


BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

January 17, 2022



 Response Webpage

 BC River Forecast

WORK PROGRESSES ON A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO RESTORE FISH PASSAGE AT BIG BAR

The Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA), on behalf of the Big Bar Joint Executive Steering Committee (JESC), has contracted Compass Resource Management Ltd. (Compass) to complete the first phase of an analysis to determine a long-term solution for restoring fish passage at Big Bar.

The initial stage will examine the complexities and extent of the remaining problem at the slide site. As part of this process, Compass began discussions with First Nations, DFO, key partners and stakeholders in December 2021. Once additional research and technical studies are completed recommendations for a permanent solution will be outlined in a second phase. This work is expected to begin in spring 2022.

Compass, a Vancouver-based company, was selected for its expertise in structured decision-making and its experience with hydrological projects in Canada and the United States. The UFFCA will continue to manage this contract on behalf of JESC.



PICTURED: West Beach and the “nature-like” fishway under snow cover, January 10, 2022

The Big Bar response team remains committed to restoring sustainable fish passage for all salmon species that migrate past the Big Bar landslide site. In the short term, planning is well underway for the 2022 salmon migration, including continued fish “trap and transport”, enhancement and monitoring operations.

EMERGENCY ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

As part of the emergency enhancement program, Chinook and sockeye eggs and alevin (i.e. newly spawned salmon still carrying a yolk sac) are being held in incubation trays at various hatcheries operated by First Nations, community partners and DFO. In the coming weeks, the alevin will be moved to larger rearing tubs where they will continue to grow. Meanwhile, the enhancement technical team is focused on planning salmon fry releases in the spring-early summer and fall of 2022.

SNOWPACK UPDATE

Currently, Upper Fraser snowpack levels are approximately 120% of the average for this time of year. However, it is the late winter snowpack, rather than the early winter snow that has a greater impact on spring freshet conditions. The response team will continue to monitor these levels closely throughout the winter to better understand and prepare for potential increased flow conditions during the upcoming migration season.

