

Table Information needs

Issue category	Issue	Description	Required action	Suggested studies/knowledge holders
Chinook/Sockeye/aquatic life	Chinook status and needs	Chinook salmon are an important species in the Nechako region. Having a solid understanding of their status and their needs (e.g. habitat, water flow, timing and temperature needs) is important in understanding what changes in Rio Tinto Nechako operations are needed	Rahul Ray (RR)/Jason Kurtz (JK) as Coordinator for the Technical Working Group (TWG) to coordinate a presentation to the WEI Table by the Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO) on their mandate, the Wild Salmon Policy, salmon species in the Nechako (including Chinook and Sockeye), water temperature targets and the associated rationale, and the status of aquatic life in the system.	
Salmon	Understanding of Wild Salmon Policy	DFO has developed the Wild Salmon Policy. There is a need to understand the policy, and its implications for the work the WEI Table is doing	See above	
Water release facility	Need for context on water release facility	The Water Release Facility has been discussed for many years. There is a need for information to set the context for the discussion.	Mike Robertson and Andrew Czornohalan to provide updates as discussions by the First Nations Major Projects Coalition and Rio Tinto about a Water Release Facility (WRF) advance.	
Sturgeon	Sturgeon	Sturgeon are an important species in the Nechako region. Having a solid understanding of their status and their needs (e.g. habitat, water flow, timing and temperature needs) is important in understanding what changes in Rio Tinto Nechako operations would be beneficial	RR/JK to coordinate presentation by a representative from the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI). RR/JK to coordinate a presentation on Sturgeon work that has been completed by the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC) including Sturgeon spawn monitoring and juvenile indexing.	Mike Robertson suggested a Sturgeon inventory in Ootsa Lake

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Resident fish species/aquatic life	Resident fish status and needs	Resident fish species inhabit the reservoir and the Nechako River. Information is needed about their health and their needs (e.g. habitat, water flow, timing and temperature needs)	RR/JK to coordinate a presentation to the WEI Table by Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) representatives about their mandate and the status of the species and aquatic life in the Nechako that are part of their mandate.	
Wildlife	Wildlife issues along the reservoir and the Nechako River	WEI Table members have spoken about the need to understand the range of wildlife issues that exist along the Nechako Reservoir and River. Species identified include: beavers, muskrats, shorebirds, Canada geese, osprey, moose	RR/JK to coordinate a presentation to the WEI Table by FLNRORD wildlife representatives about their mandate and an overview of species that interact with Rio Tinto operations in the Nechako region.	Gerd suggested a knowledge holder is Alan Ray (Fort Fraser)

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Reservoir	Need for detailed understanding of issues occurring in the reservoir	<p>Bank erosion Log and deadheads Osprey Fisheries (e.g. rainbow trout, burbot) Littoral productivity Spawning habitat Recreation (e.g. canoeing) Wildlife habitat</p> <p>Hard limits on reservoir? Access issues during low water</p>	RR/JK to coordinate presentation by Rio Tinto about reservoir management, including efforts that have been undertaken to manage issues that have emerged.	<p>Tim Plesko</p> <p>Elizabeth Doreig</p> <p>JK/TWG to compile bathymetry data on lakes including information from the Nechako Watershed Council (NWC)</p> <p>TWG to compile information on temperature profiles in the reservoir</p> <p>TWG to compile fisheries information in the reservoir</p>
Archaeological sites	Known archeological issues	Inundation of archaeological sites (e.g. village sites, graveyards)	RR to coordinate a presentation by Mike Robertson on Cheslatta archeological sites affected by Rio Tinto Nechako operations.	Identified archeological knowledge holders in the Nechako include First Nations, Craig Hooper and Frank Craig
Erosion	Current erosion causes, sensitive locations, and opportunities		TWG to assess available resources and outline erosion/sediment information package/presentation for WEI Table participants.	
Nechako Fisheries Conservation Program	NFCP role	The NFCP plays an important role in the Nechako region. Need to understand their role, mandate, and composition	RR/JK to coordinate NFCP presentation later in the WEI process.	

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Power production	Rio Tinto power generation		RR/JK to coordinate a presentation by Rio Tinto representatives about low carbon dioxide emissions, power needs, and power generation for the grid. This may be combined with the Rio Tinto presentation above.	WEI Table tour of Kemano
Communication	Emergency incident communication	Need for clear communication and engagement procedures in the event of an emergency that affects the Nechako region e.g. Big Bar Slide	RR to research Emergency Management BC to understand their role. RR to convene WEI Table Communication Working Group (CWG). Once CWG is convened, confirm areas of communication to improve.	
Communication	Rio Tinto operational emergency communication and engagement	Need to confirm the process for communicating and engaging interested parties should a Rio Tinto operational emergency occur	Once the CWG is convened, the CWG will review existing Rio Tinto operational emergency communication and engagement processes and suggest process revisions. The CWG will present recommendations to the Main WEI Table.	
Communication	Ongoing operation communication	Review and confirm adequacy of existing communication mechanisms, e.g. Flow Facts, frequency of face-to-face update meetings, update if staff transition out of their roles	Once the CWG is convened, the CWG will review existing Rio Tinto operational emergency communication and engagement processes and suggest process revisions. He CWG will present recommendations to the Main WEI Table.	

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Communication	Determine interest in multi-party body post-WEI process	Some participants have expressed an interest in having an ongoing role in Rio Tinto operations once the WEI process is complete. What that process looks like and how it functions will be discussed through the WEI process	RR to track interest in a post-WEI process group throughout the WEI process and propose a draft structure when appropriate.	
Rio Tinto information resources	Understand the breadth of knowledge and tools that Rio Tinto has	Rio Tinto has a wealth of tools that they have to manage their existing operations that may be useful to the WEI Table	RR/JK to coordinate a presentation about the tools available from Rio Tinto to support the WEI Table/TWG.	
Rio Tinto operations	Current Rio Tinto operations	Rio Tinto currently operates under an existing regulatory structure. Need to understand the structure they work within.	To be included as part of the Rio Tinto presentation above: "Understand the breadth of knowledge and tools that Rio Tinto has.	
Rio Tinto goals	Understanding of Rio Tinto's hopeful outcomes	WEI participant asked "what will Rio Tinto consider a gold star. What will be an indicator of a successful process?"	To be developed and presented through the WEI process.	
Geomorphology	Geomorphological processes and interactions	Need to better understand geomorphological processes in the Nechako system, e.g. sediment issues Biological effects of sediment (e.g. vegetation)	JK to coordinate knowledge transfer though the TWG. If needed, coordinate presentation to the WEI Main Table.	
Agriculture	Agricultural interests	Need for detailed understanding of issues facing agricultural producers along the Nechako, e.g. fencing, erosion	TWG to compile available agriculture-related tenure and water intake information from the Province of BC. RR/JK to coordinate issues summary from Nechako agricultural Interest holders.	

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Aquifer	Aquifer location, function, and health	Need to understand the information that currently exists about the aquifers in Nechako region	TWG to compile information about Nechako aquifers (e.g. Geoscience BC).	
Ice jams	Effects on communities and community infrastructure	Understand issues, areas of concern communication needs	TWG to compile information on Rio Tinto operational effects on community infrastructure (e.g. PG).	
Murray-Cheslatta system	Overview of the Murray-Cheslatta system and existing issues	The Murray-Cheslatta system has been affected by Rio Tinto operations. There is a need to understand the sediment load, existing biological issues, and restoration opportunities.	RR to coordinate field trip to the Murray-Cheslatta system in June 2020.	
Non-flow enhancements	Contributing system features	Numerous water bodies support the ecological function of the Nechako system, including tributaries, side-channels, off-channel habitat, and riparian areas	TWG to compile information on Nechako water bodies supporting the ecological function of the Nechako system, including tributaries, side-channels, off-channel habitat, and riparian areas. Work with Wayne Salewski who has collected some of this information.	
Waterfowl	Waterfowl habitat and flow considerations	Waterfowl, their habitat, riparian habitat, and potential interaction with flushing flows	TWG to compile relevant information on Nechako waterfowl.	
Recreation	Recreation needs	Recreation use on the river is diverse.	TWG to compile existing recreation information.	
Water Quality	Maintain water quality	Water quality has been identified as an important consideration by Indigenous communities and stakeholders Methyl mercury?	TWG to compile available information on water quality.	

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Health of the river	Interest in improving the health of the river	Need to explore the components of a healthy river	Information to be compiled through the WEI process.	
Flooding	Flooding	<p>Need to better understand why flooding occurs, where it does, systems that are in place to prevent flooding, and improvements that can be made</p> <p>Flood management and information about flooding risks and magnitude important for city planning: timing and cost of mitigation, capitol work planning, erosion protection design and costs, setback distances, property buy-outs, archaeology sites, aquifer impacts, availability of offsetting areas, opportunities to educate public/developers, etc</p>	<p>TWG to compile information on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. work done to proactively manage high water in the reservoir 2. mitigation to reduce the impacts of high water 3. modelling for the Nechako, RT and River Forecast Ctr. 4. effect of Nechako flooding on tributaries (i.e. Nautley 5. Flood considerations in PG/Fraser R 6. role of high water (re-watering) as part of the natural river cycle 	
Climate change	Climate change implications	Climate change will be an important consideration in the WEI process	RR/JK to coordinate presentation on the climate change implications for Rio Tinto operations to coordinate presentation (e.g. Dr. Stephen Dery). Explore opportunities to combine presentation with ice jam information.	
Ongoing research	Ongoing information needs	Continuous learning will be important in responding to emerging issues with Rio Tinto operations	RR to coordinate the preparation of a wall map showing key features in the Nechako region.	
Community involvement	Role community involvement moving forward	There is an interest in community involvement in ongoing Rio Tinto operations	RR to track this through the WEI process.	