Wild steelhead conservation planning in the Lower Mainland Region

# CHILLIWACK RIVER Adult Steelhead Sampling Program

SNORKEL COUNTS

Spring 2001

prepared for the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Surrey, BC



ARL report no. 369-4 2001 Wild steelhead conservation planning in the Lower Mainland Region

# CHILLIWACK RIVER Adult Steelhead Sampling Program

# **SNORKEL COUNTS**

# Spring 2001

prepared for the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Surrey, BC

by

Pier van Dishoeck, R.P. Bio

Aquatic Resources Limited 9010 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6P 4B9

ARL report no. 369-4 2001



#### SUMMARY

We conducted four snorkel floats of various sections of the Chilliwack/Vedder River between February 8 and April 12, 2001. The maximum count, 1204 steelhead, was obtained over a 26.5 km section, between April 10 and 12. This is the largest count over the 16 years of record for this system, and a six-fold improvement over the maximum count in 2000 (209 steelhead). As the reaches floated in each year have varied considerably, we compared the number of steelhead observed per kilometre surveyed. Our April 10 – 12 count was again the maximum for 2001 (45.5 fish / km), but was comparable to results for some earlier years. The 2001 count per kilometre represents a substantial increase over our best count in 2000 (5.3 fish / km).

Our surveys provide an index of returns in 2001, rather than an estimate of total escapement. As a stock assessment tool, snorkel floats are limited by a number of constraints. Floaters see only a proportion of fish present, and efficiency is strongly influenced by conditions encountered. Only selected sections are surveyed, and the number of floats conducted is limited by budget constraints and visibility conditions. Floats provide snapshot counts as fish numbers increase and decline over the course of the run. Unless residence time information is available, the proportion of fish also counted on previous surveys is not known. Between-year comparisons are complicated because timing and number of floats, as well as sections surveyed, vary considerably.

Limited observer efficiency data for the Chilliwack River suggest that snorkel floats detect 20 - 30% of fish present. About 20 km of the 61 km length of the system can be floated on a routine basis. More of the drainage can be surveyed under exceptionally favourable discharge and visibility conditions. We obtain a conservative index of adult abundance by ignoring processes that remove fish from the system (kelting and death). The index used is the maximum count per kilometre surveyed for each year assessed.

The snorkel count index suggests a marked increase in 2001 recruitment. Improved abundance provides a useful test of other available stock indices, including juvenile density assessments and measures of angler success. Data for comparison is available from Fall 2001 juvenile surveys, and the 2000/2001 Steelhead Harvest Analysis. Although correlation between the three indices is weak, historical juvenile and creel data, as well as past snorkel float results, suggest a persistent, long-term decline in Chilliwack steelhead recruitment. Although 2001 returns are encouraging, low escapement in previous years will continue to affect Chilliwack drainage steelhead stocks. Continued monitoring, and development of a conservation action framework, are required to ensure long term sustainability.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chilliwack River snorkel floats are a portion of ongoing work under the *Lower Mainland Wild Steelhead Conservation Plan Development* project. The *Habitat Conservation Trust Fund* (HCTF) supported program is designed to develop conservation targets and longterm monitoring protocols for steelhead in selected Lower Mainland rivers.

Peter Caverhill, Ross Neuman and Allen Hanson, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, monitored contracts, reviewed drafts, and have enthusiastically supported our work.

The 2001 field crew included Allen Hanson, Steve Latham, CEJ Mussell, Kaila Mussell, Jack Mussell, and Steve Olson. The Mussell family is again thanked for unrivalled hospitality.

Lynne Campo at Environment Canada provided the discharge data.

Allison Kozdron and Terry Maniwa helped prepare the report.

The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund was created by an act of the legislature to preserve, restore and enhance key areas of habitat for fish and wildlife throughout British Columbia. Anglers, hunters, trappers and guides contribute to the projects of the Trust Fund through license surcharges.



