



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada


Pêches et Océans
Canada

BC Salmon Restoration & Innovation Fund

Supporting salmon recovery through a diverse grants & contributions program
Pacific Salmon Commission, March 2023

BC Salmon Restoration & Innovation Fund
Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

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A scenic landscape featuring a winding river that flows through a valley. The river is surrounded by dense forests and is flanked by mountains. The sky is a clear, light blue, and the overall scene is captured in a soft, natural light. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

BCSRIF Launch and Phase 1

Integrated Fish and Seafood Sector Contribution Management Framework

BCSRIF Launch March 2019



Major elements under Integrated Fish & Seafood Sector Contribution Management Framework (IFSSCMF):

- **DFO - Provincial partnership**

- \$128.55M in a 70 – 30 share of funding
- Joint Operations, Management and Steering Committees

- **3 program pillars**

- Innovation, Infrastructure, Science Partnerships

- **Eligibility (BC-based lead)**

- Indigenous, ENGO, commercial, academia, etc.

- **3 funding priorities (high level)**

- **Habitat & Healthy Salmon**
- Fisheries
- Aquaculture



BCSRIF Intake 1 Results:

- **192 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) received requesting \$327M**
- **Batch 1 (23 projects; \$49M) Spring 2019**
 - DFO Subject Matter Expert (SME) feedback received ad hoc
- **Batch 2 (4 projects; \$2.3M) Summer 2019**
 - Joint BC-DFO operational team selections based on SME advice
- **Batch 3 (15 projects; \$15.5M) Fall 2019**
 - BC-DFO SME workshops for each funding priority
- **Intake 1 = 42 projects; \$66.8M; 22% acceptance**
 - Lessons: improve guidance, templates and transparency



BCSRIF Intake 2 Preparation:

- **Joint goals**

- Utilize remaining Phase 1 G&C funding (\$61.8M)
- Address considerable remaining external interest in and priorities for BCSRIF
- Refine funding priorities to increase alignment and compliment DFO - BC priorities

- **Engagement on funding priorities Winter 2020**

- External, Internal and Inter-government (140+ events)

- **5 funding priorities**

- Aquaculture
- **Community hatcheries**
- Fisheries and Seafood Innovation
- **Selective fishing**
- **Species of concern**



BCSRIF Intake 2 Results:

- **126 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) received totaling \$197M**

- **Batch 4 (52 projects; \$54.8M) Fall-Winter 2021**

- DFO triage: rating all EOIs by standard criteria and by funding priority
- DFO-BC Subject Matter Expert (SME) feedback received via referrals

- **Batch 4.1 (3 projects; \$1.7M) Summer 2021**

- A subset of late recommended proposals

Harvest Transformation

- **Intake 2 = 55 projects; \$56.5M; 44% acceptance**

- Lessons: pressure and timeline for negotiating numerous Contribution Agreements



BCSRIF Program Results and Status – Phase 1:

- 310 Expressions of Interest received requesting \$524M
- BCSRIF committed 100% of Phase 1 funding (\$128.55M) to 97 projects
 - Average acceptance rate of 33%
- 78 projects are ongoing; 19 projects are complete
 - All Phase 1 projects must be complete by March 31, 2024

