



Site Visit Report: SV-2020-07-27

## Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Swift Creek (BC-32) Watercourse Crossing Compliance Verification Activity Report

<b>Date</b>	July 27, 2020	<b>Time on site</b>	12:35 pm	<b>Time off site</b>	3:00 pm
<b>DFO attendees</b>	William Brewis (WB), Biologist; and Evan Henderson (EH), Biologist.				
<b>IAMC attendees</b>	M.W. (Whispering Pines/Clinton First Nation), IAMC Indigenous Monitor T.F. (Simpchw First Nation), IAMC Indigenous Monitor				
<b>On-site contractor/equipment</b>	<b>Role</b>				
I.M.	Trans Mountain Representative				
S.C.	Triton Crew Lead				
J.H.	Triton Crew Member				
R.H.	Project Indigenous Monitor (Simpchw Resource Group)				
Spawning deterrent mats	A truck with multiple rolls of spawning deterrent mats was taken onsite so that the mats could be manually installed. Each mat roll is 48" x 50' formed by a square mesh 2" x 2". No other machinery was onsite, and no vehicles entered the watercourse or came close to the bank.				
<b>IAMC Indigenous Monitor Observations and Comments</b>					
<p>During the site visit:</p> <p>TF: Noted that there are typically higher waters experienced with storm events later in the year (before December), which could have the potential to dislodge the anchored spawning deterrent mats.</p> <p>In response, DFO (WB) asked SC about the timeline for spawning deterrent removal. SC said that the spawning deterrent mats will be removed prior to freeze up, and that removal is anticipated to occur in late October 2020.</p> <p>TF and WB discussed positioning of the spawning deterrent mats relative to the construction activities at the time of the isolated crossing – spawning deterrent mats are to be placed upstream of the actual crossing in a temporary work area.</p> <p>MW asked about previous projects in comparison with Swift creek, noting that Swift Creek is a large installation.</p> <p>MW asked SC for details of the disinfection protocol that the construction team installing spawning deterrents adhered to before arriving at site. SC confirmed that the spawning deterrent mats arrive new and clean from the manufacturer, waders are disinfected by use of a 10:1 solution of quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), and other forms of Personal Protective Equipment are cleaned separately prior to working in a new watercourse.</p> <p>TF raised a concern about the possibility that Chinook could get under the “seams” of the spawning deterrent mats where one roll meets the other. SC responded that the rolls are placed with a 6” overlap to adjacent rolls, and that the cobble anchors used are primarily placed along these areas of overlap to prevent gaps being formed and to keep the mats flat against the streambed. TF noted that the mats were held down by medium size rocks covering an overlap. Based on TF’s experience with large Chinook salmon, TF was concerned that this covering may not be sufficient, particularly given that Chinook can dig quite deep to get to suitable spawning substrate and their tails are strong and can move rock.</p>					



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TF met with the Project IM (RH from SRG) and discussed the crossing and the site visit.

MW requested that Triton show their log book for the monitoring of spawning deterrent mats and describe the monitoring program (e.g., who does it? how often? what does it entail?). These monitoring and maintenance events will be conducted on an ongoing basis once while the mats are in stream. JH provided MW with a copy of the site-specific mitigation/spawning survey form that Triton will be using every 3 weeks, at a minimum.

During the debrief to the CVA:

