



FISH AND WILDLIFE
COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program

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The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program is a partnership of:



Ministry of
Environment

Canada



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Today

- Who We Are
- FWCP and the Columbia River Treaty
- FWCP Update
- Projects Currently Delivered
- Fisheries Trends, Arrow Lakes Reservoir
- Dam Impact Assessment - Overview
- Basin and Action Plans
- Funding with the FWCP



Who We Are

- FWCP conserves and enhances fish and wildlife impacted by the construction of BC Hydro dams
- Program agency partners are BC Hydro, the Province, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Project selection and guidance is the responsibility of Program partners together with local First Nations and Public representatives to ensure local/regional decision-making
- Three FWCP regions in B.C.: Columbia, Peace and Coastal



FWCP and the Columbia River Treaty

- No Treaty Benefits/Canadian Entitlement come to the FWCP
- FWCP focuses on footprint impacts of BC Hydro dams, not operational impacts (e.g. changes in water levels)
- Regardless Treaty Terminates or Continues, the funding for FWCP will continue from BC Hydro



FWCP Update

- Board (formerly Steering Committee)
- Three new Board members – (two public and one First Nations)
- Technical Committees (Fish & Wildlife)
- Delivery model includes long-term operational projects delivered through agreement with the Province (FLNRO)
- Increase in funds to external stakeholders/First Nations
- Ability to initiate directed studies through RFP process (where Board determines need in alignment with Basin/Action Plans).



FWCP-Update

East Kootenay Koocanusa Fish and Wildlife Program

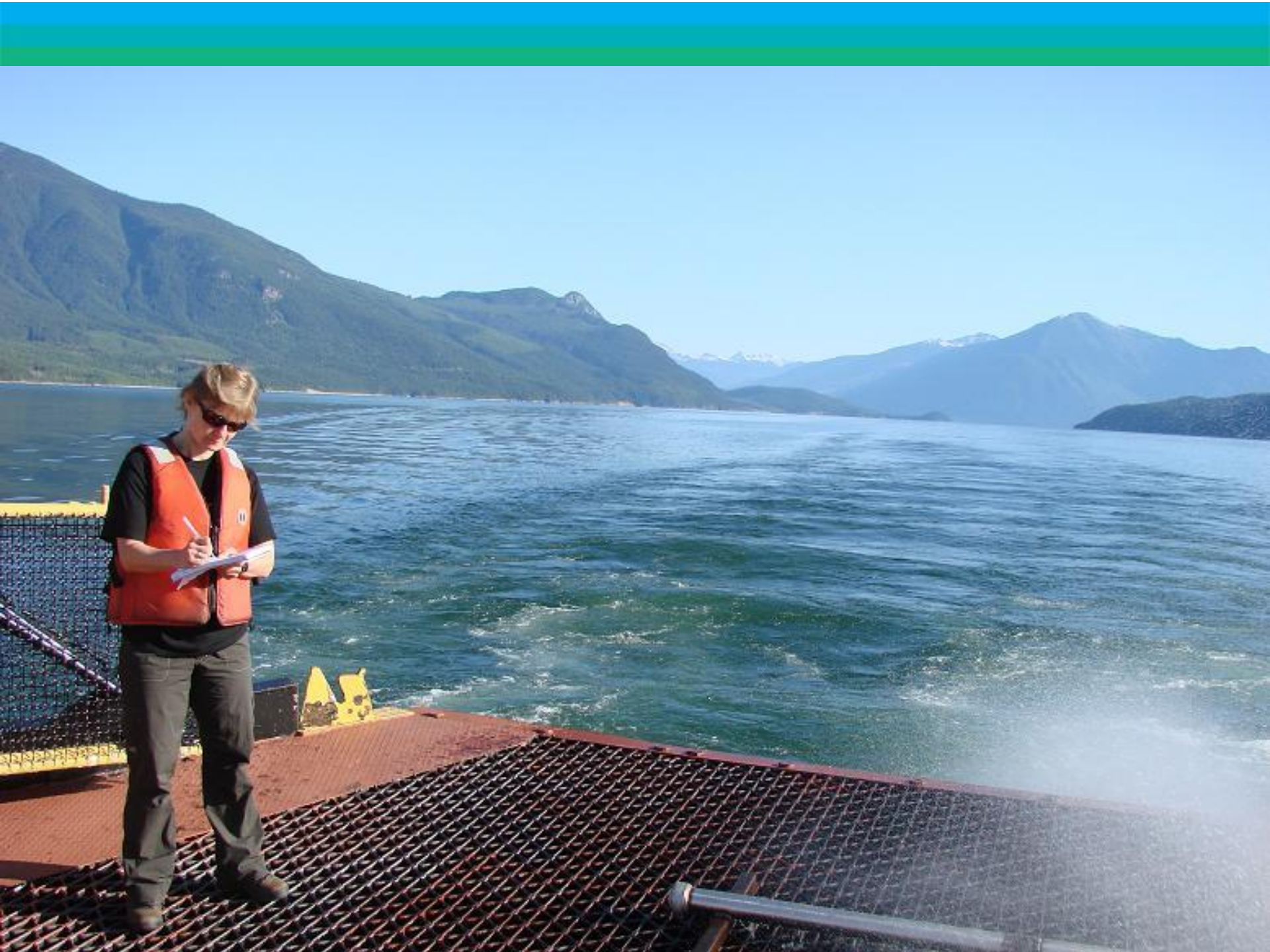
- Columbia Basin Trust recent announcement to provide FWCP-Columbia with \$3 million
- Establish the East Kootenay Koocanusa Fish and Wildlife Program
- Not been a focus of FWCP in past – Libby not owned/operated by BC Hydro
- One-off contribution from Columbia Basin Trust; 3-5 years
- Goal to ensure funds effectively spent to help fish and wildlife
- Working Group will be established, that will include local input from community and First Nations, to develop a Strategic Plan for the delivery of projects



