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**To:** WEI Technical Working Group members

**From:** Jayson Kurtz and Jennifer Carter

**Date:** September 8, 2021

**Re:** Summary of TWG meeting held Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

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Attendees:

- Dan Sneep (DFO)
- Andy Lecuyer (RT)
- Rahul Ray (EDI)
- Jayson Kurtz (Ecofish Research Ltd.)
- Jennifer Carter (Ecofish Research Ltd.)
- Phillip Krauskopf (FLNRORD)
- Nikolaus Gantner (FLNRORD)

Meeting Objective: update on TWG progress and timelines, discuss next MT meeting.

Agenda:

- Update on TWG progress, RT strike.
- Update on incorporating climate change into modeling.
- Update on reporting and deliverables.
- Reed canary grass

Meeting summary:

RT strike:

- DFO permitted an emergency authorization on Kemano given uncertainty and risk – only related to outage and time limited authorization
- Kemano supports smelter as well as system stability to overall energy network
- Company and union are in discussion and working through negotiations
- STMP was managed normally but RT released additional water after to benefit fish and recreation
  - Additional flow was requested by various stakeholders – good example of how short-term information from stakeholders can improve RT operations.
  - Additional flow did not exceed maximum recommended flows for CH spawning
- Currently there is a low flood risk but remains uncertain with seasonal rain

- Bathymetry data was collected and lidar will be completed in September
- RT is working with Cheslatta Nation to complete eDNA work to evaluate fish community (i.e., white pygmy fish) and periodicity within Nechako River, Cheslatta system, and tributaries.

Climate change update:

- Ecofish has been meeting with climate change researchers to determine approach to incorporate climate change into flow scenarios
  - Full climate models are being developed but won't be completed until next year; however, there are interim approaches to incorporate climate change projections into modeling flow scenarios.
  - Interim approach to be confirmed over the next month or two
- RT also monitoring river data to input into models

Reporting and deliverables:

- WEI process team has been working on a report template to document WEI process
- TWG will be reviewing technical memos, summaries and scoping documents to ensure they accurately reflect discussions

Reed canary grass:

- Nikolaus sent Wayne's email to provincial ecosystem personnel and have yet to hear back. He will also share with provincial invasive species team in Victoria to delineate spread.
- Need to determine where it comes from, how it spreads, etc.
  - One seed in erosion sediment control mixtures that are non-native mixes
- To be discussed further at next meeting

BT PM update

- BT spawning numbers related to flow study under review by Nikolaus and will be shared with TWG thereafter.

Other discussion:

- Everyone agrees digital format for next MT meeting is appropriate and TWG to remain digital unless back to back meeting with in person MT meeting.
- TWG schedule will continue every two weeks but length of meetings will be catered based on information to discuss.