- MW noted that there were no COVID-19 related questions for the CVA team, other than the Self-Declaration form provided by Trans Mountain in advance of the site visit, but that physical distancing was in place.
- MW raised a concern about the potential for photo-degradation of the plastic spawning deterrent mats while instream, under direct sunlight and current flow. Although DFO is aware of the production of dissolved organic carbon (and potential leachates depending on the type of plastic used) through the photochemical dissolution of microplastics when present in surface waters, photochemical dissolution of larger plastics held on the streambed over an approximate 3-month duration is not anticipated to occur at a level of concern to downstream ecology.
- TF restated a concern about the potential entry of Chinook under the spawning deterrent mats at the point of overlap between adjacent rolls. DFO is of the view that integrity of the overlap between spawning deterrent mat rolls will become evident through ongoing monitoring and maintenance visits by Triton.
- MW’s main concern, as an Indigenous Monitor, is the process in which any environmental mitigation that could possibly affect a public resource gets approved and implemented. Noting that a public study or paper that is peer reviewed in a credible journal is a scientific standard. MW said that the spawning deterrent mats are possibly effective at stopping local spawning, but that MW is unaware of any information on continued use of this practice or possible ill side effects such as damage or other injuries induced from challenging the fence, also the possible impact on other species or at risk species.
- MV was also noted that the mitigation spawning survey form could be revised to be less subjective and have more “measurables” in the spawning or mat repair comments section.
- Although the IAMC monitoring team did not enter the water during the site visit, TF raised the importance of having Swift Water training for wading through turbulent water to for personal and crew safety.
- The site visit was conducted during installation of the spawning deterrent mats. TF stated an interest in seeing the completed installation given potential concerns for Chinook getting underneath the mats. DFO suggested that information and photos may be available from the Project hired Indigenous Monitor from Simpcw Resource Group, who DFO understands will be conducting frequent monitoring and spawning survey visits to the spawning deterrent mats at the crossing.

Time	Inspection Activity
10:00 am – 11:00 am (Tim Hortons parking lot, Valemount, BC)	Pre-CVA meeting between DFO and IAMC Indigenous Monitors (IMs)
11:30 am – 12:00 pm (Yellowhead Motel parking lot, Valemount, BC)	Meeting between DFO, IAMC IMs, Trans Mountain, and their contractors for installation of the spawning deterrent mats, Triton.



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Time	Inspection Activity
12:35 pm – 1:05 pm (Swift Creek BC-32 crossing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IM provided a safety orientation for DFO and IAMC IMs.</li> </ul> <p>DFO, IAMC IMs, Triton and Trans Mountain drove to the Swift Creek crossing site in separate vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WB asked Triton for the dimensions of the spawning deterrent mat rolls (information provided above).</li> <li>- TF and WB discussed the planned placement of the spawning deterrent mats relative to the crossing (upstream from the area that will be isolated, in what will be a temporary work area).</li> </ul>
1:05 pm – 3:00 pm (Swift Creek BC-32 crossing)	<p>DFO and IAMC IMs observed Triton as they began installing the spawning deterrent mats immediately upstream of the Swift Creek crossing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Triton held the spawning deterrent mat rolls at the upstream end while allowing them to unfurl in a downstream direction by the action of the current.</li> <li>- Triton used large cobbles, taken from the channel margins, to anchor the upstream end of the mats, then gradually moved downstream to anchor the margins of the mat along its length. Cobbles were used to keep the mats flat against the seabed, and were positioned over the 6" overlap between two adjacent mats.</li> </ul> <p>WB asked SC what will happen to the cobbles used for anchoring the spawning deterrent mats when the mats are removed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SC responded that the cobble will be taken off in place while the mats are removed, then will be returned to the channel margins where they were originally taken from.</li> <li>- WB restated the importance of restoring the instream substrate to pre-installation conditions.</li> <li>- Triton agreed with this objective.</li> </ul> <p>WB met with the Project IM (RH from SRG) and discussed the crossing and the purpose of the site visit.</p> <p>TF met with the Project IM (RH from SRG) and discussed the crossing and the site visit.</p> <p>EH asked SC about the plan for returning for spawning surveys and maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SC responded that the team would be returning for surveys and maintenance in early August 2020.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>WB asked SC about the anticipated timing for removal of spawning deterrent mats at the Swift Creek crossing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SC said that most spawning deterrents were to be removed in late October or early November, and that the removal at Swift Creek is currently scheduled for the end of October 2020 (around October 20).</li> </ul>



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<b>Time</b>	<b>Inspection Activity</b>
	DFO and IAMC IMs ended their site visit. Triton and the Indigenous Monitor from SRG continued the installation of spawning deterrent mats.
3:15 – 4:15 pm (Yellowhead Motel parking lot, Valemount, BC)	DFO and IAMC IMs held a debrief meeting to discuss the observations and topics described in this report.