Projects Being Delivered 2013-2014 (\$5 million)

- Nutrient additions Arrow Lakes Reservoir, Kootenay Lake
- Kokanee Spawning Channels, Hill Cr. and Meadow Cr.
- Sturgeon Recovery Initiative
- East & West Kootenay Enhancement (e.g. recovery of grassland or open forest)
- Land management operations
- Large mammal monitoring
- Large Lake Trophic Interactions
- Non-game enhancement (e.g. Western Toad Project at Summit Lake)





Projects Being Delivered (examples, continued...)

- Land Acquisition
- Caribou Recovery
- Northern Leopard Frog Recovery
- Abundance and Connectivity of Wolverine in the Kootenay*
- Wetlands on Wheels: Conservation in the West Kootenay*
- Arrow Lakes Reservoir Bull Trout Redd Counts*
- Slocan Lake Bull Trout Spawning Survey*
- Pass (Norns) Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement Structure Monitoring*
- Sheep Creek Fertilization: Food for Fish Enhancement Project*

*External



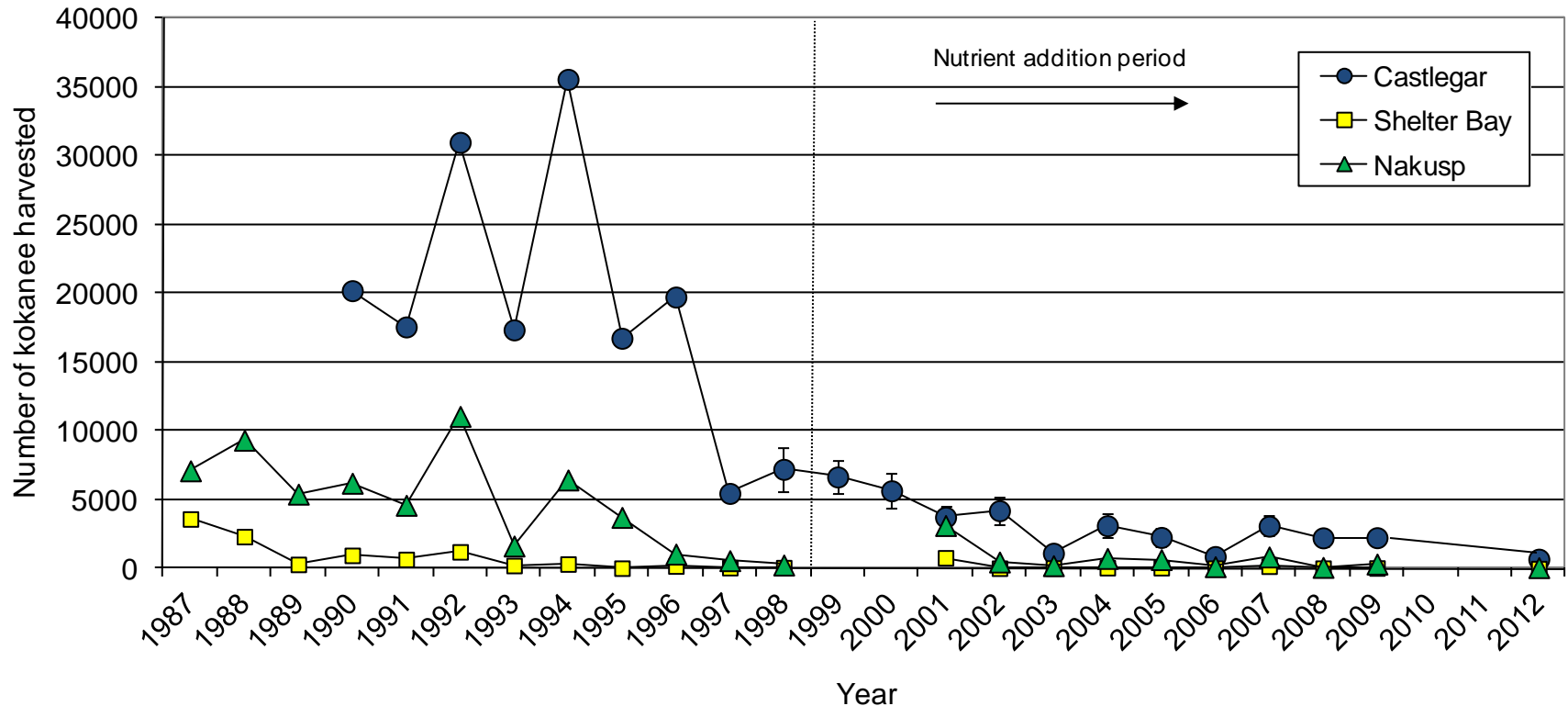


Justin Arndt Image

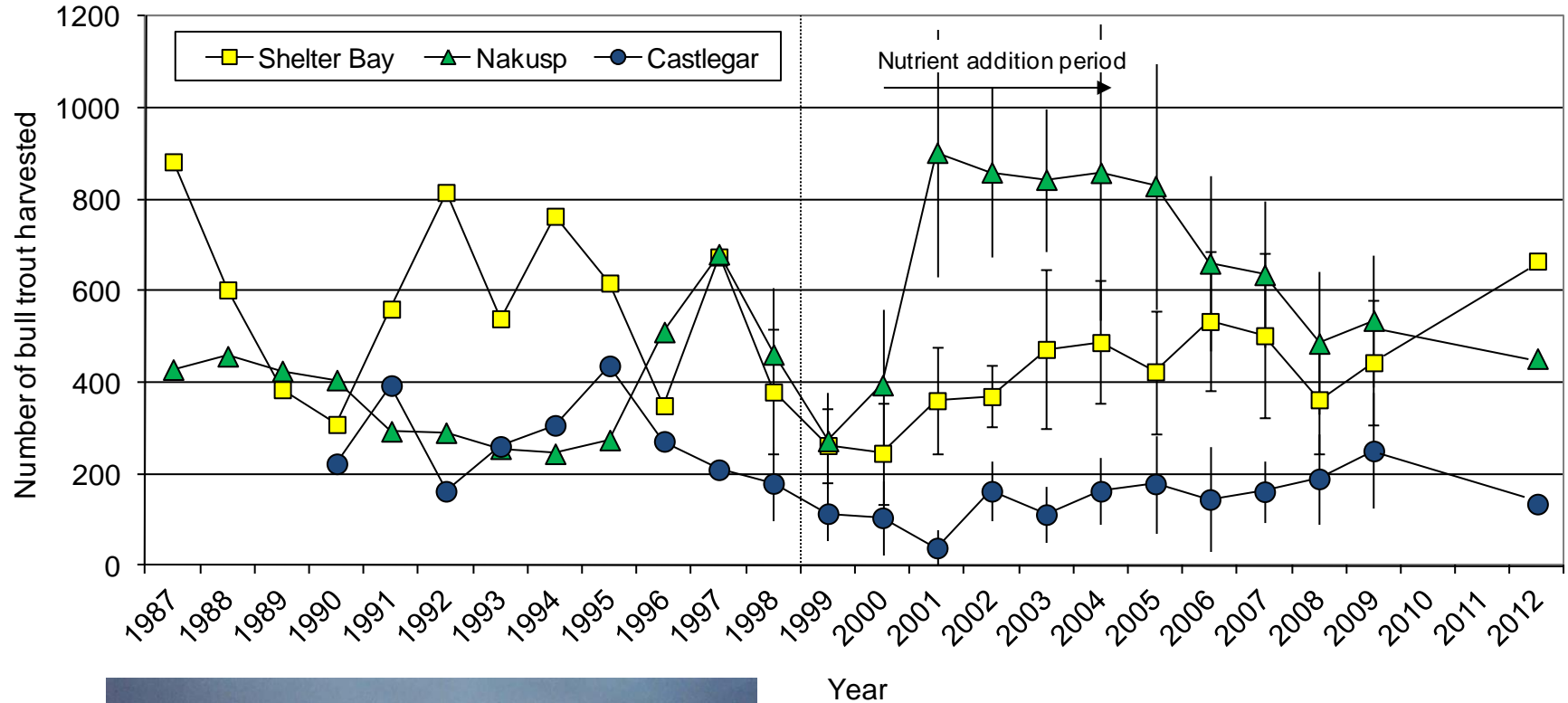
Local Project Updates

- Egg-to-fry survival high at Hill Creek (2 million fry in 2013)
- Six+ years that egg-to-fry survival has been higher than 50% (and as high as 69%)
- While channel is very successful at fry production, very high kokanee densities may not help angling opportunities, or larger predators
- Technical Meeting in July to review channel operations, fisheries data to further explore options
- May mean changes to the fry production targets to improve angling
- Some angling stats...

