

*Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat
Monitoring and Follow-up Program
Annual Report:
Jan 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023*

*Site C Clean Energy Project
March 21, 2024*

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Acronyms

EAC	Environmental Assessment Certificate
EAO	BC Environmental Assessment Office
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FAHMFP	Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program
FLNRO	BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
MOE	BC Ministry of Environment

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program (FAHMFP) monitors potential changes in physical habitat, lower trophic levels, fish abundance, and community composition during the construction and operation of the Site C Clean Energy Project (the Project), as required by Condition 7 of the Project's Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC), Schedule B. Baseline studies conducted for the environmental assessment of the Project were developed with future monitoring in mind such that the sample sites and methodologies could be repeated to monitor potential changes to fish and fish habitat.

The FAHMFP includes 18 monitoring programs and one follow-up program that are spatially and logistically distinct. Each program's monitoring plan includes a series of fisheries management questions and hypotheses that reflect uncertainties in predictions of the potential changes as a result of the Project, as described in the Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Each monitoring program includes a number of specific monitoring tasks.

A final version of the FAHMFP was submitted on December 22, 2015, and is available on the Project's website¹. All references to the FAHMFP in this report refer to this version of the FAHMFP.

1.2 Summary

This report is being submitted in compliance with Condition 7 of the EAC, Schedule B. This annual report documents that all components of the FAHMFP that were scheduled to be implemented in 2023 were implemented (see Tables 1 to 3), in accordance with the implementation schedules in the FAHMFP.

2023 marked the ninth year of construction of the Project, where BC Hydro continued to divert the Peace River through two diversion tunnels on the left bank of the dam site. Annual implementation of key monitoring programs and tasks continued. Annual reporting will continue to document the implementation of the FAHMFP.

2.0 Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow up Program

2.1 Background

The Conditions in the EAC contemplate three plans and programs that relate to fish and fish habitat. These are summarized below to provide context for the FAHMFP.

- 1) **Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan:** Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan (submitted to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency [CEAA] and the BC Environmental Assessment Office [EAO] in June 2015) in accordance with EAC Condition 4 and Federal Decision Statement Condition 8 includes standard mitigation measures (e.g., erosion and sediment control measures) described in the Project's Construction Environmental Management Plan² and project-specific mitigation measures (e.g. reservoir shoreline habitat enhancement works and capping of dam site material relocation site with fish habitat features).

¹ Available at: <https://www.sitecproject.com/document-library/environmental-management-plans-and-reports>

² Available at: <https://www.sitecproject.com/document-library/environmental-management-plans-and-reports>

- 2) **Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program:** The FAHMFP is a requirement of Condition 7 of the EAC, Schedule B. Condition 7 requires the development and implementation of a FAHMFP that provides for: a) monitoring fish and fish habitat during the construction and operation of the Project, and b) an outline for a procedure to evaluate and implement future mitigation and compensation options during operation of the Project.

- 3) **Fish Passage Management Plan:** The Fish Passage Management Plan included in the EIS (Volume 2 Appendix Q) describes the approach to manage fish passage at the Project. Following Condition 6 of the EAC, Schedule B, a Fish Passage Management Plan, which will include updates since submission of the EIS, will be prepared by Qualified Environmental Professionals and submitted prior to Project activities that may affect upstream fish passage. The EIS (Volume 2 Section 12) identified the river diversion phase of construction as the first construction activity that is expected to affect upstream fish passage. BC Hydro prepared an updated revision to the Fish Passage Management Plan in 2020³, which was reviewed by the regulatory agencies and Indigenous nations. The planned monitoring for fish movement and fish passage is described in the FAHMFP.

2.2 Overview of Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program

The FAHMFP consists of 18 monitoring programs and one follow-up program.

The 18 monitoring programs are organized in space and time such that the section of Peace River that transitions to the Site C Reservoir is monitored under the programs titled ‘Peace River’ prior to reservoir filling, and programs titled ‘Site C Reservoir’ following reservoir filling. Table 1 summarizes these monitoring programs.