# **Table of Contents**

	Summary	i
	Acknowledgements	ii
	Table of Contents	iii
	List of Figures	iv
	List of Figures	iv
	List of Tables	iv
	List of Appendices	iv
1	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Snorkel floats	2
2	Methods	3
2.1	Study area	3
2.2	Discharge data	5
2.3	Sampling methodology	5
2.3.1	Snorkel float sections	6
2.4	Analysis	6
3	Results	8
3.1	Discharge data	8
3.2	2001 snorkel float results	9
3.2.1	Sections surveyed	9
3.2.2	Steelhead counts	10
4	Discussion	13
4.1	Observer efficiency	13
4.2	Comparison with previous snorkel float results	14
4.2.1	Steelhead per kilometre of stream	16
4.3	Correlation with other indices of abundance	19
5	Conclusions	21
5.1	Recommendations	22
	Literature cited	23

2001

# **List of Figures**

2.1.	Map of the Chilliwack/Vedder watershed study area4
3.1.	Discharge data for the Chilliwack River at Vedder Crossing, 1998-20018
3.2.	Discharge data for the Chilliwack River above Slesse Creek, 1998-2001
4.1.	Chilliwack River snorkel counts – 1973 through 200115
4.2.	Maximum snorkel counts for years sampled: 1973 through 200116
4.3.	Maximum number of steelhead observed / km surveyed: 1973 - 200117
4.4.	Steelhead observed per kilometre of river surveyed, 1973 through 200118
4.5.	Whole river fry densities, maximum count/km, and catch per angler day19
4.6.	Whole river mean fry densities and maximum steelhead count / km20
4.7.	Maximum steelhead count / km and SHA catch per angler day20

# List of Tables

2.1.	Chilliwack River float sections
3.1.	Snorkel float surveys completed in 20019
3.2.	Chilliwack River snorkel count: steelhead results, February - April 200110
3.3.	Chilliwack River snorkel count results, February - April 200111
3.4.	Chilliwack River snorkel count results, 2001 comparable reach11

# List of Appendices

Ι	Detailed results for 2001 Chilliwack River snorkel floats
Π	Snorkel float results for the Chilliwack River, 1973 - 2001

III Reaches floated on Chilliwack River surveys, 1973 - 2001

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

This data report presents results of snorkel float assessments of adult steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in the Chilliwack/Vedder River near Vancouver, BC. We conducted four surveys of various portions of the river over 12 field days between February 8 and April 12, 2001. Although snorkel floats do not provide a total escapement estimate, they furnish a useful index of stock performance.

# 1.1 Background

The Chilliwack system supports the largest population of winter steelhead trout in the Lower Mainland region, and the most intensive recreational steelhead fishery in British Columbia. Habitat degradation and low steelhead ocean survival have raised concerns over the long-term management of the stock. The BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (BC MWLAP) has managed steelhead in the system as an 'augmented' run since 1980. Augmented management refers to the release of hatchery steelhead for the purpose of providing a harvest fishery. Returns of adult hatchery fish are not intended to contribute to natural production, although spawning of hatchery fish does occur (Nelson *et al.* in prep.).

Stock health concerns, coupled with heavy recreational use and the hatchery program, require active management of Chilliwack steelhead. In 1997, regional biologists selected the system as one of six Lower Mainland steelhead streams with pressing conservation management concerns. To address these concerns, the *Lower Mainland Wild Steelhead Conservation Plan Development* program was undertaken, with *Habitat Conservation Trust Fund* (HCTF) support.

The program is designed to develop escapement targets and annual monitoring programs for Chilliwack steelhead. Targets are based on estimates of total system productive capacity and provide a concrete management objective, in terms of fry densities or returning adults. Annual monitoring of abundance is required to measure performance against conservation targets. Juvenile surveys can be used to estimate fry standing stock and measure fry habitat utilisation. These data can be used to predict smolt and adult production using survival assumptions, and to back-calculate adult escapement (the number of parents required to produce observed fry densities). Adult assessments are useful because conservation limits are most often defined in terms of returning adults.

To suggest preliminary escapement objectives, we collated available stock status information and modelled available freshwater habitat using a map-based tool (van Dishoeck *et al.* 1998). Adult snorkel counts and juvenile density surveys have been conducted in the Chilliwack drainage over the past two decades. While this information provides baseline steelhead population data, further research was necessary to develop robust, long-term monitoring protocols. In establishing index programs, both juvenile and adult survey techniques are being explored.