Fishery Trends: kokanee harvest

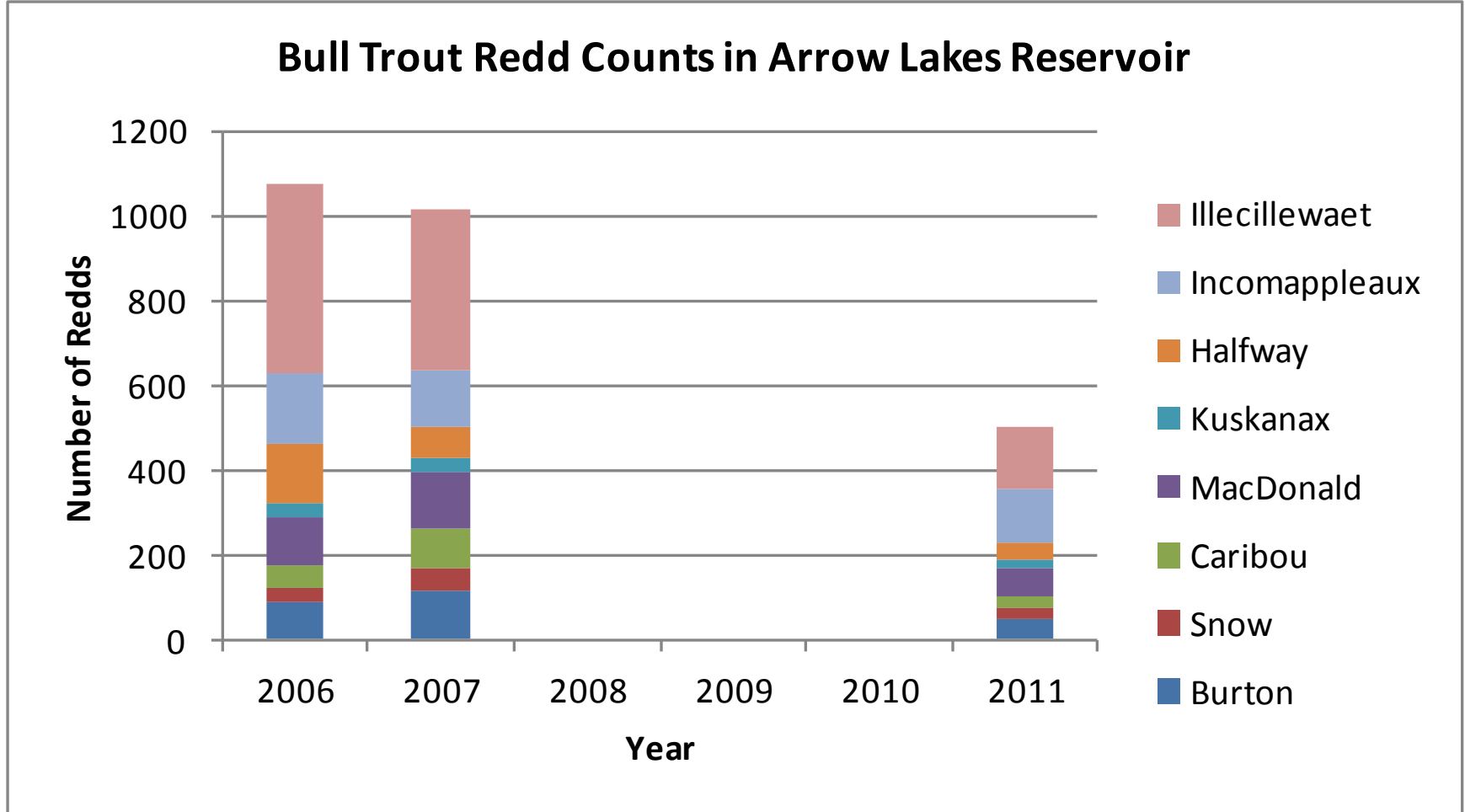


Fishery Trends: bull trout harvest



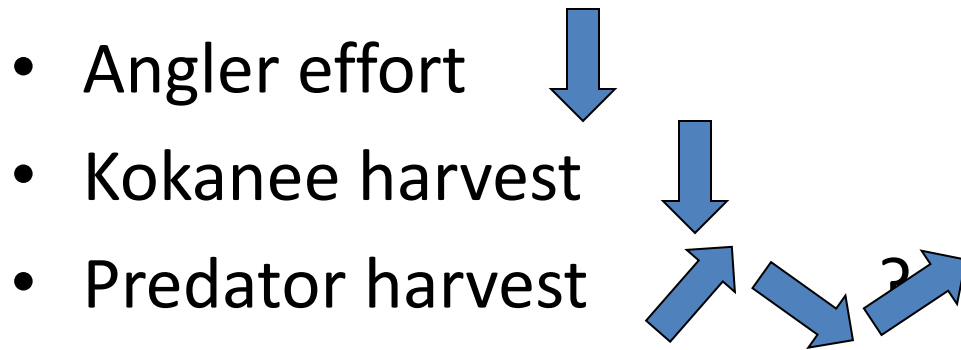


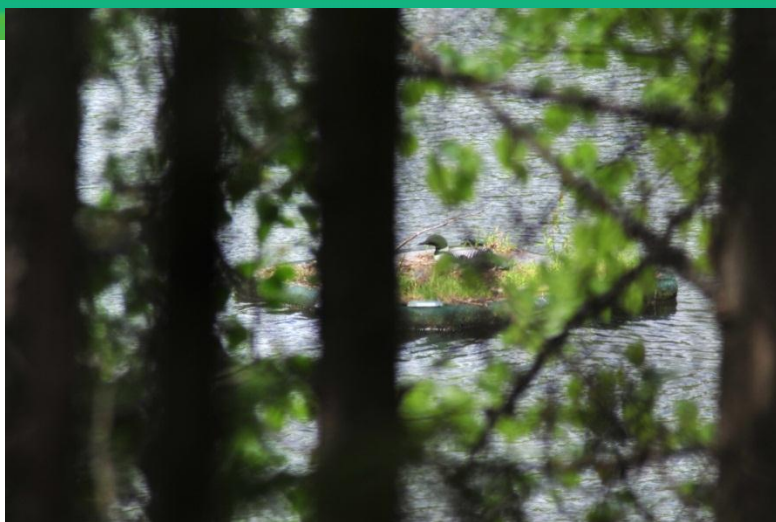
Bull trout redd counts



Fishery trends: Summary

How has the fishery changed since the nutrient program?





Dam Impact Assessment - Overview

1. Mapping of basic aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems (within the dam footprints)
 2. Assessing changes in primary productivity
 3. Assessing changes to aquatic and terrestrial habitats
 4. Assessing impacts on individual fish and wildlife species
 5. Identification of compensation options
- ~ Four Year Project
 - Summary in 2011 by Utzig and Schmidt report
 - Available at fwcpcolumbia.ca (Reports, Search “Dam Impact”)





Whatshan River inflow into turbid Lower Arrow Lake at Needles (pre-dam).

