

BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

 Response Webpage

 BC River Forecast



DROPPING WATER LEVELS AND NATURAL FISH PASSAGE

Sockeye and chinook continue to naturally migrate past the slide site. To date, over 127,424 salmon have been detected via the ARIS SONAR upstream of the slide at Churn Creek. As of September 3, the monitoring team has applied approximately 549 radio tags.

ONGOING ONSITE OPERATIONS

This week saw continued work on the installation of the Whooshh Passage Portal™ fish tube extension. Crews completed drilling for the north and south anchors, installed the new cables and tube, as well as fabricated an adjustable release mechanism that could adjust to changing water levels. Testing of the new tube extension occurred on September 2 and 3.

In response to dropping water levels, crews lowered the Whooshh™ discharge tubes and their exit point. Water levels are approaching the lower design threshold for the concrete fish ladder, so crews are making modifications to the lower sections, as well as making adjustments to pump flows in order to keep the ladder operational.

As a ongoing commitment to enhancing site safety, work continued on the West Beach slope stabilization curtain. Additionally, this week marked the completion of scaling work above the number five hanger of the Whooshh™ discharge tubes.

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TOP: Stringing the new Whooshh Passage Portal™ tube extension.

BOTTOM: A view of the completed Fishway extension.

As of September 2020, the Big Bar Landslide Response Information Bulletin will be published on a bi-weekly basis to coincide with the scale of operations onsite.

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ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

The enhancement team is now conducting the upper Fraser natal stream brood collection program. Working in close partnership with the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance, the fisheries team is made up of First Nations, DFO and volunteers. This enhancement work will take approximately 3 weeks to complete.

At the Cultus Lake Research Lab, approximately 240,000 eggs from Early Stuart sockeye and 19,500 from Bowron sockeye are being incubated and screened for disease before they are moved to other hatcheries and reared over the winter to the fry stage.

These more than 160,000 eggs collected from chinook (previously held at the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre) are safely at the incubation facilities at the Quesnel River Research Station, which is operated by the University of Northern BC. Most of the eggs will be moved to the DFO Chehalis hatchery, but approximately 15% will remain at Quesnel River and reared until ready for release in the summer of 2021. A small portion will also be moved to the Spruce City Wildlife Association community hatchery in Prince George.


KEYSTONE ENGINEERING TECHNICAL BRIEFING

On Tuesday, the Big Bar technical working group attended a virtual briefing hosted by Keystone Engineering. Discussion focused on the successes and challenges of the summer operations and the upcoming monitoring for the fall and early winter.

RIGHT: An overview of the Big Bar Landslide site at the end of August, 2020.



BIG BAR SALMON COUNTS

	SALMON RADIO TAGGED BELOW BIG BAR LANDSLIDE	SALMON USING ALTERNATIVE FISH PASSAGE		SALMON 40 KM UPSTREAM OF BIG BAR LANDSLIDE
		WHOOSH PASSAGE PORTAL™	TRUCK AND TRANSPORT	
TOTAL TO DATE	549	8266	1527	127 424

[Daily updated counts online](#)