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*Measures specified within the Swift Creek Fisheries Act Authorization Conditions:*

<b>Schedule</b>						
2.2.2 Spawning deterrent mats must be installed by July 31 and prior to the arrival of adult Chinook spawners so as to minimize direct mortality of incubating eggs and larvae that may be present during construction. Spawning deterrent mats must be removed following the fall spawning season and prior to freeze-up.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.3 All instream construction works at the Swift Creek crossing, with the exception of the installation of spawning deterrent mats, must only be carried out between December 31, 2020 and February 28, 2021.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Triton anticipates that the installation of spawning deterrents will be completed on July 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.</li> <li>- DFO and IAMC IMs witnessed the installation of spawning deterrents mats by Triton crew.</li> <li>- No other construction activities were taking place.</li> </ul>						
<b>Action Items</b>						
None.						

<b>Installation of Spawning Deterrent Mats</b>						
2.2.4 The placement of spawning deterrent mats is to be conducted by hand, using clean material (e.g., snow matting and anchoring material) that is free of debris or contaminants. Any gear that has been in contact with other waterbodies must be disinfected as appropriate to prevent the spread of disease, prior to entry into Swift Creek.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.5 Spawning deterrent mats must be installed in a manner that does not impede the migration of fish.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.6 Spawning deterrent mats must only be placed over suitable spawning habitat located immediately upstream of the location of the proposed watercourse crossing (as identified in Figure 1 of the Application) and are not to exceed a total area of 400 m <sup>2</sup> .						
Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The mats were visually inspected by DFO and IAMC IMs and found to be clean and free of debris.</li> <li>- The rock anchors used to secure the spawning deterrent mats instream are native instream rocks.</li> <li>- The mats were installed flat against the stream bed.</li> <li>- The mats were observed to be installed in an areas upstream of the crossing, as shown by the red-bordered area in Figure 1 of the application for authorization.</li> </ul>						



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Action Items
DFO (WB and EH) requested that Trans Mountain/Triton provide confirmation of the area and location of spawning deterrents (e.g., a georeferenced map and photographs) once the installation of spawning deterrent mats was complete. Trans Mountain (IE) said that this will be provided.

Monitoring/Reporting Specific to Installation of Spawning Deterrent Mats
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3.3 A QEP must, at a frequency of at least once every 3 weeks inspect, maintain (e.g., re-positioning mats if altered due to flow conditions or sedimentation), and if necessary repair or replace the spawning deterrent mats so as to avoid impacts to fish and fish habitat resulting from the improper installation or improper maintenance of the mats.

Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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3.4 During the year in which the spawning deterrent mats are installed, the Proponent must conduct a fall spawning survey at the crossing to document the number, location, and behaviour of adult spawners, as well as the location and number of potential and active redds

Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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3.5 Following removal of the spawning deterrent mats, the Proponent must submit a report to DFO by January 31, 2021, detailing the results of the effectiveness monitoring associated with installation of the spawning deterrent mats as described in the Application.

Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments
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- Triton (SC and JH) confirmed that either they or RH (SRG) would be back onsite for monitoring and maintenance of the spawning deterrent mats.
- SC discussed plans with DFO and IAMC IMs for spawning surveys (approximate frequency: once every couple of weeks).
- Triton confirmed that they understood the reporting requirement for the results of the effectiveness monitoring associated with installation of the spawning deterrent mats as described in the Application.

Action Items
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None.

Monitoring during Construction Works
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3.1 A Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) must be present on site during the carrying on of all in-or near-water construction works, and is to monitor the works on an on-going basis to ensure that the standards and measures to avoid and mitigate impacts to fish and fish habitat are effective, and that unauthorized impacts to fish and fish habitat are avoided.

Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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3.2 An Indigenous Monitor, hired by the Proponent, must be present on site to monitor the carrying on of all in- or near-water construction works on an on-going basis, and given the opportunity to acquire Indigenous Knowledge (e.g., from local Indigenous communities) and to provide Indigenous Knowledge, as appropriate, in relation to the Proponent's carrying on of the construction works.



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Discussed/ observed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
3.6 The Proponent must monitor the implementation of avoidance and mitigation measures referred to in Condition 2 of this Authorization and submit weekly reports to DFO for the duration of the construction works (i.e., works related to pipeline installation, bank armouring, and riparian vegetation clearing).						
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments						
<p>-Qualified Environmental Professionals were onsite at the time conducting the instream work (SC and JH).</p> <p>-The project-hired Indigenous Monitor (RH) was onsite at 2.30 pm following their earlier safety orientation at the Valemount Camp, and spoke to DFO about the authorization.</p> <p>-Work had not progressed beyond a week, so a weekly monitoring report was not available at the time of the site visit.</p>						
Action Items						
None.						