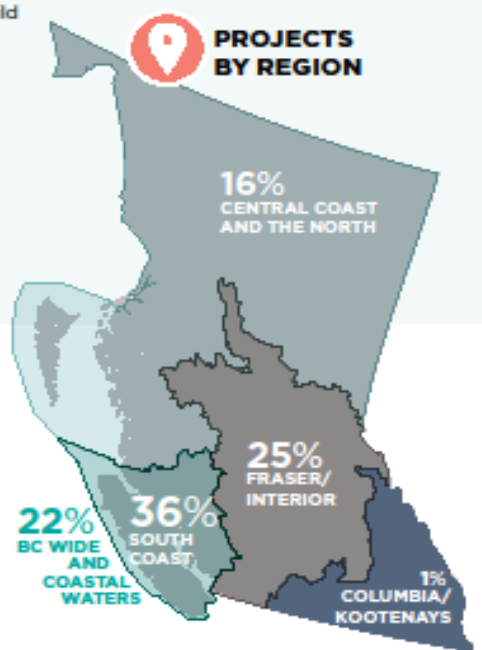
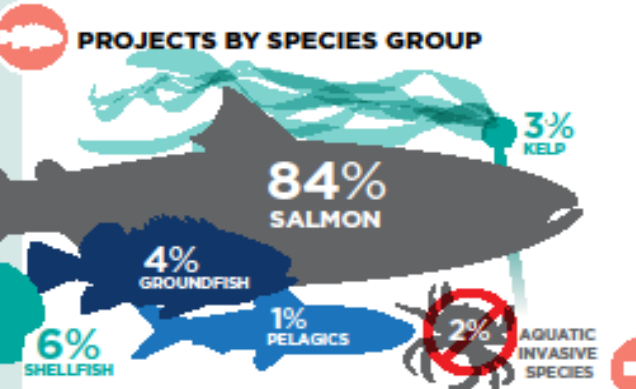
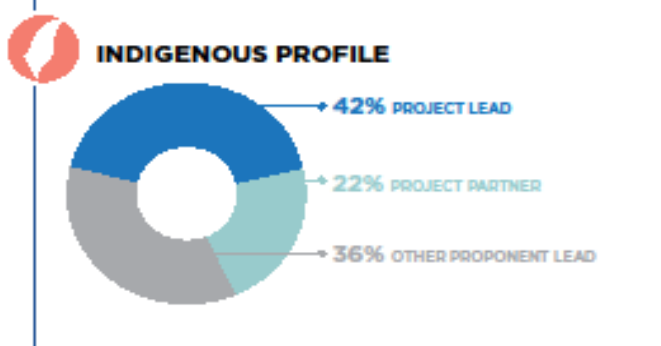
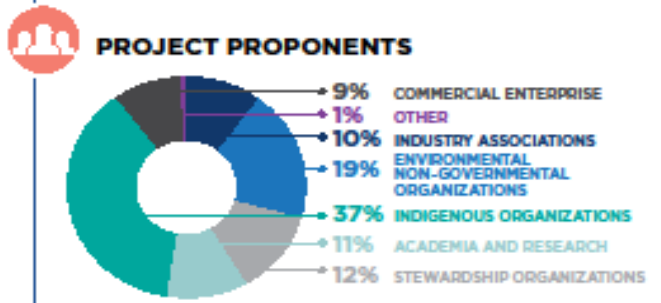
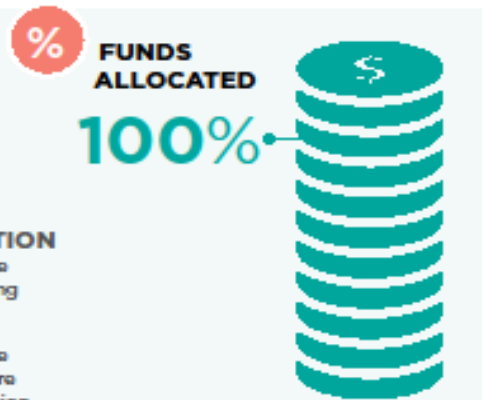
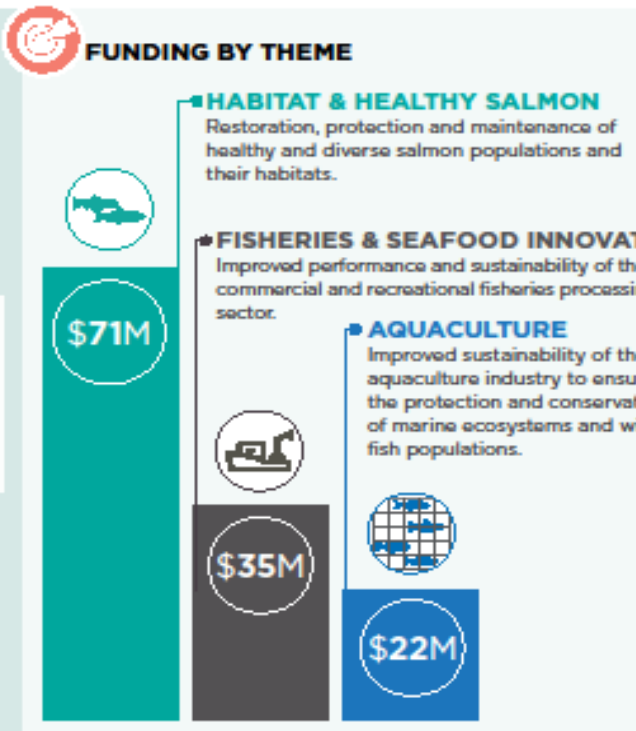
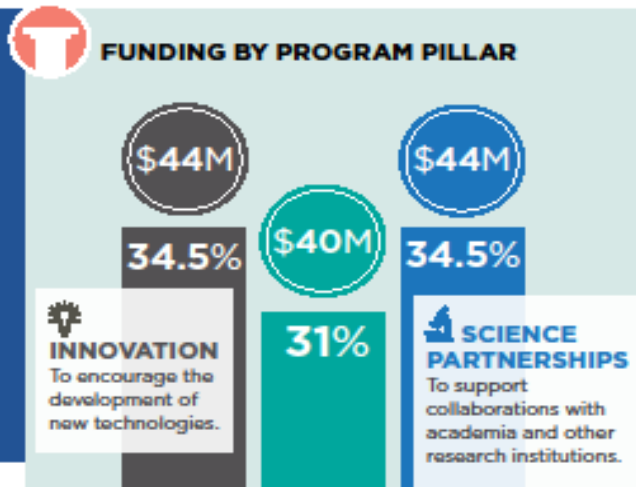


