

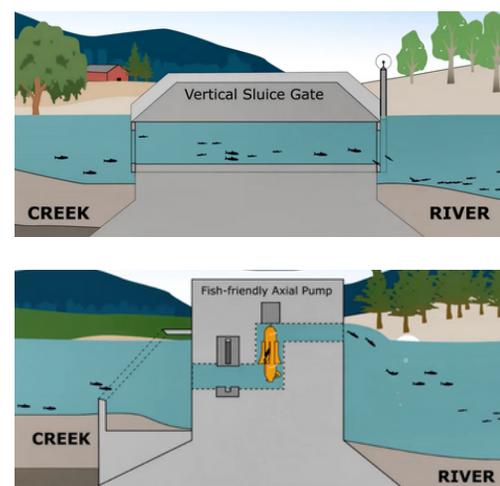
Connected Waters: Restoring connectivity and function to salmon habitat impacted by flood infrastructure

WHAT ARE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS?

Nature-based solutions are strategic actions that can be taken to protect or restore terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The purpose of nature-based solutions is to address societal challenges while working with nature. This integrated approach helps combat climate change and biodiversity loss while supporting sustainable development. Benefits of nature-based solutions include supporting biodiversity, providing ecosystem services, and slowing further warming.

FISH-FRIENDLY FLOOD CONTROL AND MULTI-BENEFIT FLOODPLAIN GOVERNANCE

- 1,500 kilometres of salmon habitat is currently blocked by outdated flood infrastructure in the lower Fraser floodplain. Watershed Watch Salmon Society's "Connected Waters" campaign aims to reconnect and restore blocked waterways by upgrading to fish-friendly flood infrastructure.
- Fish-friendly infrastructure, such as axial pumps and vertical sluice gates, help connect habitat and are comparable in price to fish-killing structures like impeller pump stations.
- Proactive planning and risk reduction requires a change of perspective from 'managing floods' to 'managing for floods'.
- For effective governance, there must be collaboration between stakeholders and rights holders, such as Indigenous communities, conservation organizations, farmers, and every level of government.



Figures: Watershed Watch Salmon Society

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Learn more about Watershed Watch Salmon Society's ["Connected Waters" program](#).
- Read the [Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation's report](#) about cost-comparison for nature-based solutions.
- Visit the [Floodplains by Design](#) website to learn about building trust and collaborations between stakeholders and rights holders that typically would not be at the same table to protect multiple community needs.
- Use nature-based solutions to improve salmon and other wildlife habitat by participating in the [Natural Edge shoreline re-naturalization program](#).
- Pick native plant species that are suited for your area's sunlight and moisture availability, and that have benefit to wildlife species, using the Natural Edge's free Canada-wide [Native Plant Database](#).
- Read about the work of the [Build Back Better, Together Collaborative](#), an Indigenous-led group of organizations and experts working towards reducing systemic challenges and developing more integrated and resilient flood planning.
- Learn more about your local flooding infrastructure in B.C., or to start a conversation to improve the operations of pump stations and gates, by contacting your local government's diking district/authority.
- Visit [Resilient Waters'](#) website to learn which types of flood infrastructure have the greatest impact on fish.