Site Isolation and Fish Salvage Measures						
<i>Swift Creek Fisheries Act Authorization Conditions</i>						
2.2.8 Prior to the excavation of the instream trench for the pipeline, work areas must be isolated from flowing water, but the downstream flow of the watercourse must be maintained at all times.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2.10 Isolated areas must be de-watered gradually to prevent sediment re-suspension and bank destabilization. Following isolation, any ice that is present must be carefully removed prior to or during the staged water withdrawal to limit fish mortality and sedimentation, and to allow fish salvage to occur.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2.11 Fish must be salvaged from the isolated work area and fish salvage is to be conducted by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) (e.g., a Registered Professional Biologist) under the authority of a scientific fish collection permit. Salvaged fish are to be released at a suitable location outside of the work area and within Swift Creek.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2.12 If site isolation methods used to prevent fish from entering the work areas are breached during construction works, works must stop immediately and must not re-commence until site isolation is re-established and additional fish salvages are undertaken to ensure fish are not within the work area.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Trans Mountain Pipeline Environmental Protection Plan Commitments</i>						
21. Clean fish salvage equipment (e.g., waders, boots, nets) of soil, and disinfect with 100 mg/L chlorine bleach before using in any watercourse to prevent the spread of pathogens (e.g., whirling disease) and/or invasive plant species.						



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Ensure that washed off soil is disposed of at a location that will prevent the reintroduction of these untreated materials into a watercourse.			
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Comments</b>			
-Conditions and commitment are for during the construction of the isolated crossing and do not apply at the time of installation of spawning deterrent mats.			
<b>Action Items</b>			
None.			

<b>Pump Intake Screening</b>			
2.2.9 Water intakes of any pumps are to be designed and screened in accordance with the <i>Interim Code of Practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater.</i>			
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Comments</b>			
-Condition is for during the construction of the isolated crossing and do not apply at the time of installation of spawning deterrent mats.			
<b>Action Items</b>			
None.			

<b>Water Quality Maintenance and Monitoring</b>			
<i>Swift Creek Fisheries Act Authorization Conditions</i>			
2.2.7 Effective sediment and erosion control measures (e.g., silt fencing) must be in place prior to the start of construction works (e.g., land-based preparation activities), as appropriate, such that the release of sediment into Swift Creek is avoided to the extent possible. Sediment and erosion control measures are to be upgraded and maintained, as appropriate, to maintain their effectiveness throughout the duration of the carrying on of construction works.			
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
2.2.13 Sediment-laden water from within the isolated work area is to be pumped out into a well-vegetated terrestrial area located away from the watercourse, such that there is no risk of sediment re-entering Swift Creek.			
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
2.2.14 A water quality monitoring program must be conducted during the carrying on of construction works in accordance with Trans Mountain's Water Quality Monitoring Management Plan. If levels of turbidity downstream of the work area exceed the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment [CCME] Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life [CCME 2016], construction activities must be ceased immediately and corrective action is to be taken consistent with subsection 38(6) of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> . Construction must only recommence once turbidity levels have returned to background conditions.			
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			