British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund | Funding summary as of February 2023

WHAT IS BCSRIF?

The British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) is a contribution program funded jointly by the federal and provincial governments.

The fund is providing up to **\$142.85 million over 5 years** to support protection and restoration activities for priority wild fish stocks, including salmon. BCSRIF also supports projects that will ensure the fish and seafood sector in BC is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.



LEARN MORE AT www.bcsrif.ca

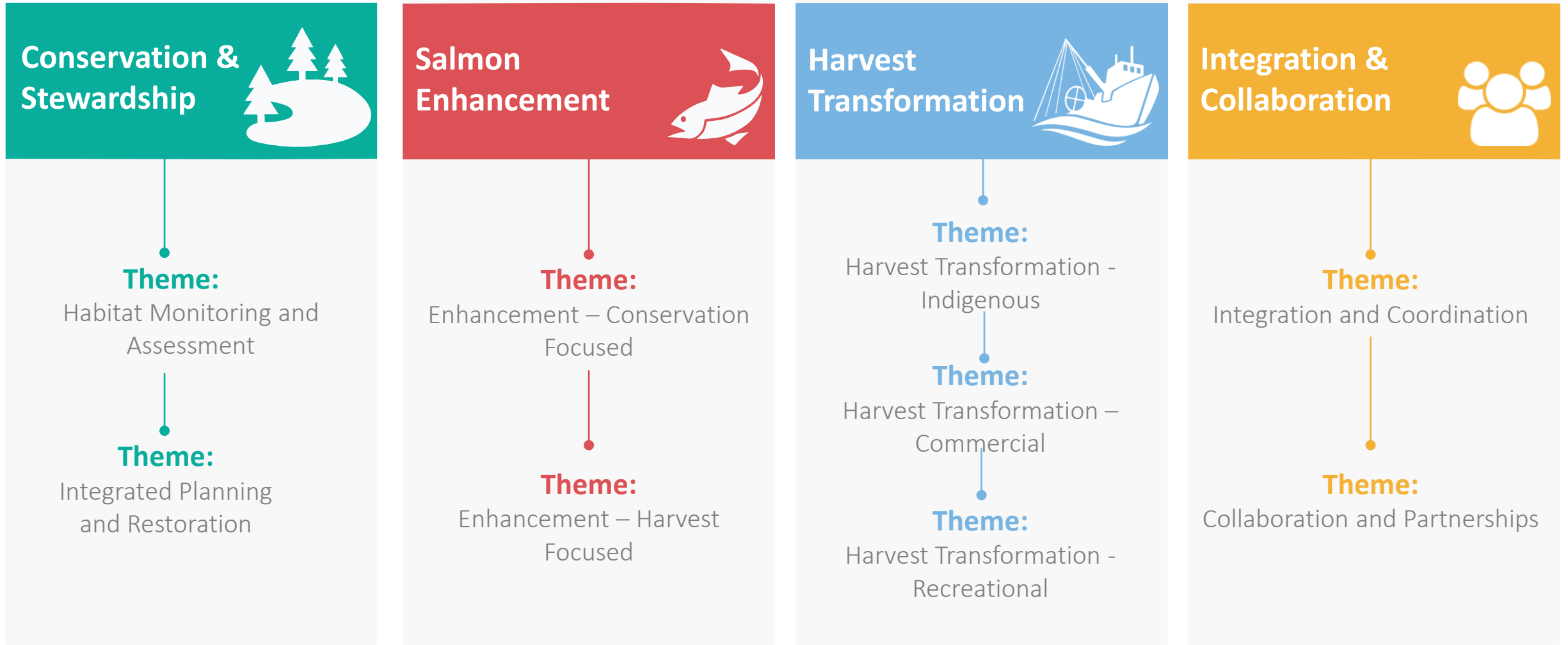


BCSRIF Renewal and Phase 2

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

PSSI Implementation Framework

Working Vision: Working together to conserve and restore priority Pacific salmon populations and their ecosystems, for those who depend on them.



