristics Upstream

was 5.6%. The dominant substrate was large rock/bedrock with cobbles sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as trace with large woody debris dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, boulders, and undercut banks. Large woody debris was noted as abundant creating deep pools and small cascade steps. The habitat was rated as medium value for salmonid rearing.

As noted above, the site was revisited in 2023 with intent to conduct electrofishing - however, before sampling was conducted surveyors observed a 2 - 3m high near vertical cascade flowing over bedrock into the small culvert outlet pool immediately below the FSR so it was decided to not proceed with electrofishing.

## Stream Characteristics Upstream

The stream was surveyed upstream from crossing 198225 for 500m (Figure 5.25). The dominant substrate was cobbles with gravels sub-dominant. The average channel width was 12.2m, the average wetted width was 5.5m, and the average gradient was 4.4%. Total cover amount was rated as abundant with large woody debris dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris. This stream has the potential to be fish bearing but the gradient is steep. The bank full depth is very high, with a measured average of 0.8m. There was an abundance of large woody debris that provided functionality to the stream habitat by diverting flow and providing cover. The habitat was rated as medium value as an important migration corridor containing suitable rearing habitat.

## Conclusion

As field surveys in the summer of 2023 confirmed a natural barrier (2 - 3m high near vertical cascade flowing over bedrock) immediately adjacent to the outlet of the crossing, replacement of the culvert with a bridge would not facilitate upstream fish migration so is not recommended.

Table 5.40: Summary of habitat details for PSCIS crossing 198225.

Site	Location	Length Surveyed (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
198225	Downstream	260	7.5	5.6	0.4	5.6	trace	medium
198225	Upstream	500	12.2	5.5	0.4	4.4	abundant	medium



Figure 5.24: Left: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198225. Right: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198225.

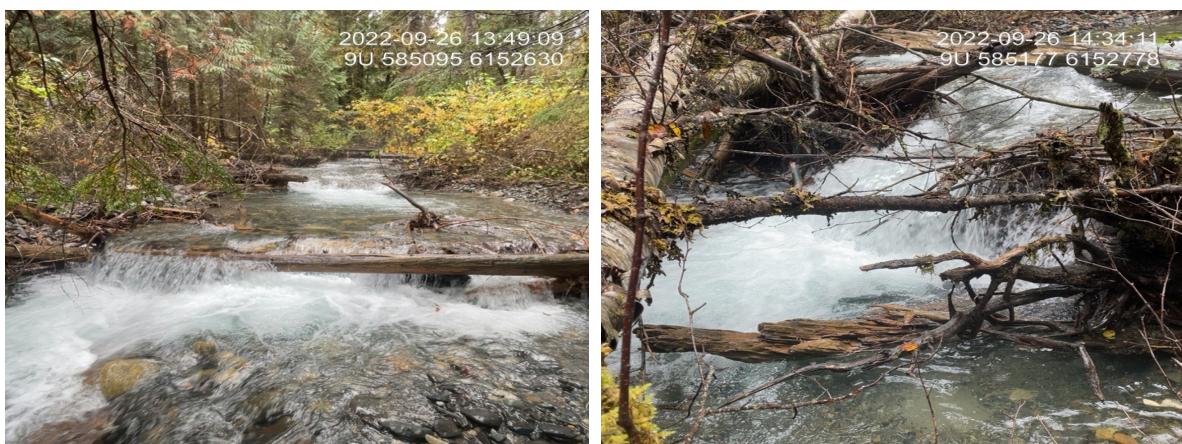


Figure 5.25: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198225. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198225.

## Conclusion



Figure 5.26: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198225. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198225.



## **Tributary to Kitwanga River - 198236 - Appendix**

### **Site Location**

PSCIS crossing 198236 is located on Tributary to Kitwanga River, on the Kitwancool Branch 2 FSR 4.3km upstream from the confluence with the Kitwanga River. The site is ~1.5km upstream of Kitwanga Lake (a.k.a Kitwancool Lake or Gitanyow Lake).

Although there are two crossing modelled as between the subject site and the Kitwanga River (modelled\_crossing\_id 8301996 and 8300438) that have not yet been inventoried, field observations and review of aerial imagery indicates that the crossing structures have been removed and fish access through this area is not likely hindered.

### **Background**

Using salmon enumeration facilities to trap and count upstream migrating salmon, the Gitanyow Fisheries Authorities have demonstrated that Kitwanga Lake is one of the most productive sockeye nursery lakes for its size in all of BC (Gitanyow Fisheries Authority 2023). The Kitwanga River salmon enumeration facility is located approximately 4km north of the confluence with the Skeena river. This facility provides counts of five species of salmon: sockeye, chinook, coho, chum, and pink. In response to rapid declines in sockeye stocks, the Kitwanga Lake Sockeye Restoration project was started in 2006. Restoration efforts include environmental monitoring of the lake, assessment of sockeye spawning and rearing habitat, and hatchery rearing (Allen Gottesfeld, Barnes, and Soto 2009).

At crossing 198236, Tributary to Kitwanga River is a third order stream with a watershed area upstream of the crossing of approximately 4.8km<sup>2</sup>. The elevation of the watershed ranges from a maximum of 1760m to 449m near the crossing (Table [5.41](#)). At the time of reporting, there was no fisheries information available for the areas upstream of crossing 198236.