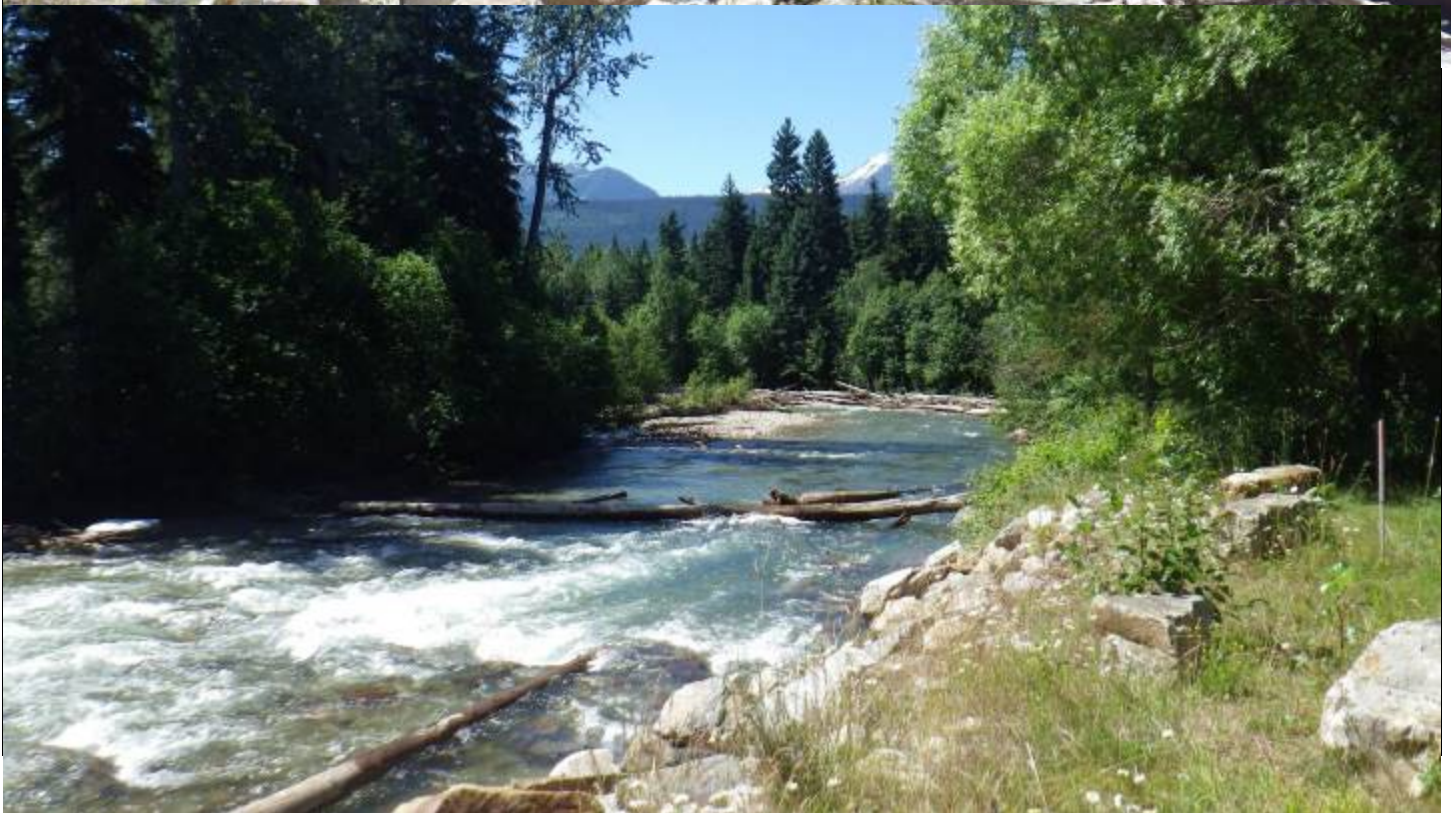


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<i>Trans Mountain Pipeline Environmental Protection Plan Commitments</i>						
29. Ensure that generators and pumps used for the construction of isolated watercourse crossings and/or trench dewatering have secondary containment that can hold a capacity of 125% (minimum) of the fuel tank when stationed, operated or refuelled within 100 m of a watercourse.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31. Ensure backup pumps are in place should a primary pump fail.						
Discussed/ observed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) identified:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Issue(s) unresolved:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments						
-Conditions are for during the construction of the isolated crossing and do not apply at the time of installation of spawning deterrent mats.						
Action Items						
None.						

<b>Additional comments or action items</b>
DFO followed up with Trans Mountain after the site visit and confirmed that the project Indigenous Monitor had a dual role of supporting spawning deterrent installation and monitoring works, undertakings and activities.

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**Photo 3. View across the right-of-way at the Swift Creek (BC-32) crossing**



**Photo 4. Spawning deterrent matting in rolls prior to installation in Swift Creek**

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**Photo 5. Installation of a spawning deterrent mat roll upstream of the Swift Creek crossing**