# **1.2** Snorkel floats

Snorkel counts provide an index of steelhead abundance, rather than an escapement estimate because swimmers miss some fish, some sections of river are not floated, and the entire period of steelhead migration is not assessed. Additionally, we cannot determine how many of the fish seen are unique individuals (as opposed to repeat counts of fish observed on previous floats). Escapement estimates using the area under the curve methodology (AUC; Hilborn *et al.* 1999) can be developed if the following data are available:

- 1. observer efficiency: the proportion of fish missed in sections floated;
- 2. fish numbers in sections not floated;
- 3. the number of fish present before and after floats are done, and;
- 4. residence time, the average time spent by fish in the survey area.

These parameters can be estimated using a radio telemetry program in conjunction with snorkel floats. Radio tagged fish are also externally marked. The number of marks seen by floaters is compared with the number of marks known to be present (from tracking). The proportion of fish in sections not surveyed can be extrapolated from tracking data. Survey life and a run-timing curve are also estimated from fish capture and radio tracking information.

A radio telemetry project was completed in the Chilliwack system in 1999 and 2000 (Nelson *et al.* in prep). Concurrent snorkel floats were conducted in 2000 (van Dishoeck 2001). However, development of population estimates from these data has proven complex. No Chilliwack radio tracking was conducted in 2001. The AUC method has been applied to snorkel and telemetry data for the Cheakamus River, a nearby southern BC steelhead stream, in 2000 and 2001 (Korman and Ahrens 2000, Korman *et al.* 2002).

# 2 METHODS

# 2.1 Study area

The Chilliwack/Vedder River system is located east of Vancouver. The mainstem river originates in Chilliwack Lake, with a portion of the watershed south of the Canada-US border. The watershed has a total drainage area of about 1,877 km<sup>2</sup> and is largely of the Coastal Western Hemlock bio-geoclimatic zone (Northwest 1994, MoF 1992). Physiographically, the drainage straddles the transition between the Fraser Lowlands region and the Cascade Mountains, and about half is over 1,100 m elevation (Northwest 1994, McLean 1980). In addition to wild and hatchery stocks of steelhead, the Chilliwack system supports significant populations of nine other salmonids, as well as a diverse assemblage of other fish species (van Dishoeck *et al.* 1998).

A map of the Chilliwack/Vedder drainage is provided in Figure 2.1. River kilometres indicated are distance upstream of the confluence with the Fraser River and are used throughout this report. Put-in and take-out locations for floats are also indicated, as are names of local landmarks relevant to counts. Bars below the map represent sections considered 'safe to float' on a routine basis, at usual spring discharge. Sections covered by the four 2001 floats are also indicated. Note that surveys in 2000 covered only the 'safe to float' sections; 2001 floats included some areas not surveyed in 2000.

The mainstem Chilliwack River, downstream of Chilliwack Lake, extends approximately 61 km to its confluence with the Fraser River. While there are numerous tributary streams, most are steep, with short anadromous reaches. The majority of steelhead spawning and rearing habitat is located in the mainstem river, and associated side channels. Slesse Creek is a major tributary stream with some anadromous habitat. Downstream of Slesse Creek, the river is characterised by generally large channel widths, a braided, meandering pattern and high substrate mobility. Upstream of Slesse Creek the mainstem river is more confined and channel variation between years is much lower.

Conditions in Slesse Creek, and at two bank failures ("clayslides") on the mainstem critically affect water clarity for floats. The clayslides are located near river kilometre 29.5 (Figure 2.1). High flows or other changes that disturb sediment (rainfall, freeze/thaw cycles) preclude snorkel counts below this point. Additionally, steelhead returning to the system after the onset of spring freshet cannot be counted, due to high flows and poor visibility throughout the system.





#### 2.2 Discharge data

Discharge critically affects snorkel floats. Usually, low flow is associated with good visibility, and turbidity increases with discharge. Higher flows also produce more bubbles, which make it hard to see fish, and swimmers move more quickly, reducing efficiency. For example, downstream of the clay slides, discharge and visibility conditions were suitable for only one, early season float (Section 2.3.1). Thereafter, turbidity was so high that we did not consider floats viable. Discharge data for the Chilliwack River are available from Water Survey of Canada (WSC) gauges 08MH001 "Chilliwack River at Vedder Crossing" and 08MH103 "Chilliwack River above Slesse Creek".