**Table 5.41: Summary of derived upstream watershed statistics for PSCIS crossing 198236.**

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Min	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
198236	4.8	449	528	1760	1001	916	SE

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above

PSCIS stream crossing 198236 was ranked as a moderate priority for follow up by the Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC following a review of bcfishpass modelling and background literature. A Fish Habitat Assessment Procedure was completed at this site in 2008 by members of the Skeena Fisheries Commission. At the time of assessment, it was concluded that the culvert presented a velocity barrier to juveniles. The habitat upstream was modelled at 8%. A summary of habitat modelling outputs is presented in Table [5.42](#). A map of the watershed is provided in map attachment [103P.115](#).

**Table 5.42: Summary of fish habitat modelling for PSCIS crossing 198236.**

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
ST Network (km)	2.4	2.4	100
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	0.0	0.0	-
ST Wetland (ha)	0.0	0.0	-
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	0.0	0.0	-
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	0.0	0.0	-
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	0.1	0.1	100
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	1.4	1.4	100
ST Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	-
ST Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	-
CH Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	-
CH Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	-
CO Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	-
CO Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	-
CO Rearing (ha)	0.0	0.0	-
SK Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	-
SK Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	-
SK Rearing (ha)	0.0	0.0	-

\* Model data is preliminary and subject to adjustments.

### Stream Characteristics at Crossing

At the time of the survey, PSCIS crossing 198236 was un-embedded, non-backwatered and ranked as a barrier barrier to upstream fish passage according to the provincial protocol (MoE 2011b) (Table [5.43](#)). There was low flow through both culverts at the time of survey. Water temperature was 8°C, pH was 8.3 and conductivity was 149uS/cm.

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Table 5.43: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 198236.

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-09	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	198236	Diameter (m)	1.7
External ID	–	Length (m)	10
Crew	AI JO	Embedded	No
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	–
Easting	550300	Resemble Channel	No
Northing	6140708	Backwatered	No
Stream	Tributary to Kitwanga River	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Kitwancool Branch 2 FSR	Fill Depth (m)	0.45
Road Tenure	MoF 8687	Outlet Drop (m)	0.24
Channel Width (m)	2.3	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.22
Stream Slope (%)	1	Inlet Drop	Yes
Beaver Activity	Yes	Slope (%)	2
Habitat Value	Medium	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	26	Barrier Result	Barrier
Fix type	Replace with New Open Bottom Structure	Fix Span / Diameter	15

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Two culverts side by side (0.85m each). 14:23			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
			
			
			

### Stream Characteristics Downstream

The stream was surveyed downstream from crossing 198236 for 200m (Figure 5.27). The dominant substrate was cobbles with gravels sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with

## Stream Characteristics Upstream

overhanging vegetation dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris. The average channel width was 3.8m, the average wetted width was 2.3m, and the average gradient was 2.4%. There was abundant overhanging vegetation and a lot of downed trees. The stream mainly consisted of gravels and cobbles. There were infrequent shallow pools suitable for rearing. The habitat was rated as high value for salmonid rearing and spawning.

## Stream Characteristics Upstream

The stream was surveyed upstream from crossing 198236 for 500m (Figure [5.28](#)). The average channel width was 3m, the average wetted width was 2.6m, and the average gradient was 5.8%. The dominant substrate was gravels with cobbles sub-dominant. Total cover amount was rated as moderate with undercut banks dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, large woody debris, deep pools, and overhanging vegetation. There were abundant gravels noted as suitable for resident and anadromous salmonid spawning. There were frequent deep pools due to large woody debris in the canyon that was not logged. Overall, the habitat was rated as high value.

## Structure Remediation and Cost Estimate

Should restoration/maintenance activities proceed, replacement of PSCIS crossing 198236 with a bridge (15m span) is recommended. The cost of the work is estimated at \$450,000 for a cost benefit of 5.3 linear m/\$1000 and 6.1 m<sup>2</sup>/\$1000.

## Conclusion

Although the habitat upstream of Kitwancool Branch 2 FSR was modelled at 8% which is greater than the steelhead rearing cutoff (7.5%) for high intrinsic potential (ie. likely “good” habitat), the average gradient was measured at 5.8% indicating that modelling outputs in Table [5.42](#) under-represent lower gradient habitat present. A reasonable estimate of the amount of habitat upstream of the crossing that is under 7.5% is approximately 2km. The areas surveyed rated as high value for salmonid rearing and spawning. Crossing 198236 was ranked as a moderate priority for proceeding to design for replacement.

Table 5.44: Summary of habitat details for PSCIS crossing 198236.

Site Location	Length Surveyed (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
198236 Downstream	200	3.8	2.3	0.3	2.4	moderate	high
198236 Upstream	500	3.0	2.6	0.4	5.8	moderate	high



Figure 5.27: Left: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198236. Right: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 198236.



Figure 5.28: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198236. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198236.

## Conclusion



Figure 5.29: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198236. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 198236.



## Sandstone Creek - 8530 - Appendix

### Site Location

PSCIS crossing 8530 is located on Sandstone Creek approximately 35km west of the town of Smithers, on Mcdonell FSR. This crossing is located approximately 650m upstream from the confluence with the Zymoetz River. This crossing is the responsibility of the Ministry of Forests.

