


BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

June 10, 2022



 Response Webpage

 BC River Forecast

DELAYED SPRING SNOW MELT AND THE IMPACT ON OPERATIONS AT BIG BAR

SNOWPACK UPDATE

Throughout May, cool, rainy weather has descended on the Upper Fraser, significantly delaying the usual snow melt in this region. This unusual spring weather increases the probability of a larger freshet on the Fraser River. As a result, there is a potential for delayed migration of early spring Chinook and Early Stuart sockeye. It is possible that other early summer sockeye such as Bowron, Nadine and Taseko could be adversely impacted as well.

As of June 8th, key areas causing freshet at Big Bar are the watersheds of the Upper Fraser East at 185% of normal snowpack and Middle Fraser at 188% of normal. Weather conditions through June and July will determine the timing, magnitude, and rate of snowmelt and heavy rainfall events can exacerbate the situation

Based on healthy brood years and near normal ocean conditions over the past two years, strong returns of sockeye and Chinook are predicted throughout the Fraser River watershed. Early season forecasts are expected in the coming weeks as salmon approach the mouth of the lower Fraser. In response to potential large run sizes and possible migration delays, all the Big Bar mitigation programs are preparing for summer operations, including trap and transport, conservation enhancement and monitoring.

Crews will carefully monitor reports from the British Columbia River Forecast Centre and DFO's Fraser River Environmental Watch reports (EWATCH) to anticipate conditions at the slide site. The reports will contribute to program decisions throughout the migration season.

For more information on recent snowpack levels visit the [River Forecast Centre](#) website.

FRY RELEASE UPDATE

Operations to release salmon fry from the 2021 Big Bar enhancement program are well underway. Depending on the release location, the team will employ either trucks and tanks or helicopter drops. Eleven of the fourteen planned Chinook releases have occurred; the final three will be completed by mid-June. Additionally, three sockeye releases have been completed with three more slated for mid-June, and a fall parr release scheduled for mid-September.

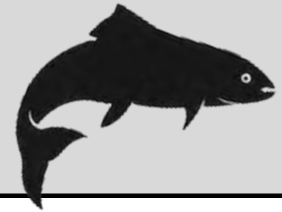
The releases have been successful with all fish safely released into their respective tributaries. Due to the late spring, some releases were rescheduled due to access issues, later than normal freshets, cold water temperatures or slow fish growth in some populations. A number of releases have been planned to coincide with local community events and ceremonies, illustrating the significance of these conservation-based enhancement efforts.

The two tables below outline the schedule of the Big Bar fry releases. Due to the delayed snow melt details on future releases may be adjusted.



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Chinook Fry Release Summary Table

Stock	Facility Expediting Release	Number of fish in release	Release Type	Release Date
Salmon	QRRC	4323	Truck	26-Apr
Bowron	SCWA	25155	Truck	7-May
Upper Chilcotin	QRRC	13956	Helicopter	9-May
McGregor Fontiniko	QRRC	20907	Helicopter	10-May
Torpy West	QRRC	17989	Helicopter	10-May
Torpy Walker	QRRC	20071	Helicopter	12-May
Swift	SCWA	16392	Truck	15-May
Tete Jaune	QRRC	21853	Truck	17-May
Willow	QRRC	8485	Truck	19-May
Upper Cariboo	QRRC	59678	Helicopter	27-May
West Road/Blackwater	QRRC	24518	Truck	31-May
Endako	QRRC	2648	Truck	9-Jun
Slim	QRRC	43880	Truck	14-Jun
Horsefly	QRRC	16628	Truck	16-Jun
McGregor Seebach	Chehalis	27649	Truck	21-Jun

Sockeye Fry Release Summary Table

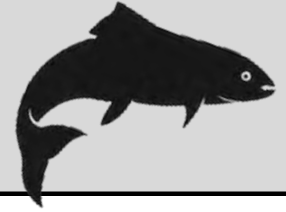
Stock	Facility Expediting Release	Number of fish in release	Release Type	Release Date
Bowron	Shuswap	19775	Helicopter	19-May
Taseko	Shuswap	20000	Helicopter	24-May
Late Stuart	Nak'azdli	67830	Truck	8-Jun
Early Stuart	Shuswap	108000	Truck	10-May
	Inch	257385	Truck	15-Jun
	Inch	180970	Truck	20-Sep
	Takla	37500	Truck	16-Jun

Data on DFO's [salmon count](#) webpage will begin being published this month. Once salmon start entering the Big Bar landslide site area, the public will be able to access 2022 migration data.



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20,000 Taseko sockeye fry released by helicopter in Taseko Lake, May 24, 2022



60,000 Chinook fry flown from Barkerville to the Upper Cariboo River, May 27, 2022



24,500 Chinook fry released in Blackwater River with Nazko First Nation near Quesnel, May 3, 2022