# 2.3 Sampling methodology

We enumerated all fish seen by snorkel floats of various sections of the Chilliwack River. Methods were identical to our 2000 floats (van Dishoeck 2001). Surveys conducted in previous years have used similar methods, have covered similar reaches (Appendix III), and are assumed to be comparable.

A team of three swimmers, equipped with dry suits and masks with snorkels, conducted floats. A safety driver met the crew at pre-arranged meeting points. Swimmers split the width of the river into three lanes, and attempted to maintain lanes and stay abreast. We stopped periodically, where we were unlikely to miss or disturb fish, to regroup, compare counts and record numbers. Total counts were determined by consensus to prevent double counts (fish counted by two swimmers). Numbers were recorded on waterproof slates and later relayed to the safety driver. In pools with large numbers of fish, we often conducted two counts. Recounts were recorded separately. For analyses, we used the highest count. We saw steelhead, resident rainbow trout, Dolly Varden/bull trout, whitefish and suckers. We assumed that *O. mykiss* smaller than 50 cm were anadromous steelhead. On our final float (April 10-12), we recorded hatchery or wild origin for fish that could be distinguished. Differentiation between Dolly Varden char and bull trout was often difficult, and we did not identify suckers to species.

Measurements of flow stage were taken at the Water Survey of Canada gauge in the Box Canyon (WSC gauge 08MH103). Visibility was estimated as the distance between two swimmers at the extent of fish detection. We also recorded the weather for each day of floats.

#### 2.3.1 Snorkel float sections

We divided the floatable reaches of the Chilliwack River into five sections, based on our 2000 float experience (Table 2.1). Each section took a day to complete. In 2000, only spot checks were conducted in the canyon section ("2a"). When spot checks are done, they can be completed on the same day as the Section 1 float. In 2001, we successfully floated the entire canyon section ("2") on a trial basis. Physical characteristics of sections are described in van Dishoeck (2001).

	Put-in		Take-out	Section length (km)
1.	Upper Log Jam (56.0 km)	to	Third Bridge (46.5 km)	9.5
2.	Third Bridge (46.5 km)	to	Hatchery Intake (39.5 km)	7.0
2a.	Canyon spot checks (42.5, 44.0	and 44	l.8 km)	~ 0.5
3.	Hatchery Intake (39.5 km)	to	Slesse Park Clayslide (29.5	km) 10.0
4.	Tamihi Bridge (26.4 km)	to	Vedder Crossing (15.5 km)	10.8
5.	Vedder Crossing (15.5 km)	to	Keith Wilson Bridge (6.2 km	n) 9.3

**Table 2.1.**Chilliwack River float sections.

Values in brackets indicate river kilometre.

Due to visibility and discharge conditions encountered, not all sections were surveyed on all floats. As noted, Sections 4 and 5 are downstream of clayslides and can only be surveyed under unusual clarity conditions. Upstream of the Upper Log Jam, the river is too dangerous to float. Similarly, the section between the Slesse Park Clayslide and Tamihi Bridge, which includes the Tamihi Rapids, was not surveyed. Surveys completed in 2001 are summarised in Section 3 of the report and are indicated on Figure 2.1.

# 2.4 Analysis

We compared results between 2001 surveys, and with data from our 2000 floats. Results were also compared with available historical snorkel data. As different reaches were surveyed in each year, and on each of our floats, we standardised counts by distance floated. We calculated fish observed per kilometre of stream surveyed by summing total steelhead observed on a given survey and dividing by the total distance swum<sup>1</sup>. Often, a survey was completed over several days.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As opposed to averaging steelhead/km values for each section reported.

For 2001, we also reported results for a "comparable reach" surveyed on most float - the 20 km section including: Upper Log Jam to Third Bridge, the three canyon spot checks, and Hatchery Intake to the clayslides (Table 2.1; Figure 2.1).