### Background

At crossing 8530, Sandstone Creek is a second order stream with a watershed area upstream of the crossing of approximately 14.2km<sup>2</sup>. The elevation of the watershed ranges from a maximum of 1282m to 814m at the crossing (Table 5.45). Upstream of crossing 8530, dolly varden, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout have previously been recorded (MoE 2020b; Norris 2022). The mainstem of Sandstone Creek is 9.8km in length and is fed by 13 tributaries. Sandstone Lake is located approximately 4km upstream of crossing 8530, and has an area of 67ha. According to historical records, dolly varden and cutthroat trout have been known to reside in Sandstone Lake.

Table 5.45: Summary of derived upstream watershed statistics for PSCIS crossing 8530.

Site	Area Km	Elev Site	Elev Max	Elev Median	Elev P60	Aspect
8530	14.2	814	1282	1040	1029	SSW

\* Elev P60 = Elevation at which 60% of the watershed area is above

Triton Environmental Consultants Ltd. (1998) conducted a reconnaissance level fish and fish habitat inventory on Sandstone Creek. In 1996, they conducted fish sampling at two sites located downstream of crossing 8530 and caught cutthroat trout. In 1997, Rainbow trout were caught by electrofishing upstream of Sandstone Lake and cutthroat trout were caught by electrofishing in a tributary located approximately 800m upstream of crossing 8530. At that time, Sandstone Creek was generally a low gradient stream with areas of moderate confinement. Upstream of Sandstone Lake, the stream flows for approximately 2.5km through an area of fisheries sensitive wetlands before draining a small unnamed lake.

PSCIS stream crossing 8530 was ranked as a high priority for follow up by the Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC because of significant amounts of habitat modelled upstream of the crossing. Viveiros (2011) assessed crossing 8530 in 2010. At the time of survey, it was recommended that the material in the pipe be embedded to reduce water velocity. A summary of habitat modelling outputs is presented in Table 5.46. A map of the watershed is provided in map attachment [093L.121](#).

Sandstone Creek - 8530 - Appendix

## Background

**Table 5.46: Summary of fish habitat modelling for PSCIS crossing 8530.**

Habitat	Potential	Remediation Gain	Remediation Gain (%)
ST Network (km)	2.6	0.5	19
ST Lake Reservoir (ha)	0.0	0.0	–
ST Wetland (ha)	0.0	0.0	–
ST Slopeclass03 Waterbodies (km)	0.0	0.0	–
ST Slopeclass03 (km)	1.5	0.0	0
ST Slopeclass05 (km)	0.1	0.0	0
ST Slopeclass08 (km)	1.0	0.5	50
ST Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	–
ST Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	–
CH Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	–
CH Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	–
CO Spawning (km)	0.4	0.0	0
CO Rearing (km)	0.4	0.0	0
CO Rearing (ha)	0.0	0.0	–
SK Spawning (km)	0.0	0.0	–
SK Rearing (km)	0.0	0.0	–
SK Rearing (ha)	0.0	0.0	–

\* Model data is preliminary and subject to adjustments.

