

QUALITY WATERS FUND - YEAR 1 PROJECT REPORT      West Coast Region      HCTF Project Number: 0-545

Part 1: Summary

**SUMMARY FUNDING TABLE**

	<b>2021-22 Budget</b>	<b>2021-22 Spending</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Haida Gwaii (various)</b>	\$15,000	\$19,382	\$4,382
<b>Yakoun River</b>	\$7,575	\$0	-\$7,575
<b>Tlell River</b>	\$8,000	\$2,000	-\$6,000
<b>Mainland Coast (Various)</b>	\$9,000	\$0	-\$9,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,575</b>	<b>\$21,382</b>	<b>-\$18,193</b>

**General Project Summary**

There were four components to the Region 1 QWS program in 2021-22. The River Guardian program (component 1) was successfully delivered in partnership with the BC Conservation Foundation and the Haida Fisheries Program. This was the fourth year of the project and it ran relatively smoothly again in 2021-22 despite the difficulties of covid and some extreme rain events which caused periods of reduced access. Analysis and reports have now been completed for the River Guardian activities in years 1-3 and data entry, analysis and reporting for 2021-22 is underway. As expected, the effects of covid and travel restrictions to Haida Gwaii reduced the overall angler activity on the Yakoun River in 2020-21, and shifted the proportion of anglers towards Haida Gwaii residents in 2020-21 more so than BC residents from areas outside of Haida Gwaii. There were two observations of anglers fishing in closed-waters in 2020-21 which is the first observation of non-compliance in three years of Guardian surveys. Surveys have suggested similarities in spatial distribution of angler effort between years and response to environmental conditions (discharge). The results of the River Guardian surveys are producing meaningful insights into the spatial-temporal distribution and behaviour of steelhead anglers on the Yakoun River, and are continuing to provide an opportunity for collaboration with the Haida Fisheries Program and their direct engagement with anglers on the waters of Haida Gwaii. A sampling plan for the Tlell River surveys (component 3) was completed in 2021-22 together with organization of field staff, however rain events in the fall prevented field surveys from being completed. Unspent dollars from this component were re-allocated to complete additional Yakoun River Guardian sampling instead. Neither the Yakoun electrofishing surveys (component 2) nor the mainland coast steelhead surveys (component 4) were completed in 2021-22 due to staffing and time constraints. As a result, we are underspent across these components and unspent QWS dollars are being returned to HCTF.

**Capital Asset Purchase information:**

none

**Additional Supporting Information**

Yakoun River Guardian Program: Year 3 Summary (2020-21). Report completed by J. Sibbald, MFLNRORD.

**Photos**

none available