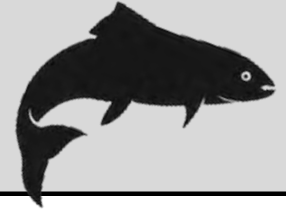


# BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

May 9, 2022



 Response Webpage  BC River Forecast

## **SALMON FRY REARED FROM 2021 ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GET RELEASED INTO FRASER RIVER TRIBUTARY**

### ***ENHANCEMENT UPDATE***

The first salmon fry releases of the 2021 Big Bar conservation enhancement program have begun. On April 26, members of the Nak'azdli First Nation, staff from the Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) and DFO technicians released 4205 Chinook fry into the Salmon River, a tributary to the Fraser. The fish were transported 8 hours from QRRC, where they had been carefully reared from eggs harvested in the summer of 2021 as part of the Big Bar response.

The fish were released about 2 hours north-east of Fort St James. Due to the late arrival of spring weather and soft roads, precautions were taken to ensure trucks could safely reach their destination. The measures included lightening loads by removing water. The fish release itself was successful with the team walking the fish to the water's edge with buckets and carefully releasing them into slow water at the riverbank.

Thirteen additional Chinook fry releases are scheduled, within the Upper Fraser through to late June, with fish coming from QRRC, Spruce City Wildlife Association and DFO's Chehalis hatchery. They will then be accompanied by the release of four sockeye stocks plus older juvenile sockeye through the fall, followed by Chinook smolts in early 2023.

To learn more about salmon fry releases and the Big Bar landslide response visit: [Big Bar Fry Release Video](#)

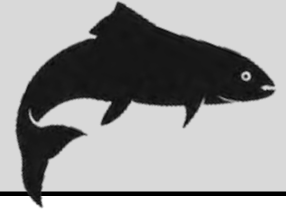


**MEMBERS OF NAK'AZDLI FIRST NATION, QUESNEL RIVER RESEARCH CENTRE AND DFO, APR 26/22**



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## SALMON FRY REARED FROM 2021 ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GET RELEASED INTO FRASER RIVER TRIBUTARY

### EARLY SEASON SALMON FORECAST

In 2022, approximately 50% of the total forecasted return of Fraser River sockeye are destined to migrate upstream of the Big Bar landslide. The early summer run stocks include Early Stuart, Bowron, Nadina and Taseko. The summer run stocks include Chilko, Late Stuart, Quesnel and Stellako. This forecasted return is estimated to be greater than the 1.6 million salmon that successfully navigated the slide in 2021. The stocks of concern for passage remain the early timed early Stuart, Bowron and Taseko. These populations will be closely assessed throughout the spring and summer by the Big Bar monitoring program. Technicians will evaluate their passage through the slide area to assess whether there are any impacts on their migration and if so, implement trap and transport plans

Returns for Chinook and coho are expected to be similar to recent years as impacts from the Big Bar landslide have been significantly less for those salmon species.



**MEMBERS OF NAK'AZDLI FIRST NATION, QUESNEL RIVER RESEARCH CENTRE AND DFO RELEASE FRY INTO SALMON RIVER, APR 26/22**