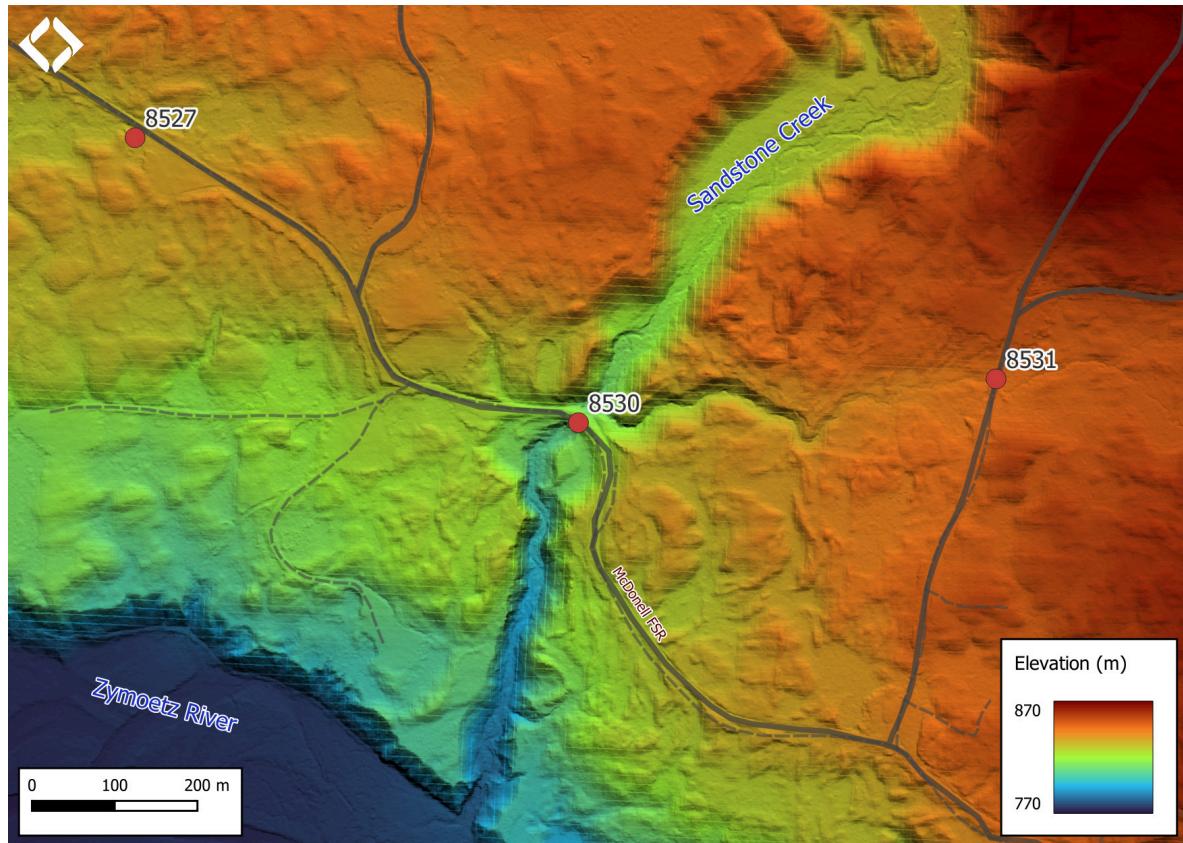


Figure 5.30: Lidar generated digital elevation model of Sandstone Creek at McDonell FSR (using elevation data from 2018).

### Stream Characteristics at Crossing

At the time of the survey, PSCIS crossing 8530 was un-embedded, non-backwatered and ranked as a barrier to upstream fish passage according to the provincial protocol (MoE 2011b) (Table 5.47). Water temperature was 6.4°C, pH was 7.4 and conductivity was 90uS/cm.

Table 5.47: Summary of fish passage assessment for PSCIS crossing 8530.

Location and Stream Data	.	Crossing Characteristics –	
Date	2022-09-12	Crossing Sub Type	Round Culvert
PSCIS ID	8530	Diameter (m)	2.4
External ID	–	Length (m)	28
Crew	MW	Embedded	No
UTM Zone	9	Depth Embedded (m)	–

## Stream Characteristics at Crossing

Location and Stream Data		Crossing Characteristics –	
Stream	Sandstone Creek	Percent Backwatered	–
Road	Mcdonell FSR	Fill Depth (m)	3
Road Tenure	MoF 7552	Outlet Drop (m)	0.3
Channel Width (m)	3.4	Outlet Pool Depth (m)	0.2
Stream Slope (%)	3	Inlet Drop	No
Beaver Activity	No	Slope (%)	3
Habitat Value	Medium	Valley Fill	Deep Fill
Final score	39	Barrier Result	Barrier
Fix type	Replace with New Open Bottom Structure	Fix Span / Diameter	15

Location and Stream Data	•	Crossing Characteristics	-
Comments: Channel is steeper downstream of culvert. Very deep fill with a small outlet drop. 10:59			
Photos: From top left clockwise: Road/Site Card, Barrel, Outlet, Downstream, Upstream, Inlet.			
			
			
			

### Stream Characteristics Downstream

The stream was surveyed downstream from crossing 8530 for 275m (Figure 5.32). The average channel width was 4m, the average wetted width was 3.2m, and the average gradient was

## Stream Characteristics Upstream

2.8%.The dominant substrate was large rock/bedrock with cobbles sub-dominant.Total cover amount was rated as abundant with boulders dominant. Cover was also present as small woody debris, large woody debris, undercut banks, deep pools, and overhanging vegetation. There was good flow at the time of survey. Riparian vegetation was healthy, providing plenty of shade and cover. There were small packets of gravel suitable for spawning. Large woody debris jams and cascades were present that could act as a natural barrier to fish passage. However, during periods of high flow there's a good chance that strong fish can traverse these barriers. Plenty of pools were available for fish rearing. There was abundant functional woody debris and boulders present that added complexity to the stream habitat. The stream was confined in a bed rock canyon, with overhanging vegetation and shrubs dominating the riparian zone. The habitat was rated as medium value for salmonid rearing and spawning.

### Stream Characteristics Upstream

The stream was surveyed upstream from crossing 8530 for 600m (Figure [5.33](#)). Total cover amount was rated as moderate with small woody debris dominant. Cover was also present as large woody debris, undercut banks, and overhanging vegetation.The dominant substrate was cobbles with gravels sub-dominant.The average channel width was 3.8m, the average wetted width was 2.3m, and the average gradient was 3.2%. There was abundant cover from woody debris, overhanging veg and undercut banks at the time of survey. The channel was wide throughout with graveled areas suitable for spawning. There was trace amounts of deep pools suitable for rearing. A couple smaller cascades (<1m in height) were present that may block the upstream migration of smaller fish. The habitat was rated as high value as an important migration corridor containing suitable spawning habitat and having moderate rearing potential.

### Fish Sampling

Electrofishing was conducted with results summarised in Tables [5.49 - 5.50](#) and Figure [5.31](#). Dolly varden and cutthroat trout were caught both downstream and upstream of the culvert, while rainbow trout were only caught upstream (Figure [5.35](#)). There was some uncertainty as to whether some fish were hybrids of rainbowe and ctthrou. Fish over 60mm in length were tagged with passive integrated transponders with tag ID and assosciated data located [here](#).

### Structure Remediation and Cost Estimate

Should restoration/maintenance activities proceed, replacement of PSCIS crossing 8530 with a bridge (15m span) is recommended. The cost of the work is estimated at \$450,000 for a cost benefit of 12.7 linear m/\$1000 and 21.5 m<sup>2</sup>/\$1000.