BCSRIF Intake 3 Preparation:

- **Joint goals**

- Utilize renewed Phase 2 G&C funding (\$128.55M)
- Refine funding priorities to **increase alignment with BC priorities and PSSI**

- **Improving BCSRIF process**

- Efficiency: reduced stages by removing EOI (i.e. full proposals only)
- Improved guidance materials and application templates

- **BCSRIF Engagement in 2022**

- 172 engagement sessions; 33% of engagement with Indigenous organizations
- Listening to project concepts; analyzing against BCSRIF criteria



BCSRIF Relaunch August 2022



- **DFO - Provincial Partnership**

- Another \$128.55M in G&C
- Same joint governance structure as Phase 1

- **Program Pillars & Eligibility**

- Identical to Phase 1

- **Funding Priorities**

- Refined again to high level

- **Principles**

- Added to allow for additional prioritization of proposals



BCSRIF Application Intake 3 Structure

1. Pillars

- Infrastructure
- Innovation
- Science Partnerships

2. Funding priorities

- **Salmon Ecosystems** (stocks, environment, aquatic invasive species, kelp)
- **Salmon Habitat** (monitoring, assessing, prioritizing, restoring)
- **Sustainable Fisheries** (science, selectivity, non-salmon, aquaculture)

3. Principles

- **Climate change impacts to salmon**
- **Prioritization of salmon stocks**
- Indigenous participation and Knowledge



BCSRIF Intake 3 Results (to date)

- **Intake 3 Summary**

- 139 applications received requesting \$354M in funding

- **Intake 3 Statistics**

- Applicants: 58 proposals from **Indigenous organizations, Stewardship (25), ENGOs (20), Industry (19), Academia (15)**
- Species: 118 **Salmon** proposals, others include **Aquatic Invasive Species, Kelp, Shellfish, Pelagics, Freshwater and Groundfish**
- Spatial: 59 **South Coast** proposals, others include **Fraser Interior (30), Central Coast & the North (26), BC-wide & Coastal Waters (19), Columbia Kootenays (4)**



BCSRIF Application Intake 3 Process

- 1. Engagement (Feb 1 – Nov 15, 2022)**
- 2. Applications (Sep 15 – Nov 15, 2022)**
- 3. Triage (Nov 15 – Dec 31, 2022)**
- 4. Referrals (Jan 1– Jan 31, 2023)**
- 5. Joint DFO-BC funding recommendations (Feb 16-17, 2023)**
- 6. BCSRIF Steering Committee Endorsement (March 13, 2023)**
- 7. Ministerial approval (TBD – end March)**
- 8. Communicating funding decisions (TBD - start April)**
- 9. Announcing new BCSRIF projects (TBD - Summer 2023)**





BCSRIF Salmon Support

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

Salmon Habitat Restoration



Scw'exmx Tribal Association:

- Rehabilitation of Critical Infrastructure to Improve Survival of Thompson Steelhead & Chinook (\$1.3M)

Ducks Unlimited Canada:

- Fraser River Estuary Salmon Habitat (FRESH) Restoration Projects (\$4.6M)

K'ómoks First Nation:

- Kus Kus Sum – Restoration of key habitat to re-establish ecosystem services (\$1.2M)

Salmon and Climate Change



Nature Trust of BC:

- Enhancing Estuary Resiliency: An Innovative Approach to Sustaining Fish and Fish Habitat in a Changing Climate (\$8.6M)

Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium:

- Place-based Risk of Climate Change to Sustainability of BC Wild and Hatchery-origin Salmon (\$1.0M)

University of British Columbia (Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences):

- Drivers of Inter-annual variability in Zooplankton Feeding in the Strait of Georgia (\$0.1M)

High Seas Salmon



North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission:

- International Year of the Salmon: International Pan-Pacific Salmon Expedition (\$3M)

Pacific Salmon Foundation:

- Winter Salmon Survey in the Gulf of Alaska (\$0.65M)
- Assessment methods, Gulf of Alaska 2021 (\$0.3M)