Results were also compared to other available indices of steelhead abundance, including the provincial Steelhead Harvest Analysis (SHA) and Chilliwack River juvenile density surveys. The SHA is an annual survey of angler effort and success conducted since 1967/68. Results are based on questionnaires mailed to a subset of steelhead anglers, and are known to overestimate effort and catch. Results are also affected by changes in regulations and angler behaviour. Data are considered most consistent after 1979/80, when imposition of catch and release regulations began (as recapture of released fish may affect results). The SHA is based on the fiscal year, ending March 31. In consequence, March and April catch from the same calendar year is reported in different SHA periods.

Juvenile density surveys have been completed in the Chilliwack drainage for the years 1983, 1985-1991, 1993-1996, and 1998-2001. The surveys have focussed on the assessment of fry densities in shallow habitats suitable for juvenile steelhead. Mean densities provide an index of juvenile abundance. We compared these data with snorkel float and SHA data to examine the utility of juvenile surveys as an index of adult escapement the preceding spring.

We compared standardised maximum snorkel float results with SHA results and pooled whole river fry data. We used wild and hatchery steelhead catch per angler day (CpAD) from the SHA, as both wild and hatchery fish are observed on floats. Most adult steelhead return to the Chilliwack River before March 31, so we used creel data for the fiscal year ending in the year snorkel surveys occurred (2001 float results were compared to creel data from fiscal 2000/01). For juvenile data, we used measured values for fry<sup>2</sup>, pooled over all mainstem river sites sampled

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 'Adjusted densities', obtained using depth/velocity use curves were not used, because recent changes to use curves could not be applied to historical data.

# 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Discharge data

Discharge information for the Chilliwack River, for 1998 – 2001, is graphed in Figures 3.1 and 3.2. Data are not available for the Vedder Crossing gauge for May 1998 through May 1999. Circles mark discharge on float days.



Figure 3.1. Discharge data for the Chilliwack River at Vedder Crossing, 1998-2001.





Aquatic Resources Limited

In 2001, discharge remained unusually low and stable throughout the period of snorkel floats. Discharge was slightly elevated for Float 3 on March 26 and 27 (see Section 3.2). Discharge in 2001 was marginally lower than over the period of floats in 2000. Freshet (and the end of useful snorkel floats) usually arrives in late April or May each year. Flows remained stable until after our last float in 2001. In contrast, in 2000, a high flow event occurred before the final float.

#### 3.2 2001 snorkel float results

#### 3.2.1 Sections surveyed

We completed four floats of the Chilliwack River system over the course of twelve field days in 2001. Floats were conducted in mid-February, early March, late March, and mid-April. Discharge and visibility conditions downstream of the Slesse Park clayslides precluded floats of this lowermost section after February. Otherwise, conditions experienced in 2001 were favourable for counts. Surveys completed are summarised in Table 3.1.

	Date	Put-in		Take-out
1.	Feb. 9	Centre Creek Bridge (50.5 km) <i>plus</i> three canyon spot checks (42.5	to 5, 44.0 and	Third Bridge (46.5 km) 44.8 km)
	Feb. 8	Hatchery Intake (39.5 km)	to	Slesse Park Clayslide (29.5 km)
	Feb. 14	Tamihi Bridge (26.4 km)	to	Vedder Crossing (15.5 km)
	Feb. 13	Vedder Crossing (15.5 km)	to	Keith Wilson Bridge (6.2 km)
2.	March 7	Upper Log Jam (56.0 km) Centre Creek outlet (51.7 km) <i>plus</i> three canyon spot checks (42.5	to to 5, 44.0 and	Centre Creek intake (53.4 km) Third Bridge (46.5 km) 44.8 km)
	March 6	Hatchery Intake (39.5 km)	to	Slesse Park Clayslide (29.5 km)
2a.	March 8	Third Bridge (46.5 km)	to	Chipmunk Pool (43.8 km)
3.	March 27	Upper Log Jam (56.0 km)	to	Third Bridge (46.5 km)
	March 26	Hatchery Intake (39.5 km) plus three canyon spot checks (42.5	to 5, 44.0 and	Slesse Park Clayslide (29.5 km) 44.8 km)
4.	April 11	Upper Log Jam (56.0 km)	to	Third Bridge (46.5 km)
	April 12	Third Bridge (46.5 km)	to	Hatchery Intake (39.5 km)
	April 10	Hatchery Intake (39.5 km)	to	Slesse Park Clayslide (29.5 km)

**Table 3.1.**Snorkel float surveys completed in 2001.

On Float 1, we started at the Centre Creek Bridge (50.5 km) because flows above this point were very low, and no fish were expected so early in the season. The section below Tamihi Creek was surveyed once only in 2001, on this first float.