### Conclusion

There was 5.7km of habitat modelled upstream of crossing 8530 modelled as potential steelhead rearing habitat with areas surveyed rated as high value for salmonid rearing and spawning.

Additionally, Sandstone Lake upstream provides habitat and flow moderating values to the system. Crossing 8530 was ranked as a high priority for proceeding to design for replacement. Sandstone Creek is a large system with habitat suitable for numerous species including cutthroat and dolly varden. Although habitat has modeled as suitable for steelhead and coho, presence of anadromous species was not confirmed through sampling. Nevertheless, replacement the crossing with a bridge would eliminate the outlet drop and reduce flow velocities at the road crossing.

## Conclusion

Table 5.48: Summary of habitat details for PSCIS crossing 8530.

Site	Location	Length Surveyed (m)	Channel Width (m)	Wetted Width (m)	Pool Depth (m)	Gradient (%)	Total Cover	Habitat Value
8530	Downstream	275	4.0	3.2	0.4	2.8	abundant	medium
8530	Upstream	600	3.8	2.3	0.6	3.2	moderate	high

Table 5.49: Fish sampling site summary for 8530.

site	passes	ef_length_m	ef_width_m	area_m2	enclosure
8530_ds_ef1	1	14	2.40	33.6	Open
8530_ds_ef2	1	15	3.33	50.0	Open
8530_ds_ef3	1	11	4.15	45.7	Open
8530_us_ef1	1	17	2.40	40.8	Open
8530_us_ef2	1	21	2.40	50.4	Open
8530_us_ef3	1	21	2.80	58.8	Open

Table 5.50: Fish sampling density results summary for 8530.

local_name	species_code	life_stage	catch	density_100m2	nfc_pass
8530_ds_ef1	CT	fry	6	17.9	FALSE
8530_ds_ef1	CT	parr	1	3.0	FALSE
8530_ds_ef2	CT	fry	2	4.0	FALSE
8530_ds_ef2	CT	parr	3	6.0	FALSE
8530_ds_ef2	CT	juvenile	1	2.0	FALSE
8530_ds_ef2	CT	adult	1	2.0	FALSE
8530_ds_ef2	DV	parr	1	2.0	FALSE
8530_ds_ef3	CT	fry	11	24.1	FALSE
8530_ds_ef3	CT	parr	2	4.4	FALSE
8530_ds_ef3	DV	juvenile	1	2.2	FALSE
8530_us_ef1	CT	fry	1	2.5	FALSE
8530_us_ef1	CT	parr	4	9.8	FALSE
8530_us_ef1	CT	juvenile	1	2.5	FALSE
8530_us_ef1	RB	juvenile	1	2.5	FALSE
8530_us_ef1	TR	fry	1	2.5	FALSE
8530_us_ef2	CT	fry	3	6.0	FALSE
8530_us_ef2	CT	parr	2	4.0	FALSE
8530_us_ef2	CT	juvenile	1	2.0	FALSE
8530_us_ef2	DV	fry	1	2.0	FALSE
8530_us_ef2	DV	juvenile	1	2.0	FALSE
8530_us_ef2	RB	adult	1	2.0	FALSE
8530_us_ef3	CT	fry	5	8.5	FALSE
8530_us_ef3	CT	parr	3	5.1	FALSE
8530_us_ef3	CT	juvenile	2	3.4	FALSE
8530_us_ef3	CT	adult	1	1.7	FALSE
8530_us_ef3	DV	fry	5	8.5	FALSE

## Sandstone Creek - 8530 - Appendix

local_name	species_code	life_stage	catch	density_100m2	nfc_pass
8530_us_ef3	DV	parr	2	3.4	FALSE

\* nfc\_pass FALSE means fish were captured in final pass indicating more fish of this species/lifestage may have remained in site.  
Mark-recaptured required to reduce uncertainties.

