FWCP
Fish & Wildlife
COMPENSATION PROGRAM

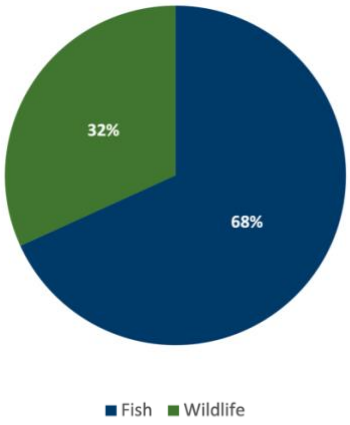
COASTAL REGION FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS 2025-2026

22 fish and wildlife projects approved in our Coastal Region

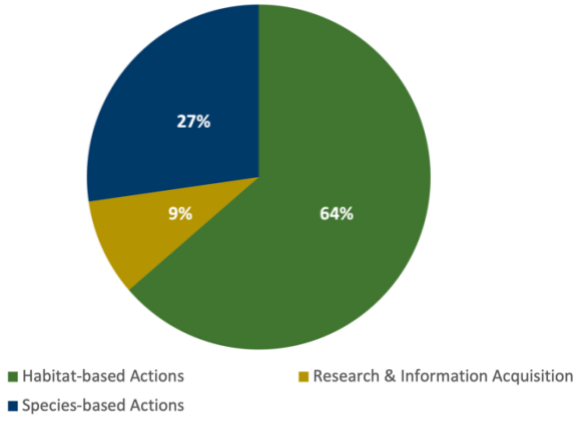
Our Coastal Region board approved approximately $1.8 million for 22 projects in 2025-2026. The projects—15 fish and 7 wildlife—will be delivered by First Nations, communities, and businesses, as well as agencies, stewardship groups, and consultants.

The projects align with our priorities for riparian areas, wetlands, uplands, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. The projects are diverse and support a wide range of fish species including sockeye, Chinook, and other salmonids, and wildlife such as purple martins, black swifts, bats, marmots, and northern spotted owl.

Fish & Wildlife Projects



Project Types



The 2025-2026 projects will, among other things, support Chinook and other salmonids by enhancing and improving access to spawning habitat. Work to prepare bat species for the arrival of White Nose Syndrome will continue. The board is also funding recovery of the Pacific Coast population of western painted turtles, known to inhabit only a few sites in the lower Fraser Valley.

$9.2 million approved for 72 fish and wildlife projects in our three regions

The FWCP's regional boards approved $9.2 million to fund 30 fish and 42 wildlife projects in 2025-2026. Habitat-based projects account for more than three-quarters of the project funding.

The boards also approved more than $1.2 million to support the purchase and protection of critical habitats across our three regions. New funding—about $70,000—was approved for Seed Grants, and another $32,500 was approved for Community Engagement Grants.

Learn more about the FWCP: follow us and subscribe!

We're 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 in watersheds impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.

FWCP Coastal Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
1	COA-F26-F-4304	**Restoring salmon habitat in the Coquitlam-Buntzen Watershed** *Reeve Slough Salmon Habitat Reconnection Project 2025:* Reeve Slough is the largest parcel of unrestored off-channel habitat remaining in the Coquitlam-Buntzen Watershed. Kwikwetlem First Nation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are working together to reconnect 31,800 square metres of salmon habitat to the Coquitlam River. This multi-year project will establish critical off-channel habitat for salmon and trout species, including 600 square metres of spawning habitat, and 600 square metres of new rearing habitat.	Kwikwetlem First Nation	$150,000	Habitat-Based Action	Coquitlam-Buntzen River Watershed
2	COA-F26-F-4305	**Safeguarding fish passage in Gates Creek** *Gates Creek Habitat Enhancement Project:* Gates Creek is a vital salmon-bearing stream in the Bridge-Seton Watershed. Drought, low flows, and sediments deposited from more frequent floods have seasonally restricted passage for sockeye, coho, and pink salmon. This project led by N'Quatqua Band will include a hydrology assessment, and employ a Stream Guardian to monitor the creek. A new monitoring and low-flow warning system will be installed. This project will help safeguard critical fish passage to support ecosystem health in the watershed.	N'Quatqua Band	$114,396	Habitat-Based Action	Bridge-Seton Watershed

