

Part 1: Summary

**SUMMARY FUNDING TABLE**

	<b>2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>2022-23 Spending</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Haida Gwaii (various)</b>	\$14,000	\$15,719	\$1,719
<b>Yakoun River</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Tlell River</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Mainland Coast (Various)</b>	\$12,000	\$9,102	-\$2,898
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>	<b>\$24,821</b>	<b>-\$1,179</b>

**General Project Summary**

There were two components to the Region 1 QWS program in 2022-23. The River Guardian program (component 1) was successfully delivered in partnership with the BC Conservation Foundation and the Haida Fisheries Program. This was the fifth year of the project and it ran relatively smoothly again in 2022-23. Analysis and reports have now been completed for the River Guardian activities in year 4 and data entry, analysis and reporting for 2022-23 is underway. The effects of covid appear to still be apparent in terms of angler origins, where overall effort has remained reasonably similar across the four years of study but a proportional increase of Haida Gwaii resident anglers have participated in Years 3 and 4, and BC resident angler proportional participation (non Haida Gwaii) returned to pre-pandemic levels. There were no observations of anglers fishing in closed-waters in 2021-22, as was observed in Years 1 and 2 of the program. 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. In 2021, the HCTF Board requested that mainland coast steelhead surveys be completed (component 2). Capacity limitations in 2021 meant we were unable to complete these surveys, however surveys were completed in 2022-23 using a combination of internal and external staff. Selection of survey timing in 2021-22 proved difficult due to the frequency and significance of rainfall events together with the risk of snow-melt related to intermittent warm periods. Nevertheless, a survey day was completed on three of the historically surveyed river sections (Kakweiken, Ahnuhati, and Glendale Rivers). Only a single steelhead was observed (Glendale) but poor survey conditions were a significant factor.

**Capital Asset Purchase information:**

none

**Additional Supporting Information**

Yakoun River Guardian Program: Year 1 Summary (2021-2022). Report completed by J. Fleming, MoF.

**Photos**

Three photos are included with this report - all were taken by Mike McCulloch. Two photos are of swimmers during the Mainland Coast snorkel surveys. The third is an aerial view of the recent landslide.



