

Selecting Watersheds for Fish Passage Assessments

Fish Passage Technical Working Group

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide transparency around the selection of to conduct fish passage assessments watersheds by the Fish Passage Technical Working Group (FPTWG). This document may be updated yearly as priorities change.

Priorities

1. Watersheds with known presence of species at risk or important salmon populations
2. Watersheds with little or no previous fish passage assessments conducted
3. Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds

Changes from Previously Used Criteria for Selecting Watersheds

In the document, *The Strategic Approach*, Fisheries Value Scores are used as the main criteria to select watershed groups of interest within selected sub-basins. The Fisheries Value Score is based on biodiversity (endangered species, species richness, and special stocks), First Nations cultural values and socio-economic values (recreational and commercial). As part of the biodiversity score, each species was weighted by its relative sensitivity to forestry activities.

This revised selection process focuses on species at risk to support the Province's mandate to maintain the rich biodiversity of BC. The process also includes consideration of Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds and past assessment activities. When making a final selection, the FPTWG will consider the provincial distribution of assessment projects to continue to raise the profile of fish passage at stream crossings and to build expertise in recognizing and preventing the use of structures that impede fish.