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
3	COA-F26-F-4287	**Restoring salmon passage in the Squamish Estuary** *Central Squamish Estuary Salmon Passage Culvert*: This project will restore connectivity for juvenile Chinook salmon between the Squamish River and the estuary. An undersized culvert will be replaced with a larger box culvert that allows fish passage. The project was developed in partnership with the Squamish Nation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. It is part of long-term efforts to restore Chinook salmon populations in the Squamish River Estuary by reconnecting off-channel habitat with larger culverts and removing an industrial berm constructed in the 1970s.	Squamish River Watershed Society	$414,982	Habitat-Based Action	Cheakamus River Watershed
4	COA-F26-F-4294	**Designing more spawning habitat for Chinook salmon** *Campbell River Spawning Gravel Site 7 Design:* Since 2006, gravel has been added to the Lower Campbell River to enhance spawning habitat for Chinook salmon. High stream flows wash spawning gravel downstream, reducing the quality and quantity of spawning habitat. Following literature review of design methods, this project will design a site downstream of John Hart Dam for a new spawning gravel pad, which will be built in 2026. It aligns with the FWCP's priority action to strategically place spawning gravel in historically important areas for Chinook in the Campbell River Watershed.	A-Tlegay Fisheries Society	$41,689	Habitat-Based Action	Campbell River Watershed

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
5	COA-F26-F-4295	**Restoring a riparian zone in the Squamish River Estuary** *Riparian Restoration of Little Bear Slough:* A railway spur line built more than 50 years ago on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Squamish Nation isolated Little Bear Slough from the Squamish River. This restoration project is the first in a multi-year effort to reconnect Little Bear Slough with the river by installing a culvert under the railway in 2026. Work will also focus on restoring the riparian area by removing invasive plants and planting native species around channels that will be rewatered when the slough is connected to the river. The estuary provides habitat for salmon, marine mammals (e.g., river otters), and waterfowl (e.g., blue heron and wood ducks).	The Nature Trust of British Columbia	$37,049	Habitat-Based Action	Cheakamus River Watershed
6	COA-F26-F-4309	**Repairing bank erosion for fish habitat** *Bessette Creek Bank Stabilization:* Bessette Creek near Lumby is used year-round by rainbow trout and coho, Chinook, and sockeye salmon for spawning and rearing. Riparian vegetation removal has led to bank erosion, allowing silt and clay to fill in holding pools and infiltrate spawning gravels, impairing egg-to-fry survival. This project will stabilize and revegetate two eroding banks in Bessette Creek.	Okanagan Indian Band	$37,356	Habitat-Based Action	Shuswap River Watershed

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
7	COA-F26-F-4300	**Maintaining off-channel salmon habitat** *Cheakamus Centre Off-Channel Maintenance & Enhancement*: This multi-year project will maintain off-channel habitat for coho, Chinook, pink, chum, and steelhead salmon. This year, funding will help with annual and critical maintenance at four intakes. Work will focus on making repairs and clearing sediment and debris around the intakes. Trail work and bridge repairs will provide safe access. Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Cheakamus Centre staff will carry out the ongoing assessment of the entire off-channel complex to identify priority areas for the next five years.	Cheakamus Foundation for Environmental Learning	$86,157	Habitat-Based Action	Cheakamus River Watershed
8	COA-F26-F-4284	**Restoring an industrial site for fish and wildlife habitat** *Kus-kus-sum: Unpaving Paradise – Year 5:* This multi-year project is restoring Kus-kus-sum, a decommissioned sawmill site, back to a natural state. In the project's fifth and final year, restoration will include earthworks, native species planting, and removing a steel piling wall. The site, located on a salmon migration corridor, was originally a tidally influenced forested riparian area that provided habitat for fish and wildlife.	Comox Valley Project Watershed Society	$206,250	Habitat-Based Action	Puntledge River Watershed