## Conclusion

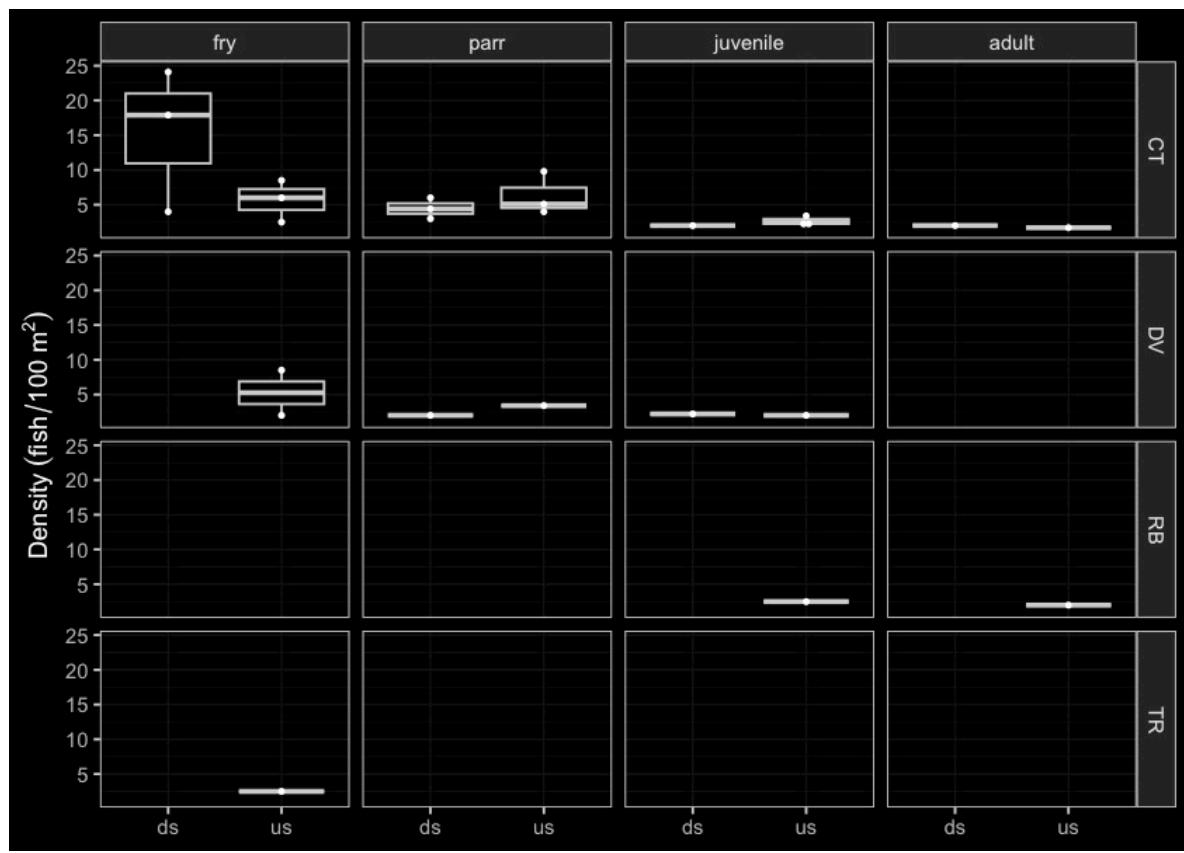


Figure 5.31: Densities of fish (fish/100m<sup>2</sup>) captured upstream of PSCIS crossing 8530.

Sandstone Creek - 8530 - Appendix



Figure 5.32: Left: Typical habitat downstream of PSCIS crossing 8530. Right: Large woody debris jam downstream of PSCIS crossing 8530.

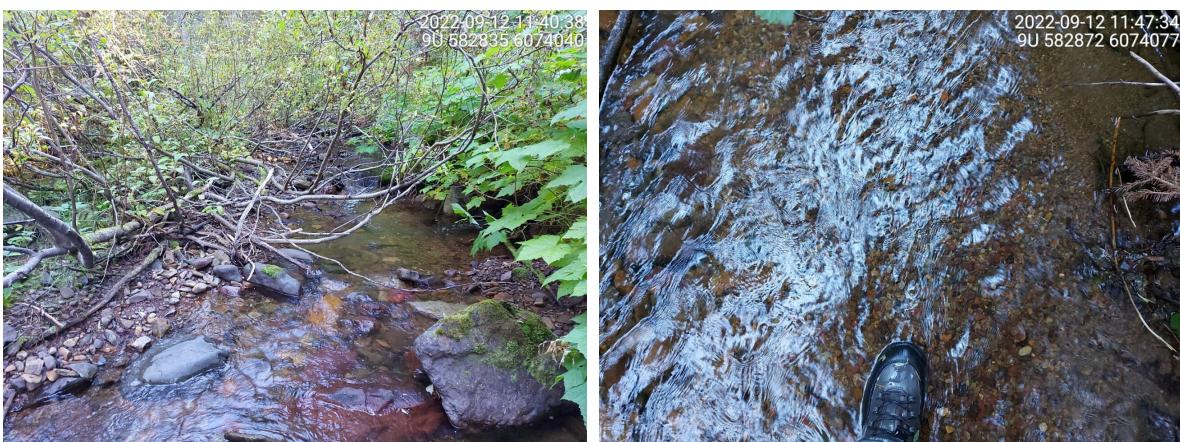


Figure 5.33: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 8530. Right: Area with suitable spawning gravels, upstream of PSCIS crossing 8530.

## Conclusion



Figure 5.34: Left: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 8530. Right: Typical habitat upstream of PSCIS crossing 8530.



Figure 5.35: Left: Dolly Varden captured upstream of PSCIS crossing 8530. Right: Cutthroat trout captured downstream of PSCIS crossing 8530.



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## Changelog

### **fish\_passage\_skeena\_2022\_reporting v0.1.2 (20240625)**

- update 198236 - Tributary to Kitwanga River to give estimate of habitat under 8% gradient upstream.
- add second level TOC on click
- update packages conditionally

### **fish\_passage\_skeena\_2022\_reporting v0.1.1 (20240513)**

- Update “Alvin Creek” memo (Tributary to Owen Creek - 197379) to include 2023 sampling attempt and brief detail of Bii Wenii recovery/restoration initiative. Correct the road km to 29.8. Update fish species list to include all species observed in 2023. Include cost estimate section with estimate of cost updated by hand to align with Marc Dewit’s estimate. Add link to newly titled memo in old html document so links to the memo are not broken.
- Update Sterrit Creek - 198225 with 2023 site visit information (ie. natural barrier at outlet negating value of replacing the structure)
- Update Dale Creek - 198215 with 2023 electrofishing data
- Update Tributary to Skeena River - 198216 & 198217 - Sik-E-Dakh (Glen Vowell) with 2023 electrofishing data and cost estimate
- fix interactive map so names of watershed groups show up correctly on hover
- Update cost estimate for unpaved resource roads to 30k/per m to better reflect inflated prices in 2024.
- Correct error in cost estimates that had massive overestimates of gain per dollar.
- Include cost estimate table in Results section.