Table 1. Summary of Monitoring Programs

Monitoring Program ID	Monitoring Program Name and Description
Mon-1a	Site C Reservoir Fish Community Monitoring Program Monitor the effects of river to reservoir transformation on the fish community in Site C Reservoir and associated tributaries.
Mon-1b	Site C Reservoir Tributaries Fish Community and Spawning Monitoring Program Monitor fish populations in Peace River and Site C reservoir that migrate to tributaries to determine effects of the Project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures for fish and fish habitat.
Mon-2	Peace River Fish Community Monitoring Program Monitor fish populations in the Peace River to determine effects of the Project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures for fish and fish habitat.
Mon-3	Peace River Physical Habitat Monitoring Program Monitor the effects of the Project on physical habitat.
Mon-4	Site C Reservoir Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Program Monitor the effectiveness of planned riparian planting adjacent to Site C Reservoir.

³ Available at: <http://sitecproject.com/sites/default/files/Fish%20Passage%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

Monitoring Program ID	Monitoring Program Name and Description
Mon-5	Peace River Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Program Monitor how the construction and operation of the Project affects the quality and quantity (species composition, biological productivity, spatial area) of riparian vegetation along the Peace River downstream of Site C.
Mon-6	Site C Reservoir Fish Food Organisms Monitoring Program Monitor the effects of Site C Reservoir formation on the production of fish food organisms.
Mon-7	Peace River Fish Food Organisms Monitoring Program Monitor the effects of Project construction and operations on the biomass of invertebrates and the availability of fish food organisms downstream of Site C.
Mon-8	Site C Reservoir Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring Program Monitor the effects of reservoir formation on water and sediment quality.
Mon-9	Peace River Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring Program Monitor the effects of the Project on water and sediment quality downstream of Site C.
Mon-10	Site C Fish Entrainment Monitoring Program Monitor entrainment rates and survival rates of entrained fish during the operation of Site C.
Mon-11	Site C TDG Monitoring Program Monitor Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) supersaturation and potential effects to downstream fish populations resulting from Gas Bubble Disease (GBD) during Site C Project construction and operation.
Mon-12	Site C Fish Stranding Monitoring Program Monitor Project construction and operation effects associated with flow fluctuations and fish stranding on the Peace River fish community.
Mon-13	Site C Fishway Effectiveness Monitoring Program Monitor the performance of the temporary and permanent upstream fish passage facilities at the Project.
Mon-14	Site C Trap and Haul Fish Release Location Monitoring Program Monitor the movements following release of fish collected at Site C fishways and transported and released several upstream release locations.
Mon-15	Site C Small Fish Species Translocation Monitoring Program Monitor small fish species populations in the Peace River to determine effects of the project on genetic structure, movement, and genetic exchange.
Mon-16	Site C Reservoir Constructed Shallow Water Habitat Areas Sediment and Vegetation Monitoring Program Monitor the suitability of benthic substrates in constructed shallow water habitats of Site C Reservoir for aquatic plants and monitor the natural colonization of aquatic plants in these habitats.
Mon-17	Peace River Water Level Fluctuations Monitoring Program Investigate the effects of water level fluctuations on the catchability of Peace River fish and the biomass and production of periphyton, downstream of Site C.

There is one follow-up program in the FAHMFP, the Tributary Mitigation Opportunities Evaluation Program.

2.3 Development of the Plan and Reporting Requirements

Construction of the Project began on July 27, 2015. The final FAHMFP was submitted to the EAO on December 22, 2015 in accordance with:

- EAC Schedule B, Condition 7: “The EAC Holder must file the final Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program with EAO, FLNR, MOE and Aboriginal Groups within 150 days following the commencement of the construction and operations phases.”

BC Hydro committed to providing reports on the implementation of the FAHMFP to the EAO annually by March 1 of the year following data collection. This reporting timing is consistent with conditions for reporting under the *Fisheries Act* authorizations for the Project⁴. This report is being submitted by March 1, 2024, to fulfill the reporting requirements for the calendar year 2023. The Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program Annual Reports for prior years are posted on the Project website⁵ under the drop-down ‘Site C Project Reports’. Annual reports for the FAHMFP’s individual Monitoring Program IDs are also posted at this site.

Note that the FAHMFP refers to calendar ‘Construction Years’ that correspond to Construction Year 1 (2015), Construction Year 2 (2016) etc. (see Fig. 5 of the FAHMFP). The FAHMFP describes that monitoring under the FAHMFP begins in Construction Year 2 (2016; see Fig. 5 of the FAHMFP).

3.0 Summary of Implementation Status: Monitoring Follow-up Programs

All monitoring programs scheduled to take place in 2023 were implemented (Table 2).

