

**Terms of Reference  
for  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Ministry of Environment (MOE) and BC Hydro  
(BCH) Fish / Hydro Management Committee**

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**AUTHORITY:**

The Fish/Hydro Management Committee will report to a Fish, Wildlife and Hydro Policy Committee comprised of:

- DFO Regional Director, Oceans Habitat and Enhancement Branch
- MOE Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship Division
- BCH Manager, Environment & Social Issues, Engineering, Aboriginal Relations & Generation

The Management Committee will meet with the Policy Committee on an annual basis, or as required, to review progress and priorities.

**OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of the Fish / Hydro Management Committee is to develop a joint work plan to enhance corporate compatibility between DFO, MOE and BC Hydro.

Components of the objective are to minimize and resolve conflicts, improve communications, provide and promote resource stewardship, improve understanding, develop and share research and monitoring programs and enhance implementation of joint initiatives related to fisheries resources.

**SCOPE:**

- The Management Committee will build on existing partnerships and relationships between the parties to provide a solutions-oriented forum to resolve issues and to facilitate and improve communications at all levels within the organisations.
- The Management Committee will prepare a joint work plan and schedule to outline key initiatives required to carry out the objective. The plan will be reviewed annually with the Policy Committee.
- The Management Committee will prepare a list of issues and initiatives that may require further discussion or action by the Committee or its members.

**PARTICIPATION:**

The Management Committee will be comprised of members from:

- DFO:
  - Conservation and Protection
  - Oceans Habitat and Enhancement Branch

- MOE: - Environmental Stewardship and Biodiversity
  - Planning, Innovation and Enforcement
  - Water Stewardship Division
- BCH: - BCTC Environmental Group (represented by BCH Field Operations)
  - Engineering, Aboriginal Relations & Generation
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  - Safety, Health, and Environment

### **CHAIR:**

The Management Committee will meet quarterly and will be hosted and chaired by each of the three member agencies on a rotational basis. The chair will be responsible for organization of venue and agenda and will prepare draft minutes for circulation to the Management Committee for comment.

### **KEY CONTACTS:**

DFO - Regional Manager, Habitat Protection and Sustainable Development  
 MOE - Manager, Aquatic Ecosystem Science  
 BCH - Manager, Regulatory Relations, Engineering, Aboriginal Relations & Generation (EARG)

### **PRIMARY PROGRAM AREAS (but not limited to):**

#### **Compensation and Restoration Programs:**

**Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program:** The CBFWCP is a joint initiative between BC Hydro, Ministry of Environment and Fisheries & Oceans Canada to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations affected by the construction of BC Hydro dams in Canada's portion of the Columbia Basin. The program has an annual budget of \$3.2 million (indexed for inflation - now \$3.88 million in year 10). Participants in the program include BC Hydro, MOE, DFO, the Public and First Nations.

**Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program:** The PFWWCP was established in 1988 to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations affected by the construction of BC Hydro dams in the Peace Basin. The program has an annual budget of (\$1 million/year). Participants in the program include BC Hydro, MOE and DFO.

**Bridge Coastal Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program:** The BCRP funds projects to restore fish and wildlife populations and habitat in watersheds impacted by hydroelectric generation facilities in BC Hydro's Bridge River/Coastal Generation Area. The Bridge River/Coastal Generation Area includes the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Coastal, Bridge River and Shuswap facilities. BC Hydro contributes \$1.5 million to the BCRP in annual

funding to support eligible fish and wildlife projects within this Area. Participants in the program include BC Hydro, MOE, DFO, the Public and First Nations.

**Protocol Agreement for Maintenance Work In and Around Water:**

The Agreement and Work Practices document sets up a new, more collaborative way of dealing with the day-to-day issues of managing ongoing maintenance that could impact fish and fish habitat.

**Other Approved Work Practices:** The Protocol Agreement also allows for the development and implementation of other agreed work practices:

- Maintenance and Upgrades of Roads and Water Crossings
- Maintenance Work in Coastal and Estuarine Areas
- Pole and Steel Tower Maintenance and Line Decommissioning.

**Water Use Plan (WUP) Implementation:**

The implementation of the BCH WUPs will involve flow changes and an extensive monitoring program to assess the effectiveness of the WUP decisions. A Compliance Protocol signed by the parties will act as a guide for compliance checking and possible investigation and enforcement actions.