### **fish\_passage\_skeena\_2022\_reporting v0.1.0**

- update crossings layer or bcfishpass object as per [https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish\\_passage\\_skeena\\_2022\\_reporting/issues/120](https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/issues/120)
- correct modelling for Sandstone 8430



## Session Info

Information about the computing environment is important for reproducibility. A summary of the computing environment is saved to `session_info.csv` that can be viewed and downloaded from [https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish\\_passage\\_skeena\\_2022\\_reporting/blob/main/data/session\\_info.csv](https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/blob/main/data/session_info.csv).

`## – Session info`

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## Session Info

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## setting value
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## system aarch64, darwin20
## ui     RStudio
## language (EN)
## collate en_US.UTF-8
## ctype   en_US.UTF-8
## tz      America/Vancouver
## date    2024-06-25
## rstudio 2024.04.1+748 Chocolate Cosmos (desktop)
## pandoc  3.1.11 @
/Applications/RStudio.app/Contents/Resources/app/quarto/bin/tools/aarch6-
```

## Session Info

```
4/ (via rmarkdown)
##
## - Packages
```

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## package	* version	date (UTC)	lib	source
## askpass	1.2.0	2023-09-03	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## base64enc	0.1-3	2015-07-28	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## bcdata	* 0.4.1	2023-03-18	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## bit	4.0.5	2022-11-15	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## bit64	4.0.5	2020-08-30	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## bitops	1.0-7	2021-04-24	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## blob	1.2.4	2023-03-17	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## bookdown	* 0.39	2024-04-15	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## brew	1.0-10	2023-12-16	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## bslib	0.7.0	2024-03-29	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## cachem	1.0.8	2023-05-01	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## cellranger	1.1.0	2016-07-27	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## chk	0.9.1.9001	2024-06-16	[1]	Github (poissonconsulting/chk@ea59f9c)
## chron	* 2.3-61	2023-05-02	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## class	7.3-22	2023-05-03	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## classInt	0.4-10	2023-09-05	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## cli	3.6.2	2023-12-11	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## codetools	0.2-20	2024-03-31	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## colorspace	2.1-0	2023-01-23	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## crayon	1.5.2	2022-09-29	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## credentials	2.0.1	2023-09-06	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## crosstalk	1.2.1	2023-11-23	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
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## curl	5.2.1	2024-03-01	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## data.table	* 1.15.4	2024-03-30	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## datapasta	* 3.1.0	2020-01-17	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## DBI	* 1.2.3	2024-06-02	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## dbplyr	2.5.0	2024-03-19	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## devtools	* 2.4.5	2022-10-11	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## digest	0.6.35	2024-03-11	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## doParallel	1.0.17	2022-02-07	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
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## e1071	1.7-14	2023-12-06	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
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## english	* 1.2-6	2021-08-21	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## evaluate	0.23	2023-11-01	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## exifr	* 0.3.2	2021-03-20	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## fansi	1.0.6	2023-12-08	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## farver	2.1.2	2024-05-13	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## fasstr	* 0.5.2	2024-03-28	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## fastmap	1.1.1	2023-02-24	[1]	CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## fishbc	* 0.2.1.9000	2024-05-14	[1]	Github (poissonconsulting/fishbc@3bb4f4b)

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(newgraphenvironment/fpr@22436b6)
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##fwapgr * 0.1.0.9015 2024-05-14 [1] Github
(poissonconsulting/fwapgr@a81de3d)
##generics 0.1.3 2022-07-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##geojson 0.3.5 2023-08-08 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##geojsonio * 0.11.3 2023-09-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##geojsonsf 2.0.3 2022-05-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##gert * 2.0.1 2023-12-04 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##ggdark * 0.2.1 2019-01-11 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##ggmap 4.0.0.900 2024-05-14 [1] Github
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##ggplot2 * 3.5.1 2024-04-23 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
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##googleway 2.7.8 2023-08-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##gttable 0.3.5 2024-04-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
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(haozhu233/kableExtra@a9c509a)
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##lifecycle 1.0.4 2023-11-07 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##lubridate * 1.9.3 2023-09-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##magick * 2.8.3 2024-02-18 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)

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## Session Info

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## mime          0.12      2021-09-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## miniUI        0.1.1.1   2018-05-18 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## munsell       0.5.1     2024-04-01 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## openssl       2.1.2     2024-04-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## pagedown      * 0.20     2022-12-13 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## pdftools      * 3.4.0    2023-09-25 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## pillar         1.9.0     2023-03-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## pkgbuild      1.4.4     2024-03-17 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## pkgconfig      2.0.3     2019-09-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## pkgload        1.3.4     2024-01-16 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## plyr           1.8.9     2023-10-02 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## png            0.1-8     2022-11-29 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
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## poisutils      0.0.0.9010 2024-05-14 [1] Github
## (poissonconsulting/poisutils@8310dc4)
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## processx       3.8.4     2024-03-16 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
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## promises       1.3.0     2024-04-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## proxy          0.4-27    2022-06-09 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
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## purrr          * 1.0.2     2023-08-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## qpdf           1.3.3     2024-03-25 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## R6              2.5.1     2021-08-19 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## rappdirs        0.3.3     2021-01-31 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## raster          3.6-26    2023-10-14 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## rayshader       * 0.37.3    2024-02-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## Rcpp            1.0.12    2024-01-09 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## RcppRoll        0.3.0     2018-06-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## readr           * 2.1.5     2024-01-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## readwritesqlite * 0.2.0     2022-10-16 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## readxl          * 1.4.3     2023-07-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## remotes         2.5.0     2024-03-17 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## rgl             1.3.1     2024-03-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## rlang            1.1.3     2024-01-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## rmarkdown        2.27      2024-05-17 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## roxygen2        * 7.3.1     2024-01-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## RPostgres       * 1.4.7     2024-05-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## RSQLite          2.3.6     2024-03-31 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## rstudioapi      0.16.0    2024-03-24 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## s2              1.1.6     2023-12-19 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## sass            0.4.9     2024-03-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
```

```

## scales           1.3.0      2023-11-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## servr            0.30       2024-03-23 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## sessioninfo     1.2.2       2021-12-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## sf                * 1.0-16    2024-03-24 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## shiny            1.8.1.1    2024-04-02 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## shrtcts          0.1.2       2024-05-14 [1] Github
(gadenbuie/shrtcts@41051cf)
## snakecase        0.11.1     2023-08-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## sp               2.1-4       2024-04-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## stringi           1.8.4       2024-05-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## stringr           * 1.5.1     2023-11-14 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## svglite          2.1.3       2023-12-08 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## sys               3.4.2       2023-05-23 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## systemfonts      1.0.6       2024-03-07 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## terra             1.7-71     2024-01-31 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## tibble            * 3.2.1     2023-03-20 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## tidyhydat         * 0.6.1     2024-01-11 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## tidyverse          * 1.3.1     2024-01-24 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## tidyselect         1.2.1       2024-03-11 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## tidyverse          * 2.0.0     2023-02-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## timechange        0.3.0       2024-01-18 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## tzdb              0.4.0       2023-05-12 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## units              0.8-5      2023-11-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## urlchecker        1.0.1       2021-11-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## usethis            * 2.2.3     2024-02-19 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## utf8               1.2.4       2023-10-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## uuid               1.2-0       2024-01-14 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## V8                 4.4.2       2024-02-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## vctrs              0.6.5       2023-12-01 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## viridisLite       0.4.2       2023-05-02 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## vroom              1.6.5       2023-12-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## websocket          1.4.1       2021-08-18 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## withr              3.0.0       2024-01-16 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## wk                 0.9.1       2023-11-29 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## xfun               0.44        2024-05-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## xml2               1.3.6       2023-12-04 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## xtable              1.8-4      2019-04-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## yaml                2.3.8      2023-12-11 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
## yesno              0.1.2       2020-07-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.4.0)
##
## [1] /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.4-
arm64/Resources/library
##
##