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
9	COA-F26-F-4283	**Monitoring for drought conditions in a salmon-bearing creek** *Bessette Creek Streamflow Monitoring:* Bessette Creek in the Shuswap River Watershed is a critical concern for salmon conservation. Low streamflows are a significant threat to salmon, especially during spawning. Hydrometric stations in key spawning areas provide real-time drought alerts. This multi-year project provides ongoing maintenance of the monitoring stations, which play a pivotal role in guiding water conservation actions in the watershed.	Okanagan Nation Alliance	$47,104	Research & Information Acquisition	Shuswap River Watershed
10	COA-F26-F-4277	**Educating students to conserve Chinook salmon** *Conservation of Shuswap River Chinook Through Education:* This multi-year project is educating school children about the integral role Chinook salmon play in the Shuswap River Watershed. Place-based, experiential education will help students understand why salmon are a keystone species, essential to the health of the ecosystem.	Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society	$16,500	Species-Based Action	Shuswap River Watershed
		Grant-based Fish Project Total:		**$1,151,483 (10 projects)**		

FWCP Coastal Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Directed Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
11	COA-F26-F-4335-DCA	**Supporting Chinook in the Puntledge River Watershed** *F26 Annual Puntledge Hatchery*: This multi-year project provides annual funding to the Puntledge River Hatchery to support summer Chinook production.	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	$17,000	Species-Based Action	Puntledge River Watershed
12	COA-F26-F-4282-DCA	**Improving fish passage in the Alouette River Watershed** *Annual Fish Passage For Alouette Watershed:* The FWCP Coastal Region board has made a 10-year commitment to support the assessment of improved fish passage feasibility at the Coquitlam and Alouette dams based on the Fish Passage Decision Framework.	Alouette River Management Society	$37,000	Species-Based Action	Alouette River Watershed
13	COA-F26-F-4336-DCA	**Improving fish passage in the Coquitlam-Buntzen Watershed** *Annual Fish Passage For Coquitlam Watershed:* The FWCP Coastal Region board has made a 10-year commitment to support the assessment of improved fish passage feasibility at the Coquitlam and Alouette dams based on the Fish Passage Decision Framework.	TBD	$13,000	Species-Based Action	Coquitlam-Buntzen Watershed

FWCP Coastal Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Directed Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
14	COA-F26-F-4280-DCA	**Assessing urgent salmon habitat restoration in the Campbell River Watershed** *Annual Campbell River Gravel Strategy (Post-Storm Assessment):* The FWCP Coastal Region board approved funds to conduct spawning habitat assessments in the event winter flows exceed 225 cubic metres per second in the lower Campbell River. This aligns with the Campbell River Salmon Spawning Habitat Restoration Strategy. The study will use methodology developed in 2019 through ongoing FWCP funding. The project will provide a high-level assessment of habitat and determine if work needs to be carried out urgently this summer to provide sufficient Chinook spawning habitat for the fall.	A-Tlegay Fisheries Society	$15,000	Habitat-Based Action	Campbell River Watershed
15	COA-F26-F-4281-DCA	**Using chum carcasses to add nutrients to the Puntledge River Watershed** *Upper Puntledge River Watershed Chum Carcass Distribution:* This multi-year project will support the distribution of carcasses from a hatchery into the upper Puntledge River Watershed. Their slow decomposition will contribute essential marine-derived nutrients and energy that will benefit the entire food web and sustain the production of fish and other salmon-dependent species within the watershed.	Courtenay and District Fish & Game Protective Association	$2,000	Species-Based Action	Puntledge River Watershed
			Fish Directed Project Total:	**$84,000 (5 projects)**		

