



Coastal Region
6911 Southpoint Drive, 11th Floor
Burnaby, B.C. V3N 4X8
Julie Fournier, Coastal Region Manager
julie.fournier@bchydro.com
604-528-7998 fwcp.ca

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Tell Us Your Fish & Wildlife Priorities for the Coquitlam River Watershed *You're Invited: Tues., May 30, from 1 – 4:30 p.m.*

(PORT COQUITLAM) What would you do to support species and conserve their habitats? What priorities and projects would you focus on? The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) wants to hear your ideas. Help define FWCP priorities for fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams: attend our workshop in Port Coquitlam.

“We’re starting a discussion today that will help guide the conservation and enhancement projects we fund and deliver in the Coquitlam River Watershed for the next five years,” says FWCP’s Coastal Region Manager, Julie Fournier. “Our updated Action Plans will help determine the types of projects we fund and the species we focus on.”

Please join the discussion in Port Coquitlam on Tuesday, May 30, at the Poco Inn and Suites Hotel & Conference Centre, 1545 Lougheed Highway. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Discussion starts at 1 p.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. If you can’t attend, share your ideas by Tuesday, June 20, 2017, at fwcp@bchydro.com. More details are at fwcp.ca.

The Port Coquitlam workshop is a chance to review and discuss potential conservation priorities, research, and hands-on projects for the Coquitlam River Watershed. Draft priorities and projects will be online for review at fwcp.ca one week prior to the discussion.

“Our Action Plans need to reflect the unique fish and wildlife needs in each watershed. That’s why we’re talking with government, First Nations, stakeholders, and the public. And we hope interested groups and individuals will join us in Port Coquitlam,” says Fournier, pointing to the FWCP’s ongoing work in the watershed.

Between 2010 and 2016, the FWCP funded 12 projects valued at \$714,095: nine addressed our conservation priorities for rivers, lakes, and reservoirs; two addressed riparian areas and wetlands; and 1 addressed uplands and drylands. Projects focused on assessing the feasibility of reintroducing anadromous salmon above the Coquitlam dam, and improving spawning and rearing habitat. Fish species to benefit from the research and habitat-based projects include Sockeye, Coho, Chinook, Chum, Coho, and Pink Salmon, and Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout. Coastal Tailed Frogs, Western Toads, Western Screech-Owls, Great Blue Herons, and Northern Goshawks were the target species for the wildlife projects, which focused on inventory and mapping as first steps toward habitat restoration or enhancement. In 2017–2018, our Coastal Region board approved two projects that will benefit Sockeye, valued at \$189,536.

The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, and Public Stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams.

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For More Information

Lynne Betts

FWCP Communications Coordinator

250-352-6881

Lynne.betts@bchydro.com

Caption: Sockeye Salmon are one of many species that will benefit from projects funded by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). Attend our May 30 workshop in Port Coquitlam to discuss future conservation priorities and projects for the FWCP. Learn more at fwcp.ca.

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