On Float 2, we began at the Upper Log Jam, but did not survey the 1.7 km section between the Centre Creek watershed restoration project (WRP) intake (53.4 km) and the WRP outlet (51.7 km), again due to low flows. We conducted canyon spot checks on March 7, and attempted the entire canyon section (between Third Bridge and the Hatchery Intake) on March 8. However, we abandoned the March 8 float at Chipmunk Creek (43.8 km) due to poor visibility ('Float 2a').

Float 3 covered all usual sections upstream of the clayslides, with spot checks conducted in the canyon.

On Float 4, we again surveyed all usual sections upstream of the clayslides. However, we surveyed the complete canyon section rather than conducting spot checks. In the canyon only, we used three swimmers plus a backup swimmer, who followed the regular crew and recorded numbers separately. The canyon contains significant hazards and should be surveyed at favourable discharges only.

3.2.2 Steelhead counts

Total numbers of steelhead observed during 2001 surveys are summarised in Table 3.2. On Float 4, we identified hatchery or wild origin for 156 of the fish observed; of these, eight (5%) were hatchery steelhead.

				<b>v</b> 1
Float	Dates	Number of steelhead	Length of reach floated	Steelhead per km surveyed
1.	February 8, 9, 13, 14	458	34.7 km	13.2
2.	March 6 – 8	697	20.6 km	33.8
3.	March 26 – 27	415	20.0 km	20.8
4.	April 10 – 12	1204	26.5 km	45.4

 Table 3.2.
 Chilliwack River snorkel count: steelhead results, February - April 2001.

Float conditions and other species observed are presented Table 3.3. In Table 3.4, results are standardised to the 20 km "comparable reach" that includes Upper Log Jam to Third Bridge, the three canyon spot checks, and the Hatchery Intake to the clayslides. Section by section results for 2001 surveys are included as Appendix I.

					· ·	/ <b>I</b>		$\mathcal{O}$				
Float	Dates	Discharge <sup>1</sup> (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Stage <sup>2</sup> V (m)	/isibility <sup>3</sup> (m)	Length of reach floated <sup>4</sup>	Steelhead	Resident rainbow trout	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Cutthroat trout	Whitefish	Suckers
1.	Feb. 8,9,13,14	19.0 - 22.7	0.72	1 – 15	34.7 km	458	123	16	8	1	277	155
2.	Mar. 6 - 8	16.3 – 22.0	0.60	3 – 15	20.6 km	697	289	37	2	0	102	0
3.	Mar. 26 - 27	35.7 – 28.9	0.95	5 – 8	20.0 km	415	175	17	0	0	141	0
4.	Apr. 10 - 12	23.1 - 24.9	0.75	5 – 10	26.5 km	1204	432	36	1	32	393	0

**Table 3.3.**Chilliwack River snorkel count results, February - April 2001. See Figure 2.1 for sections floated.

Notes: 1. range of mean daily discharge experienced over course of complete float, (at WSC station 08MH001 Chilliwack River at Vedder Crossing). 2. stage measured at staff gauge in Box Canyon.

3. range of visibility experienced over course of complete float.

4. summed length of subsections surveyed over course of complete float.

Float	Dates	Discharge (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Stage (m)	Visibility (m)	Length S of reach floated	teelhead	Steelhead per km (20 km section)	Resident rainbow trout	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Cutthroat trout	Whitefish
1.	Feb. 8 - 9	21.9 - 22.7	0.72	4 - 15	14.5 km <sup>2</sup>	373	18.7	120	15	8	1	81
2.	Mar. 6 - 7	16.3 – 17.2	0.60	5 – 15	18.3 km <sup>3</sup>	649	32.5	240	31	2	0	81
3.	Mar. 26 - 27	35.7 - 28.9	0.95	5 – 8	20.0 km	415	20.8	175	17	0	0	141
4.	Apr. 10 - 12	23.1 - 24.9	0.75	5 – 10	20.0 km	966	48.3	259	26	1	12	324

**Table 3.4.**Chilliwack River snorkel count results, February - April 2001. Comparable reach<sup>1</sup>.

Notes: 1. "Comparable reach" includes Upper Log Jam to Third Bridge, three canyon spot checks, and Hatchery Intake to clayslides (Figure 2.1).