FWCP Coastal Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
16	COA-F26-W-4290	**Enhancing habitat for at-risk species in the Campbell River Estuary** *Restoring Ecological Function in the Campbell River Estuary:* This project aims to restore ecological integrity and function in the Campbell River Estuary by managing invasive species such as yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife, and Japanese knotweed. The estuary is home to blue-listed purple martins, the red-listed Henderson's checkermallow-tufted hairgrass ecological community, and Vancouver Island beggarticks, a Species of Special Concern.	Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust	$35,615	Habitat-Based Action	Campbell River Watershed
17	COA-F26-W-4296	**Preparing bat colonies for White Nose Syndrome** *Mitigating WNS-Probiotics and Long-term Bat Monitoring:* This multi-year project will prepare for the arrival of White Nose Syndrome in bat colonies in south-west B.C. At 11 long-term sites, bat health will be monitored and probiotics applied to reduce bat mortality. Bats will be tagged to track survival and acoustic monitoring will be used to monitor migration patterns and winter activity at maternity roost sites for little brown and Yuma myotis bats. The goal of this project is to test the application of probiotics to reduce bat mortality.	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	$89,257	Habitat-Based Action	Multiple watersheds

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
18	COA-F26-W-4286	**Applying Indigenous knowledge to black swift conservation** *Engagement of First Nations in Black Swift Conservation:* Black swifts are rapidly declining in Canada. This multi-year project will learn from Indigenous communities in our Coastal Region and build the capacity of First Nations to steward black swifts.	Birds Canada	$48,350	Research & Information Acquisition	Multiple watersheds
19	COA-F26-W-4278	**Recovering Vancouver Island marmots in Strathcona Park** *Translocating Vancouver Island Marmots to Strathcona Park 2025:* The Vancouver Island marmot is an Endangered species that was extirpated from Strathcona Park in the Campbell River and Puntledge River watersheds in the 1990s. This year, the project will translocate between two and 10 marmots into the Strathcona population. Timely, continued support will continue this species' progress towards recovery. Reintroduction efforts like these in the past four years have helped establish new marmot colonies.	Marmot Recovery Foundation	$21,965	Habitat-Based Action	Multiple watersheds

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
20	COA-F26-W-4301	**Recovering threatened western painted turtles** *Western Painted Turtle Recovery in Coastal Watersheds:* The Pacific Coast population of western painted turtles is federally threatened and provincially red-listed. There are only 20 known sites for these turtles in the lower Fraser Valley. This multi-year project will help recover western painted turtle populations in the Coquitlam-Buntzen, Alouette River, and Stave River watersheds by increasing recruitment through releasing head-started turtles, monitoring the populations' recovery, and providing and monitoring effectiveness of essential habitat such as basking and nesting features.	Athene Ecological	$140,000	Species-Based Action	Multiple watersheds
21	COA-F26-W-4194	**Recovering endangered owls for the Bridge-Seton Watershed** *Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Breeding Program:* The northern spotted owl is one of Canada's most endangered birds: fewer than five remain in the wild in Canada. This project's goal is to prevent the species from becoming extirpated from Canada by breeding and raising captive-raised owls for eventual release into protected habitat in the Bridge-Seton Watershed.	British Columbia Conservation Foundation	$177,464	Habitat-Based Action	Bridge-Seton Watershed

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Watershed
22	COA-F26-W-4307	**Applying Indigenous knowledge to mitigate White Nose Syndrome in bats** *Supporting Indigenous Leadership in Bat Monitoring:* The goal of this project is to establish baseline data and fill critical knowledge gaps before major threats (e.g., White Nose Syndrome) reduce populations. This multi-year project supports Indigenous-led conservation of bats in the Bridge-Seton Watershed. It will build on local Indigenous knowledge of bats, and train land guardians and technicians in specialized bat capture and acoustic techniques.	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	$21,271	Habitat-Based Action	Bridge-Seton Watershed
Grant-based Wildlife Project Total:				**$533,922 (7 projects)**		
2025-2026 PROJECT SPEND TOTAL:				**$1,769,405 (22 projects)**		