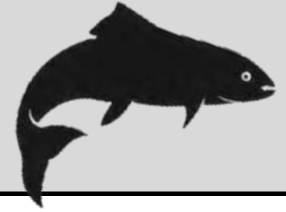


# BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

JUNE 28, 2021



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## 2021 FRASER SALMON MIGRATION SEASON UNDERWAY



**TOP:** June 17, 2021 - Aerial view of the concrete fish ladder and “nature-like” fishway.

Monitoring crews at Big Bar are detecting small numbers of fish arriving at the slide site, marking the start of the 2021 Fraser salmon migration season. The Chinook are migrating through the area on their own using the “nature-like” fishway. Increasing numbers of returning fish are expected as the season progresses.

Summer operations are in full swing, with a focus on preparations for the earlier timed Early Stuart sockeye expected to arrive in the upcoming weeks. Crews removed debris in the concrete fish ladder from last week's high water and a log caught in the pump tiebacks.

The fisheries crew is conducting trial runs of “trap and transport” procedures using both the 40-tonne transport trucks from West Beach, as well as the 3-tonne trucks from the fish wheel and Beach 1 operations. Systems are now ready to move fish if and when salmon cannot get past the slide site on their own. The first Chinook was successfully transported past the slide and released at French Bar Creek on June 18.

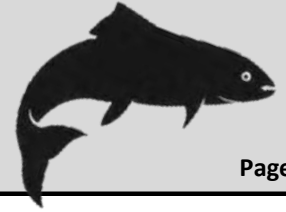
While summer has officially started, the site saw significant rainfall recently, prompting a temporary pause of additional assessments of the south cliff face to determine slope stability.

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**TOP LEFT:** Crews tested the new discharge pumps, which flush water directly into the concrete fish ladder.

**TOP RIGHT:** Crews then tested the 40-tonne fish transport truck under the dewatering flume at the fish ladder.

**BOTTOM:** Aerial view of the French Bar Creek release site, where Kiewit and DFO crews trialed truck transport procedures.

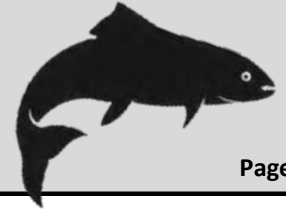


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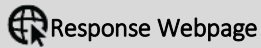


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## SALMON COUNTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Daily counts of fish detected at, below, and above the slide site are now available on the [DFO website](#), including the number of fish radio tagged and those moved as part of “trap and transport” operations this year. As of June 25, 246 fish have been detected 40 km upstream of the slide site, indicating that fish are moving past the slide site without assistance during moderate flows. Several factors impact migration timing, including flow levels, water temperature and weather. In 2021, migration timing is expected to vary greatly during periods of moderate and high flows.

To minimize handling and risk to fish health, salmon will be transported by truck only when it is determined by monitoring data that they cannot migrate past the slide site on their own.

BIG BAR SALMON COUNTS ( <a href="#">Daily counts available online</a> )				
Date	Salmon radio tagged below the Big Bar landslide site	Salmon transported by truck past the slide site and released upstream		Fish 40 km upstream of Big Bar landslide site (detected via SONAR)
		Chinook	Sockeye	
As of June 25, 2021	53	11	-	246



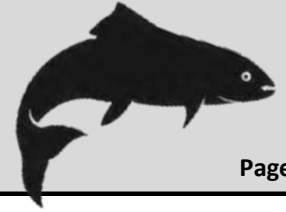
PICTURED: Radio tagging operations are underway in Lillooet.

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## MARKING TWO YEARS OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRESS

June 23, 2021, marked two years since DFO was first informed of the landslide. Since 2019, First Nations governments, the Province of British Columbia and DFO have undertaken extraordinary measures to restore natural fish passage at Big Bar to avoid the extirpation of at-risk salmon populations.

Despite the challenging working conditions, response efforts have ranged from transporting fish by helicopter in 2019, to blasting and rock removal in 2020, to implementing engineering solutions in 2021.

We continue to build on our experiences in 2019 and 2020, and are progressively working to ensure a higher rate of survival for the migrating Fraser salmon, including targeted efforts towards preserving the genetic diversity of these salmon populations in the short-term.

As operations ramp up this summer season, we would like to acknowledge the continued commitment and support of First Nations leadership, communities, our First Nations technical partners on the ground and volunteers as we together coordinate fish transport, enhancement and monitoring programs while pursuing a long-term solution to restore sustainable fish passage at Big Bar and help salmon return home to spawn.



**PICTURED:** First Chinook transported and released during a test run on June 18, 2021. *Photo by Jayden Gross.*