Table 2. Monitoring tasks implemented in 2023, as per the schedule in the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program

Monitoring Program ID	Description	Data Collection Tasks Implemented	Status of Analysis and Reporting ^a
Mon-1a: Site C Reservoir Fish Community Monitoring Program	Monitor the effects of river to reservoir transformation on the fish community in Site C Reservoir and associated tributaries.	N/A (Monitoring begins during Project operations)	N/A (Monitoring begins during Project operations)

⁴ Available at: <https://www.sitecproject.com/document-library/permits-and-authorizations>

⁵ Available at the following link: <https://sitecproject.com/document-library/environmental-and-socio-economic-plans-and-reports>

Monitoring Program ID	Description	Data Collection Tasks Implemented	Status of Analysis and Reporting ^a
Mon-1b: Site C Reservoir Tributaries Fish Community and Spawning Monitoring Program	Monitor fish populations in Peace River and Site C Reservoir that migrate to tributaries to determine effects of the Project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures for fish and fish habitat.	2a – Peace River Arctic Grayling and Bull Trout Movement Assessment	Ongoing
		2b – Peace River Bull Trout Spawning Assessment	Ongoing
		2c – Site C Reservoir Tributaries Fish Population Indexing Survey	Ongoing
		2d – Site C Fish Movement Assessment	Ongoing
Mon-2 Peace River Fish Community Monitoring Program	Monitor fish populations in the Peace River to determine effects of the Project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures for fish and fish habitat.	2a – Peace River Large Fish Indexing Survey	Ongoing
		2b – Peace River Fish Composition and Abundance Survey	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
		2c – Peace River Creel Survey	Ongoing
		2d – Offset Effectiveness Monitoring	Ongoing
		2e – Peace River Tributaries Walleye Spawning and Rearing Use Survey	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
		2f – Beatton River Arctic Grayling Status Assessment	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
Mon-3 Peace River Physical Habitat Monitoring Program	Monitor the effects of the Project on physical habitat.	2a – Channel Morphology	Ongoing
		2b – Substrate Size	Ongoing
		2c – Offset Effectiveness Monitoring	Ongoing
Mon-4 Site C Reservoir Riparian	Monitor the effectiveness of planned riparian planting adjacent to Site C	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)	N/A (Monitoring occurs in

Monitoring Program ID	Description	Data Collection Tasks Implemented	Status of Analysis and Reporting ^a
Vegetation Monitoring Program	Reservoir.		subsequent years)
Mon-5 Peace River Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Program	Monitor how the construction and operation of the Project affects the quality and quantity (species composition, biological productivity, spatial area) of riparian vegetation along the Peace River downstream of Site C.	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
Mon-6 Site C Reservoir Fish Food Organisms Monitoring Program	Monitor the effects of Site C Reservoir formation on the production of fish food organisms.	2a – Biomass and Production of Fish Food Organisms 2b – Ecosystem Attributes	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
Mon-7 Peace River Fish Food Organisms Monitoring Program	Monitor the effects of Project construction and operations on the biomass of invertebrates and the availability of fish food organisms downstream of Site C.	2a – Biomass and Production of Fish Food Organisms 2b – Ecosystem Attributes	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
Mon-8 Site C Reservoir Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring Program	Monitor the effects of reservoir formation on water and sediment quality.	2a – General Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring 2b – Temperature Monitoring 2c – Turbidity Monitoring	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
Mon-9 Peace River Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring Program	Monitor the effects of the Project on water and sediment quality downstream of Site C.	2a – General Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring 2b – Temperature Monitoring 2c – Turbidity Monitoring	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
Mon-10 Site C Fish Entrainment Monitoring Program	Monitor entrainment rates and survival rates of entrained fish during the operation of Site C.	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)

