


# BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

July 18, 2022



 Response Webpage

 BC River Forecast

## SUMMER BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMS AT BIG BAR ARE UNDERWAY

### UPDATE ON CURRENT OPERATIONS

Summer operations at Big Bar have been fully mobilized, including the three biological programs: monitoring, enhancement, and trap and transport. Monitoring teams are radio tagging both Chinook and sockeye. Chinook are being tagged in Lillooet, at Big Bar and in the lower Fraser River while sockeye are only being tagged in the lower Fraser. Due to the late arrival of warm weather and subsequent high river flows, none of the lower river tracked fish have passed through Hells Gate yet. In addition, tagging in the Lillooet area has been very slow due to high and turbid water. The current number of tagged salmon is 106 Chinook and 239 sockeye.

The Matsqui fish wheel, located near Mission, is in full operation, enabling the collection of Early Stuart sockeye brood stock as these salmon begin their migration up the Fraser. By July 11, the Big Bar team had captured 90 sockeye to be used as brood stock. In addition, the team transported 70 tagged sockeye from the Matsqui fish wheel to the Big Bar site to study and monitor their ability to pass the slide area during high water. The first group of 27 fish was moved and released by the trap and transport team on July 6. The second group of sockeye was released at West Beach on July 12. Equipment and site setup for trap and transport operations was completed on July 12, with system testing finalized on July 16. The next phase of operations will be focused on fish transport, if required. Mobilization of this team was delayed by a week due to salmon migration being slower than predicted.

### RECENT CHALLENGES AT BIG BAR

The Province of British Columbia has worked diligently throughout June to recommission the Big Bar roads for the coming season. On July 2, severe rainstorms hit the area, causing hillside erosion and minor damage to the road network. One small mudslide pushed debris and logs down a slope, narrowly missing a telemetry station at Beach One, about one kilometre downstream of the slide site. The Province has organized further repairs and the roads will be back in full operation shortly.

High river flows also forced the monitoring team to temporarily remove some hydro acoustic sonars. While this change resulted in a few coverage gaps, it has not impacted results as there were low numbers of Chinook in the area at the time. By July 4, all the sonars were reinstalled and fully operational.

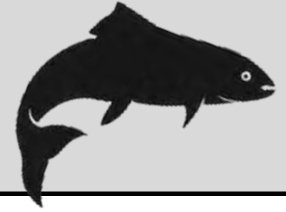
### SALMON COUNT

To view how many fish are currently moving below and above the Big Bar landslide site, please visit the DFO website [here](#).



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*Fish wheel and monitoring crews applying the first Chinook Tag in Lillooet BC, June 17, 2022*

