

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

May – November 2012: Peace River Fish and Fish Habitat Inventories

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) is now in Stage 3, the environmental and regulatory review phase, which will include an independent environmental assessment. Stage 3 work includes conducting environmental and engineering field studies on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border. Site C is in the early stages of a cooperative environmental assessment process by federal and provincial regulatory agencies, which includes a joint review panel.

The 2012 fish and fish habitat inventories will build on data collected from previous years to: expand knowledge of the Peace River fish communities and contribute to existing baseline data and the current understanding of fish and fish habitat in the Site C study area. The studies will describe the seasonal distribution and relative abundance of fish populations, biological characteristics and fish community assemblages as well as quantity of the various fish habitats.

The study areas are as follows:

- The Peace River study area includes from the Peace Canyon Dam into Alberta.
- Halfway, Moberly, Halfway, Pine and Beatton Rivers.
- Project activity sites associated with construction of the project (e.g. gravel pits, transmission line, Highway realignment)

The sampling sections have been selected because they represent fish habitats located in the major reaches of the rivers and they provide good spatial coverage of the study area.

The Peace River study period will occur during three seasons: spring (May); summer (August); and fall (October). The Beatton River study will occur in summer (August). Sample effort will be based on the number of sites that can be completed per crew-day using a particular fish capture method. A variety of sampling methods will be employed, including boat electrofishing, backpack electrofishing, and gill nets.

Field study updates are available at www.bchydro.com/sitec and in the Community Consultation offices in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope.

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PEACE RIVER FISH AND FISH HABITAT INVENTORIES May – November 2012

- BC Hydro is conducting fish and fish habitat inventories in the Peace River
- Mainstream Aquatics is leading the work