```



## **Attachment 1 - Maps**

All georeferenced field maps are presented at:

- <https://hillcrestgeo.ca/outgoing/fishpassage/projects/morr/archive/2022-09-06/>
- <https://hillcrestgeo.ca/outgoing/fishpassage/projects/zymo/archive/2022-09-06/>
- <https://hillcrestgeo.ca/outgoing/fishpassage/projects/kisp/archive/2022-09-06/>

Maps are also available zipped for bulk download at:

- <https://hillcrestgeo.ca/outgoing/fishpassage/projects/morr/archive/2022-09-06/2022-09-06.zip>
- <https://hillcrestgeo.ca/outgoing/fishpassage/projects/zymo/archive/2022-09-06/2022-09-06.zip>
- <https://hillcrestgeo.ca/outgoing/fishpassage/projects/kisp/archive/2022-09-06/2022-09-06.zip>



## **Attachment 2 - Phase 1 Data and Photos**

Data and photos for all Phase 1 (fish passage assessments) are provided in [Attachment 2 - https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish\\_passage\\_skeena\\_2022\\_reporting/raw/main/docs/Attachment\\_2.pdf](https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/raw/main/docs/Attachment_2.pdf)



### **Attachment 3 - Habitat Assessment Data**

Raw habitat assessment data is included in digital format at [https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish\\_passage\\_skeena\\_2022\\_reporting/blob/main/data/habitat\\_confirmations.xls](https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting/blob/main/data/habitat_confirmations.xls). The file can be downloaded with the download button top right of the page at the URL above or by clicking [https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish\\_passage\\_skeena\\_2022\\_reporting//raw/main/data/habitat\\_confirmations.xls](https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_skeena_2022_reporting//raw/main/data/habitat_confirmations.xls).



## **Attachment 4 - Bayesian analysis to map stream discharge and temperature causal effects pathways**

We are working with Poisson Consulting to map stream discharge and temperature causal effects pathways with the intent of focusing aquatic restoration actions in areas of highest potential for positive impacts on fisheries values at <https://github.com/poissonconsulting/fish-passage-22>