Community Hatcheries



Great Bear Initiative Society:

- Coastal First Nations Salmon Enhancement and Restoration Initiative (\$2.9M)

Skeetchestn Indian Band:

- Deadman River Hatchery Upgrades (\$0.24M)

Nanaimo River Stewardship Society:

- Nanaimo River Hatchery Stewardship Centre (\$1M)

Enhancement Science



Pacific Salmon Foundation:

- Salish Sea Salmon Action Plan - Effectiveness of Enhanced Salmon Production (\$1M)

BC Centre for Aquatic Animal Health Sciences:

- The application of nanopore technology for the rapid detection and characterization of pathogenic organisms (\$0.3M)

University of Victoria:

- Causes and consequences of vateritic otoliths in hatchery-reared Coho salmon (\$0.5M)

Selective Fishing



UBC (Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences):

- Enhancing sustainability of capture & release marine recreational Pacific salmon fisheries using new tools/technology (\$1.9M)

Tsawwassen First Nation:

- Selective Fishing Using a Salmon Trap (\$0.65M)

T Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation:

- Technology for more sustainable fisheries in BC (\$0.32M)

Catch Monitoring



Sport Fishing Institute of BC:

- Modernizing Recreational Catch Monitoring, Data Collection and Communication (\$0.9M)

Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance:

- First Nations-led catch monitoring to inform sustainable mixed-stock fisheries management on the Central Coast (\$1.5M)

Archipelago Marine Research:

- Modernizing catch reporting in Canada's Pacific Region Salmon Fisheries (\$0.3M)

Integration & Collaboration



National Indigenous Fisheries Institute:

- Engagement on Indigenous priorities for BCSRIF funding (\$0.36M)

Sport Fishing Institute of BC:

- Vision 2021 and phased implementation (\$0.7M and \$0.45M)

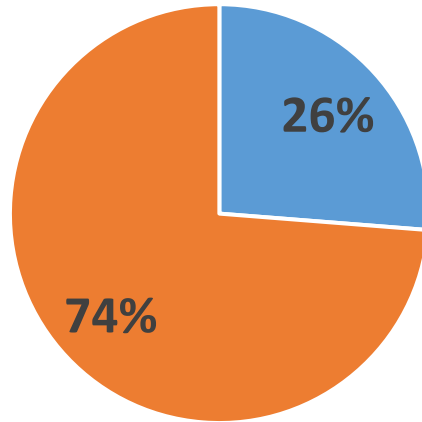
North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society:

- Skeena Estuary Habitat Management and Protection Planning (\$2.3M)

