

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 27, 2015**

## **Local Salmon and Habitat Conservation Projects Approved**

### **Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Approves Funding for 2015 Projects**

**COURTENAY** – The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) announced today that it will fund the K’ómoks First Nation to study genetic diversity in local summer chinook stocks. The results of this work will help support chinook in the Puntledge River watershed. This is one of seven local projects approved for funding by the FWCP’s Coastal Region Board in the Puntledge River watershed this year.

Two other hands-on fish projects will also receive FWCP funds and should bring almost immediate benefits to local fish including the endangered Morrison Creek Lamprey. One project will improve fish passage for salmonids and other species at Morrison Creek near Courtenay, and the other will improve the habitat and function of the K’ómoks estuary.

“Angling and aquaculture are very important to our region’s economic health. Anglers, both local and those drawn from afar, fish the Puntledge River and its estuaries,” said Comox Valley MLA Don McRae. “The work the K’ómoks will carry out from this funding will help sustain salmon runs in our local rivers and streams so future generations of anglers can enjoy this wonderful natural resource.”

The FWCP also approved funds that will go towards purchasing land along Perseverance Creek, south west of Cumberland. This land purchase will help conserve some of the remaining wetland and riparian habitat in the watershed and protect local salmon habitat.

Together, seven projects will receive more than \$413,000 from the FWCP, which conserves and enhances fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams. Learn more at [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca).

These projects get underway this spring and conclude by early 2016. They are among 41 projects approved by the FWCP-Coastal Region Board, which will provide approximately \$2 million in projects this year.

The Board, which includes First Nations, public stakeholders, BC Hydro, the Province of BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, funds projects that align with its watershed and action plans. The Board may direct funds later in the year to other projects it deems a priority for the region.

“Each project we approve for funding aligns with our local Action Plans, and goes through a technical review before being reviewed by our Board members who make the final decisions,” says FWCP Manager, Trevor Oussoren.

The FWCP-Coastal Region includes Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Southern Interior.

### For more information contact

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**Suggested caption:** Chinook and other salmonids will benefit from the fish and wildlife projects announced today by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). The FWCP is funding local partners to lead projects that will improve fish passage, ecosystem function, and improve the scientific understanding of the genetic diversity of summer Chinook stocks. The FWCP is also providing funds to support purchase of riparian habitat along Perseverance Creek. ([fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca))

Photo Credit: Thomas Baxter

### FWCP BACKGROUNDER

#### FWCP Overview

- The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (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.
- The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) funds conservation and enhancement projects in its Coastal, Columbia and Peace regions.
- The FWCP's Regional Boards approved approximately 124 fish and wildlife projects for 2015-16 with a combined value of approximately \$8.9 million.
- FWCP funds are provided by BC Hydro and managed in a partnership with the Province of British Columbia, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and the public.

#### FWCP Fish and Wildlife Projects

- Projects that receive funding from the FWCP: align with the FWCP's strategic action plans; and are assessed based on technical merit, linkages to watershed-specific priorities, cost-effectiveness, level of partnership, and overall benefit to the FWCP's mandate and vision.
- Eleven First Nations are directly involved in the delivery of FWCP-funded projects including:
  - **FWCP-Coastal** approved applications were received from the following: Pacheedaht First Nation; Katzi First Nation; K'omoks First Nation; Splitsin First Nation; Split Rock Environmental (St'at'imc First Nation); and the Lillooet Tribal Council.
  - **FWCP-Peace** approved applications were received from the following: Kwadacha First Nation; Doig River First Nation; and the Tsay Keh Dene Nation (with several other First Nations involved in delivery of other projects where they will support the lead proponent in project implementation).

- **FWCP-Columbia** approved applications received from the following: Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA); and the Ktunaxa Nation Council.
- The FWCP often works with partners; it may be one of many funders supporting important fish and wildlife conservation efforts or it may be the sole funder.
- For a summary of the 2015-16 fish and wildlife projects funded by the FWCP across the province, and information on how you can apply for a FWCP grant next year, visit [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca).