

QUALITY WATERS FUND - YEAR 3 PROJECT REPORT

Summary

Skeena

HCTF Project
Number: 6-268

SUMMARY FUNDING TABLE

	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Spending	Variance
Skeena River	\$57,000	\$47,415	-\$9,585
Kitwanga River	\$13,500	\$5,000	-\$8,500
Bulkley River	\$38,500	\$30,000	-\$8,500
Kispiox	\$2,000	\$0	-\$2,000
Morice	\$2,000	\$0	-\$2,000
TOTAL	\$113,000	\$82,415	-\$30,585

General Project Summary

2020 was an extremely challenging year for all. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, portions of the QWS project were impacted; however, other Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation-funded projects were delivered during the 2020-21 funding cycle. The completed projects will provide fishery information to decision-makers, to better inform stakeholders and provide angling opportunity in the Skeena Region. Projects included an estimate of the aggregate abundance of the Skeena Interior Summer Steelhead ecotype via the Tyee Test Fishery, as well as the Witset Mark-Recapture population estimate of Bulkley and Morice River steelhead abundance, the premier steelhead fishery in British Columbia and Kitwanga over-winter exploitation assessment. The one project not completed in 2020, was the Kitwanga River dual-beam identification sonar project, mid-Skeena indication stream. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen issues with staff availability and the COVID 19 pandemic the guardian portion of the project was deferred in 2020/2021. This change in project deliverables can be reflected in the funds not spent over the project year.

Progress and Challenges in Achieving 2018-2021 Project Outcomes

The past three years have been extremely challenging for region fisheries staff. Skeena fisheries section has been understaffed since 2019, leading to the sections inability to complete some of the outlined QWS activities. COVID 19 only exasperated the current situation by reducing the staff's ability to participate in and complete annual stock assessment and quality waters projects. Besides the challenges identified, regional fisheries staff were still able to complete a highly successful suite of projects over the past three years. Information collected through project activities have assisted decision makers and resource managers in offering sustainable and world class recreational fisheries.

Additional Supporting Information