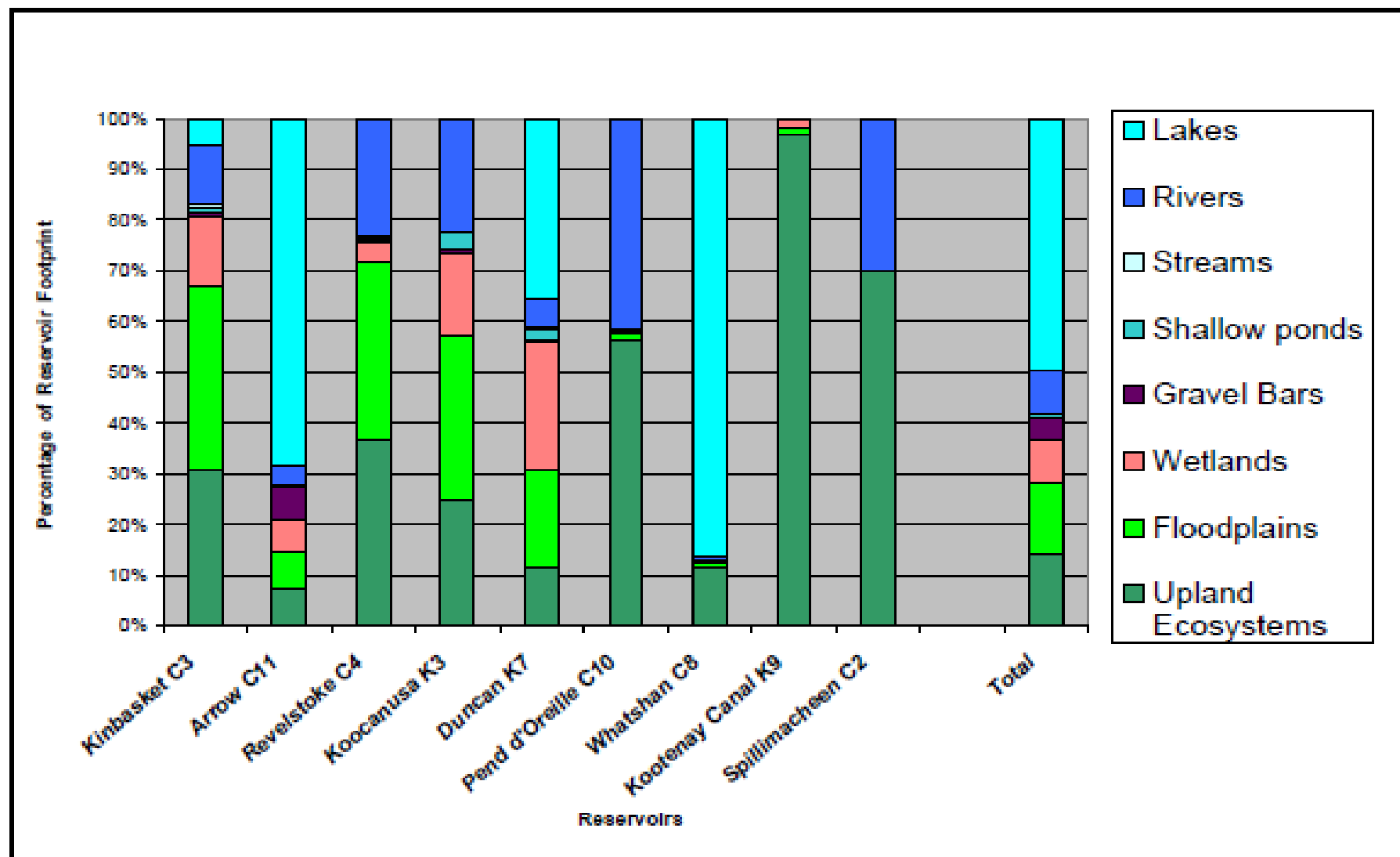


Figure 3: Percentages by area for various pre-dam aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems by reservoir (from Ketcheson et al. 2005, Moody et al. 2007, Utzig and Holt 2008). Floodplains include riparian forests and some wetlands as defined by Moody et al. (2007) and Utzig and Holt (2008).

Basin and Action Plans

- Set the strategic direction
- Guide the development of projects
- Ecosystem-forward looking approach
- Living documents, changed over time
- All available at fwcp.ca



Basin and Action Plans

- Basin Plan
- Action Plans:
 - Large Lakes
 - Riparian & Wetland
 - Small Lakes
 - Species of Interest
 - Streams
 - Upland and Dryland
- Deadline for FWCP applications is November (fwcp.ca)
- Budget increase towards external project applicants by \$100,000 (to \$0.5 million) for 2013
- Bio there to help community groups





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