Monitoring Program ID	Description	Data Collection Tasks Implemented	Status of Analysis and Reporting ^a
Mon-11 Site C TDG Monitoring Program	Monitor Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) supersaturation and potential effects to downstream fish populations resulting from Gas Bubble Disease (GBD) during Site C Project construction and operation.	2a – TDG Monitoring	Ongoing
		2b – TDG Effects on Fish	Ongoing
Mon-12 Site C Fish Stranding Monitoring Program	Monitor Project construction and operation effects associated with flow fluctuations and fish stranding on the Peace River fish community.	Task 2a – Identification of Monitoring Sites	Ongoing
		Task 2b – Monitoring Stranding Sites	
Mon-13 Site C Fishway Effectiveness Monitoring Program	Monitor the performance of the temporary and permanent upstream fish passage facilities at the Project.	Task 2a – Site C Tailrace and Fishway Telemetry System	Ongoing
		Task 2b – Attraction Efficiency and Entrance Accessibility Assessment	Ongoing
Mon-14 Site C Trap and Haul Fish Release Location Monitoring Program	Monitor the movements following release of fish collected at Site C fishways and transported and released several upstream release locations.	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
Mon-15 Site C Small Fish Species Translocation Monitoring Program	Monitor small fish species populations in the Peace River to determine effects of the project on genetic structure, movement, and genetic exchange.	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
Mon-16 Site C Reservoir Constructed Shallow Water Habitat Areas Sediment and Vegetation Monitoring Program	Monitor the suitability of benthic substrates in constructed shallow water habitats of Site C Reservoir for aquatic plants and monitor the natural colonization of aquatic plants in these habitats.	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
Mon-17 Peace River Water Level	Investigate the effects of water level fluctuations on	3a – Catchability	N/A (Monitoring

Monitoring Program ID	Description	Data Collection Tasks Implemented	Status of Analysis and Reporting ^a
Fluctuations Monitoring Program	the catchability of Peace River fish and the biomass and production of periphyton, downstream of Site C.	3b – Benthos and Periphyton	occurs in subsequent years)
		3c – Daily Growth	
		3d – Fish Community Composition	
		3e – Fish Recruitment	

^a Status of Analysis and Reporting: As of February 16, 2024, 'Ongoing' refers to analysis and reporting of 2023 data collection that continues or is in draft form.

Table 3. Follow-up tasks implemented in 2023, as per the schedule in the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program.

Follow-up Program	Description	Data Collection Tasks Implemented	Status of Analysis and Reporting
Site C Tributary Mitigation Opportunities Evaluation Program	Identify enhancement opportunities for stream dependent indicator species described in the EIS including Arctic Grayling, Bull Trout, Burbot, Goldeye, Mountain Whitefish, Rainbow Trout, and Walleye.	2a – Initial Mitigation Project Identification	N/A (Monitoring occurs in subsequent years)
		2b – WSEP Tier 1 Assessments	
		2c – Identification of Additional Candidate Watersheds	

The following sections summarize the 2023 data collection for the monitoring programs and tasks that were implemented (Table 2).

3.1 Mon-1b Site C Reservoir Tributaries Fish Community and Spawning Monitoring Program

Task 2a: Peace River Arctic Grayling and Bull Trout Movement Assessment

The purpose of the Peace River Arctic Grayling and Bull Trout Movement Assessment is to determine the magnitude, direction and seasonality of Arctic Grayling and Bull Trout movements within the Peace River and its tributaries to help determine the effect the Project may have on these metrics, and to inform various monitoring programs.

In 2023, there were 13 and 171 active radio tags in Arctic Grayling and Bull Trout, respectively. Radio tagged fish were monitored by the fixed radio telemetry array deployed under the Site C Fish Movement Assessment (Mon-1b, Task 2d) as well as mobile surveys throughout the region using helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

Task 2b: Peace River Bull Trout Spawning Assessment

In 2023, the Peace River Bull Trout Spawning Assessment occurred in the upper portion of the Halfway Watershed. Trained observers conducted aerial and ground surveys over a four-week period to visually enumerate Bull Trout redds (i.e., a nest in the gravel that is excavated during spawning) in six spawning tributaries: the Chowade River, Cypress Creek, Fiddes Creek, Turnoff Creek, Needham Creek, and the upper Halfway River. Data were collected for estimating observer efficiency and survey life of redds by marking and re-sighting redds during aerial and ground surveys.

To supplement the aerial and ground survey approach, electronic counters paired with video validation equipment, and PIT arrays were operated in the Chowade River and Cypress Creek from early August to early October. Equipment was remotely powered by solar panels and battery banks, and sites were visited weekly throughout the monitoring period to conduct

detailed testing and calibration of the equipment. Data will be used to estimate the population abundance, migration timing, spawning duration and behaviour of Bull Trout in the Chowade River and Cypress Creek, and detect Bull Trout, Rainbow Trout and other species PIT-tagged under other monitoring programs.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

Task 2c: Site C Reservoir Tributaries Fish Population Indexing Survey

The Site C Reservoir Tributaries Fish Population Indexing Survey monitors the abundance of Arctic Grayling in the Moberly River, Bull Trout in the Chowade River and Cypress and Fiddes creeks, and Rainbow Trout in Colt, Farrell, Kobes, and Maurice creeks. As part of a multi-year study, the results from 2023 intend to provide additional baseline data prior to subsequent phases of construction and operation.

