BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

AUGUST 21 2020

Response Webpage BC River Forecast

FISH CONTINUE TO MIGRATE PAST BIG BAR WITHOUT ASSISTANCE

PICTURED: Salmon migrating pass the slide site without assistance. *Photo provided by Whooshh Innovations Inc.*

Over the last week, most salmon arriving at the Big Bar landslide site moved past the barrier without assistance and are en route to their natal streams. Monitoring data also confirmed that some of the fish that were battling the high water conditions below the slide site in July have now successfully migrated upstream.

As water levels fall to seasonal averages, approximately 92,000 salmon have moved past the slide site to date. Pre-liminary data from the last week shows that the majority of new arrivals are sockeye. The rock removal conducted earlier this winter, the construction of a “nature-like" fishway, and other alternative fish pas-sage systems implemented this spring and summer have been effective in assisting fish passage at Big Bar.

With more fish moving past the slide on their own, ‘truck and transport’ operations are temporarily sus-pended. Meanwhile, the Whooshh Passage Portal™ continues to move lower numbers of salmon.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA Fraser Salmon Management Council Canada

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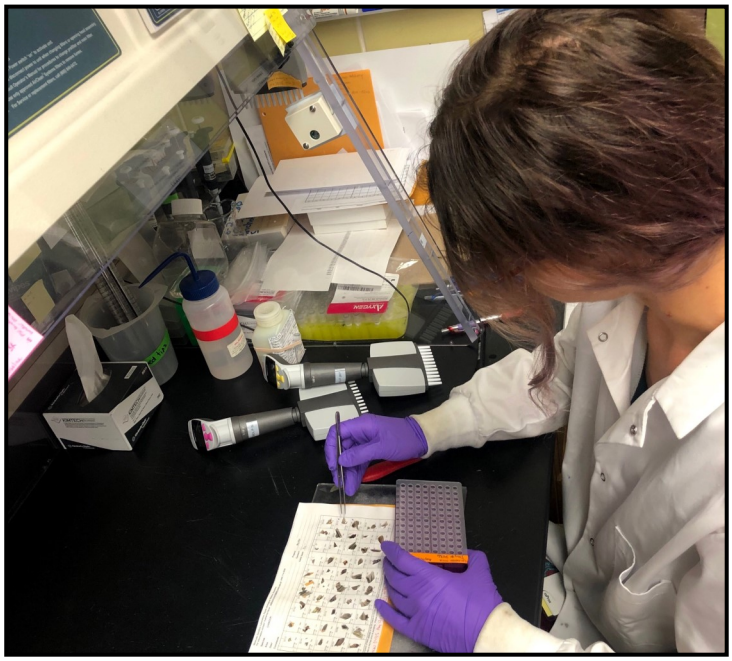
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

The Big Bar Emergency Conservation Enhancement Program has met its collection targets for chinook and sockeye salmon this season. Following the results of DNA testing, the last of the fish collected for emergency enhancement were transported from the French Bar Creek holding facility to the hatcheries on August 18. To date, the team has collected 118 chinook and 414 sockeye from the earliest migrating and most at-risk stocks.

Early reports indicate that 110 female sockeye salmon and 16 female chinook, from multiple stocks, have spawned at Cultus Lake Research Lab and Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre respectively. These salmon are being used to support impacted populations. The fertilized eggs are currently being incubated and, once they hatch, the fry will be reared for varying lengths of time before being released to natal streams.



PICTURED: Technician extracting DNA from fish samples collected at the slide site for emergency enhancement efforts.

With collection at the slide site complete, DFO will now focus on collecting a small number of at-risk salmon from their natal streams in the coming weeks.

ONGOING ONSITE OPERATIONS

PICTURED: Installation of fencing along the road to the West Beach to minimize snake crossings.

This week, crews focused on further enhancements to the Whooshh™ system, including relocating the water intake pumps and lowering the discharge tubes to accommodate lower water levels, and installing anchors to extend one of the discharge tubes further upstream.

Work progressed in other areas onsite as well, including rock scaling along the West Beach slope, installing fencing along the road to protect garter and gopher snakes, and extending the boat ramp at Beach One.

With temperatures onsite staying in the high 30s this past week, ensuring crew safety remains a priority.

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PICTURED: Installation of a canopy over the Whooshh Passage Portal™ accelerator component.

BIG BAR SALMON COUNTS

	SALMON RADIO TAGGED BELOW BIG BAR LANDSLIDE	SALMON USING ALTERNATIVE FISH PASSAGE		SALMON 40 KM UPSTREAM OF BIG BAR LANDSLIDE
		WHOOSHH PASSAGE PORTAL ™	TRUCK AND TRANSPORT	
TOTAL TO DATE	477	6869	1527	91994

Daily updated counts online