BC Hydro
Power smart

Site C Clean Energy Project

Permanent Upstream Fish Passage Facility Operations Report

Reporting Period: June 1 to 30, 2025

Prepared by BC Hydro

July 8, 2025

Introduction

BC Hydro filled the Site C Reservoir and started to operate the generating station in the fall of 2024. As such, the permanent upstream fish passage facility (hereafter permanent facility) was operated at the outlet of the generating station to provide for fish passage during the operations phase of the Project.

Structure of the report

This report summarizes the data and information presented in weekly reports prepared by the facility operator, as described in the Manual of Operational Parameters and Procedures (OPP), and covers the full extent of operations in June 2025.

Summary

On May 31, one of the cables connecting the vertical crowder screen to the winch line on the crowder platform snapped. BC Hydro responded to this issue immediately, which involved shutting down the facility and conducting a thorough safety and engineering design investigation into the failure. Repairs were made to the crowder in June, which was put back into service on July 1. As such, BC Hydro implemented the contingent measures listed in Section 4.8 of the Fish Passage Management Plan[1].

Contingent measures consisted of weekly boat electroshocking surveys (hereafter contingent fish capture and transport) to capture target species downstream of the generating station and transport and release them upstream of the Project. Only those species trying to fulfill life history requirements upstream of the Project (Arctic Grayling, Bull Trout, Rainbow Trout, and the Sucker species) were transported and released upstream of the Project during the reporting period (EIS, Volume 2, Appendix O[2]; BC Hydro 2015[3]). All other species were released at their capture location downstream of the Project.

Implementation of contingent fish capture solely provided for upstream fish passage for target species during the reporting period.

Four hundred and eighteen fish - 131 Largescale Sucker, 110 Longnose Sucker, 87 White Sucker, 78 Bull Trout, and 12 Rainbow Trout – were transported upstream through contingent fish capture during the reporting period. All other captured fish (223 fish) were released at their capture location downstream of the Project.

[1] Available at: http://sitecproject.com/sites/default/files/Fish%20Passage%20Management%20Plan.pdf
[2] Available at: https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents_staticpost/63919/85328/Vol2_Appendix_O.pdf
[3] Available at: http://sitecproject.com/sites/default/files/Fisheries-and-Aquatic-Habitat-Monitoring-and-Follow-up-Program.pdf

Contingent fish capture and transport

In total, 418 fish were transported upstream through contingent fish capture during the reporting period (Table 6). Specifically, 131 Largescale Sucker, 110 Longnose Sucker, 87 White Sucker, 78 Bull Trout, and 12 Rainbow Trout were transported upstream of the Project.

Table 6. Number of fish captured by boat electroshocking and transported and released upstream (U) and downstream (D) of the Project.

Species	Session 2		Session 3		Session 4		Session 5		Total
	June 6		June 12		June 20		June 27		
	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	
Arctic Grayling									
Brook Stickleback									
Brook Trout									
Bull Trout	21	1	23		23	1	11		80
Burbot		2		2				3	7
Finescale Dace									
Flathead Chub									
Goldeye									
Kokanee		2				1			3
Lake Chub									
Lake Trout						1			1
Lake Whitefish									
Largescale Sucker	24		44	2	41	2	22		135
Longnose Dace		1							1
Longnose Sucker	19		38		27	1	26	4	115
Mountain Whitefish		47		29		22		65	163
Northern Pike		4				6		9	19
Northern Pikeminnow		4		2				2	8
Northern Redbelly Dace									
Peamouth									
Pearl Dace									
Prickly Sculpin									
Pygmy Whitefish									
Rainbow Trout	2		2		6		2	1	13
Redside Shiner								6	6
Slimy Sculpin									
Spoonhead Sculpin									
Spottail Shiner									
Trout-perch									
Walleye						1			1
White Sucker	28	2	11		9		39		89
Yellow Perch									
Total	94	63	118	35	106	35	100	90	641
Grand total	157		153		141		190		

Prepared by

This report was prepared by the following individuals:

Qualified Individual	Expertise
Nich Burnett, MSc, RPBio	Fisheries