For streams where sampling targeted Bull Trout, backpack electrofishing effort was focused on upstream reaches and locations that contained high quality rearing habitat for this species. Captured Bull Trout were implanted with PIT tags to monitor their movements through PIT arrays deployed in the Chowade River and Cypress Creek as part of the Peace River Bull Trout Spawning Assessment (Mon-1b, Task 2b). These tagged fish may also be recaptured under other monitoring programs in the FAHMFP. Young of the Year (YOY) and immature Bull Trout (i.e., fish less than 250 mm FL that were not YOY) were recorded in all three systems.

For streams where sampling targeted Rainbow Trout, backpack electrofishing effort occurred at previously established sites in Colt, Farrell, Kobes and Maurice creeks allowing for changes to the Rainbow Trout population to be monitored over time. Sample locations included eight sites on Colt Creek, six sites on Farrell Creek, eight sites on Kobes Creek, and eight sites on Maurice Creek. Immature Rainbow Trout were recorded in all four systems.

The entire length of the Moberly River between Moberly Lake and the river's confluence with the Peace River was accessed by inflatable boat. Sampling in 2023 included backpack electrofishing, small boat electroshocking, and angling.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

Task 2d: Site C Fish Movement Assessment

The purpose of the Site C Fish Movement Assessment is to determine the magnitude, direction and seasonality of fish movements in the Peace River and its tributaries during the construction and operation phases of the Project. Movement data will be shared among monitoring programs to address specific fisheries management questions.

In 2023, forty-seven fixed radio telemetry stations were deployed throughout the Peace Region to monitor the movements of radio tagged fish. Stations were deployed in the Peace River from Peace Canyon Dam to the Many Islands area in Alberta, and at the confluences of all major tributaries (Maurice Creek, Lynx Creek, Farrell Creek, Halfway River, Cache Creek, Wilder Creek, Moberly River, Pine River, Beaton River, Kiskatinaw River, Pouce Coupe River).

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

3.2 Mon-2 Peace River Fish Community Monitoring Program

Task 2a: Peace River Large Fish Indexing Survey

Sampling under Mon-2, Task 2a was conducted in six different sections of the Peace River mainstem located between Peace Canyon Dam and the Many Islands area in Alberta. All large-bodied fish were monitored; however, the program focused on seven indicator species including Arctic Grayling, Bull Trout, Burbot, Goldeye, Mountain Whitefish, Rainbow Trout, and Walleye. Sampling occurred during the late summer to early fall period. Additional surveys were conducted in 2023 at select locations in the late spring to early summer period to target Goldeye and Walleye prior to these species' downstream migrations out of the study area. For both surveys, fish were sampled by boat electroshocking within nearshore habitats (less than 2.0 m depth). Length, weight, and ageing structures were collected from all captured indicator species. Depending of fish size and sample session, captured indicator species were marked with PIT tags.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

Task 2c: Peace River Creel Survey

The purpose of the Peace River Creel Survey is to determine the use of the river for recreational angling. Traffic counters, surveys at boat launches, and fixed-wing overflights were used to quantify the timing, duration, location of effort, gear type, and species caught in the river to generate spatial and temporal estimates of recreational angling effort, catch (both retained and released), and harvest rates by species.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

Task 2d: Offset Effectiveness Monitoring

In 2023, effectiveness monitoring of the habitat offset areas (Lower Site 109L, Site 107R, Main Channel Bar) focused on two components: physical habitat (Mon-3, Task 2c) and general fish use. Channel morphology and substrate characteristics within constructed offsets were monitored using an Acoustic Doppler Profiler (ADP) and substrate measurements. Fish use was assessed by boat electroshocking.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

3.3 Mon-3 Peace River Physical Habitat Monitoring Program

Tasks 2a and 2b: Channel Morphology and Substrate Size

Channel morphology and substrate characteristics were monitored in 2023 using an ADP and substrate measurements. Profiles were generated at 13 transects within the boundaries of the diversion headpond and a further 40 transects were generated between the Project and the Many Islands area in Alberta. These same transects were surveyed in 2015, 2019 and 2021 which will allow for comparison among years.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

3.4 Mon-8 Site C Reservoir Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring Program and Mon-9 Peace River Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring Program

Mon-8 and 9 monitor the same parameters but in different locations: the area of the future Site C Reservoir, and the Peace River downstream of the Site C dam site, respectively. For simplicity, the following section summarizes implementation for both programs in 2023. These programs collect information and parameters focused on fish and fish habitat.