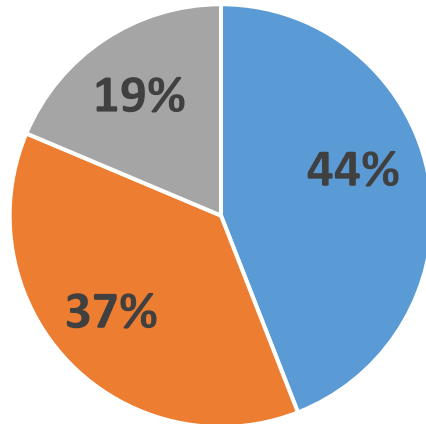


BCSRIF Salmon Results

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative



■ Desktop ■ Field



■ Completed in 2022 ■ Planned for 2023
■ Not Planned Currently

BCSRIF Field Monitoring

- BCSRIF Strategic Monitoring Program launched in 2022

Projects

- 97 total projects; 80 in progress

In-Progress Monitoring

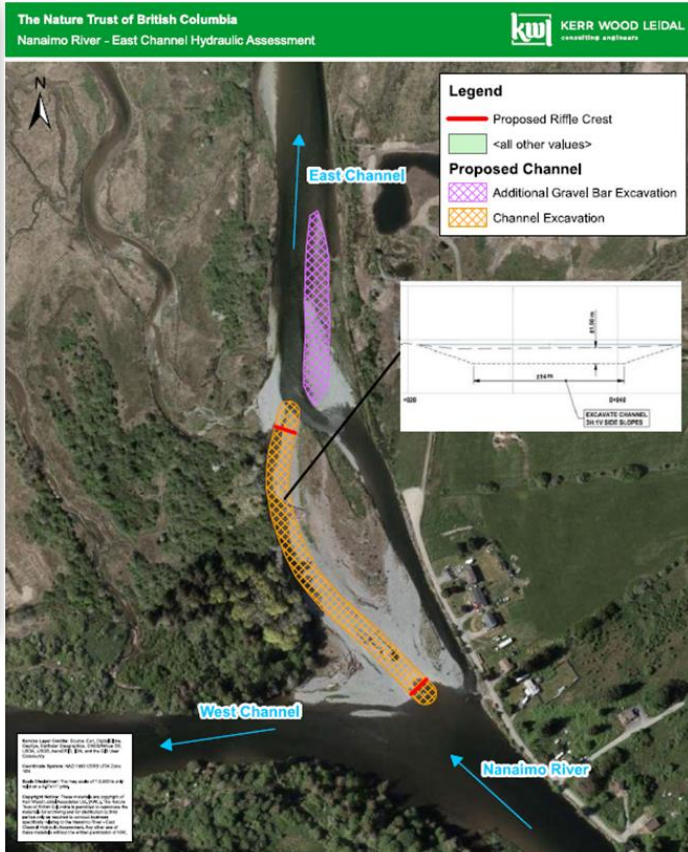
- 59 have field components
 - 21 are desktop only

2022 Monitoring Results:

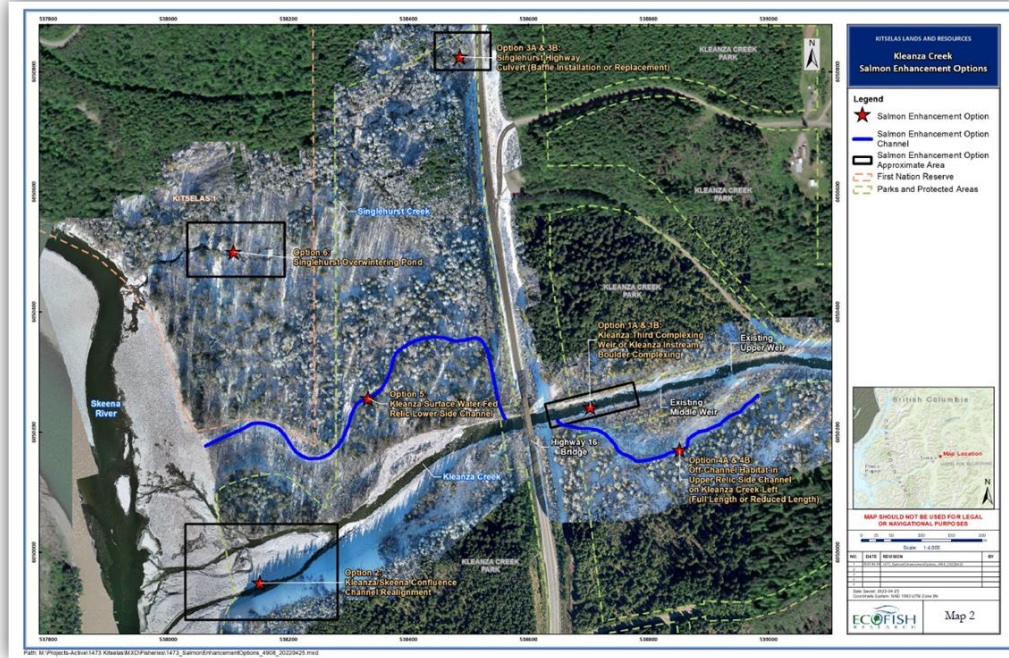
- 44% of field projects monitored by site visits

All BCSRIF funded projects provide annual results reporting

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative



Proposed East Channel Design Figure 4-2



BCSRIF annual results reporting highlights (2021-22):

- **Salmon habitat**

- Proponents report over 1 million square meters of habitat restored

- **Salmon stocks**

- 17 projects enumerate / monitor at least 1 salmon stock (i.e. >> 17 stocks)

- **Salmon enhancement**

- 15 community hatcheries have upgraded infrastructure

- **Salmon fishing**

- Research funding for fish traps, fish wheels, seine, rod & reel, fishing apps

- **Salmon science**

- 25 scientific publications or datasets released; 43 under production



Integration of Results



PSSI Strategic data policy and analytics team:

- Data stewardship and data hub development

CFFISH:

- Fish Fund G&C repository; detailed metrics have guided BCSRIF evolution

Challenge and scale of relevant databases:

- Open Data, PARR database, Fishery Operations System, AQUIS, etc etc etc

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

Discussion