Task 2a: General Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring

General water quality monitoring was conducted to collect information on those parameters that may affect fish and fish habitat. Sampling occurred monthly between May and October. Sampling locations were located in the Peace River between Peace Canyon Dam and the Many Islands area in Alberta. Sampling locations were also located in Dinosaur and Williston reservoirs to monitor water flowing into the Peace River.

Water quality sampling focussed on measuring parameters that may change in concentration throughout the growing season. Parameters followed those measured during baseline studies including both field-based measured parameters (e.g., water conductivity [$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$], pH, and dissolved oxygen), and collection of samples for laboratory analysis of nutrients and general parameters.

Sediment samples were collected in October. Sediments were collected from within the nearshore littoral zones, and adjacent to the water sample locations, in Williston and Dinosaur reservoirs. Sediments were collected from near-shore areas adjacent to river water sample locations. Samples were analyzed for particle size, nutrients, and total metals.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

Task 2b: Temperature Monitoring

Continuous measurements of water temperature were recorded at Peace River sites between Williston Reservoir and the Pouce Coupe River in Alberta. Temperature loggers were checked for calibration, set to record temperature at hourly intervals and secured to the river bank or anchored to the river bed. Data loggers were downloaded approximately every three months.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

Task 2c: Turbidity Monitoring

Continuous Peace River turbidity monitoring in 2023 occurred at monitoring sites located upstream and downstream of in-river construction at the dam site. in the Peace River 2023.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

3.5 Mon-11 Site C TDG Monitoring Program

The purpose of the Site C Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) Monitoring Program is to monitor TDG supersaturation and the potential effects to downstream fish populations resulting from Gas Bubble Disease (GBD) during the construction and operation of the Project.

Task 2a: TDG Monitoring

In 2023, BC Hydro deployed continuous TDG meters and loggers at five locations in the Peace River downstream of the Project. Monitoring equipment was deployed and tested in advance of the start of reservoir filling, which is scheduled to occur in 2024. Equipment can be remotely connected and thus data can be reviewed in real-time.

Task 2b: TDG Effects on Fish

BC Hydro developed an approach to assess the TDG effects on fish downstream of the Project and tested the approach in October 2023. Crews can implement this approach during reservoir filling in 2024 if the TDG meters indicate the TDG levels are approaching levels that can affect fish.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

3.6 Mon-12 Site C Fish Stranding Monitoring Program

The purpose of the Site C Fish Stranding Monitoring Program is to determine the magnitude of baseline fish stranding along the Peace River, from the diversion headpond (upstream of Site C) to the Many Islands area in Alberta, and compare the baseline conditions to stranding in the construction and operation phases of the Project. Sampling occurred in the diversion headpond, Reach 1 (between the Project and the Taylor Bridge) and Reach 2 (Pine River to Alces River). Sampling was coordinated with BC Hydro Operations personnel at the Peace Canyon Dam to ensure sampling occurred following a reduction in discharge at Peace Canyon Dam and to account for the lag time between the reduction in flows upstream and the effects observed downstream. Crews used interstitial sampling of dewatered substrates within a combination of targeted and randomly selected sampling sites.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

3.7 Mon-13 Site C Fishway Effectiveness Monitoring Program

The purpose of the Site C Fishway Effectiveness Monitoring Program is to monitor the biological effectiveness of the temporary upstream fish passage facility. In 2023, an array of fixed radio telemetry stations and PIT antennas were deployed in and around the facility to detect the movements of tagged fish as they approached, entered and passed the facility. Tagged fish were monitored for the seven month operating season, from April 1 to October 31.

Analysis and reporting of the data collected in 2023 are ongoing.

4.0 Qualified Professionals

This report was prepared by the following Qualified Individuals:

Qualified Individual	Expertise
Brent Mossop, MRM, RPBio	Fisheries
Nich Burnett, MSc, RPBio	Fisheries