2. A 5.5 km section of the "comparable reach" was not surveyed on February 8 - 9, but steelhead numbers in this section assumed = zero.

3. A 1.7 km section of the "comparable reach" was not surveyed on March 6 - 7, but steelhead numbers in this section assumed = zero.

On Float 1, the uppermost 5.5 km of the "comparable reach" was not surveyed, but we assume that no steelhead were present so early in the run. Similarly, on Float 2, a 1.7 km section of the "comparable reach" with very low flows was not surveyed. We again assume that no steelhead were present. The assumption is supported for Float 2: no fish were seen during swims of the sections immediately above and below the area not swum. Calculations of steelhead observed per kilometre surveyed for the standardised reach are based on a 20 km section, rather than the distance actually swum.

Counts increased between Floats 1 and 2, both in terms of total numbers of fish and in fish per km surveyed. This was expected as the spawning run progressed. However, counts decreased on Float 3. This was likely the result of reduced observer efficiency. Discharge increased, and visibility decreased at the time of the float. However, reduced counts <u>may</u> have resulted from kelts leaving the system<sup>3</sup>, deaths, or emigration to sections not surveyed. The 2001 maximum count occurred on Float 4 (1204 fish, 45.4 fish / km). Note that this survey included the entire canyon section between Third Bridge and the Hatchery Intake. On earlier floats, only spot checks were done in this section. A total of 238 steelhead were seen in canyon areas not usually floated. Therefore, the standardised "comparable reach" maximum count was 966 fish (48.3 fish / km).

Results for Float 4 also include 51 steelhead observed under a log jam not usually assessed. At river kilometre 30, the mainstem divides into two braids. The log jam is located in the northern braid, which was too dangerous to survey in 2000 (all swims were of the south channel). In 2001, the north braid was safe to survey, but the log jam could be assessed on Float 4 only. Such changes in observer efficiency, related to discharge and visibility conditions, are expected to occur between floats. However, the observation of these fish underscores this limitation of the technique and suggests that steelhead may often take cover in features usually too dangerous to assess. The standardised "comparable reach" count for Float 4, with the 51 log jam fish removed, was 915 fish (45.8 fish / km).

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  Evidence from radio telemetry tracking in 1999 and 2000 suggests that kelts begin to leave the Chilliwack system in March, although the vast majority of fish did not leave until May (Nelson *et al.* in prep.).

# 4 **DISCUSSION**

Adult surveys provide a useful index of steelhead abundance, although results are dependent on float conditions. Multiple floats are required each season to monitor the progress of the spawning run. Chilliwack run timing and turbidity conditions are highly variable, so a single float might miss the run peak or be washed out by poor visibility. Index quality is expected to vary from year to year, based on conditions encountered. Analysis of survey results must recognise limitations inherent to the technique. For example, floats downstream of the Slesse Park clayslides are unlikely in most years, due to the suspended sediment levels usually present. However, about half of the anadromous length is below this point, and large numbers of steelhead hold and spawn in this habitat (Nelson *et al.* in prep.).

These constraints apply to 2001 results. Early season surveys suggested a strong recruitment year, but the maximum count was not until the final float. The exceptionally high count, relative to past surveys, probably represents increased escapement, but may also reflect improved sampling conditions. Additionally, fish arriving after the last float were not assessed, as conditions precluded further surveys. Only one count of the lower river section was conducted, very early in the season. The extent of steelhead use of this reach in 2001 is unclear.

#### 4.1 **Observer efficiency**

. Radio telemetry programs are useful to determine the proportion of fish that are seen. Data from combined floats and telemetry surveys in 2000 suggested a mean observer efficiency of 23% (van Dishoeck 2001). However, efficiency varied widely, with none of the available tags seen in some sections, and all seen elsewhere. Unsurprisingly, higher efficiency was associated with low discharge, clear conditions early in the season.

The 2000 efficiency estimate included data from the more turbid lower reach, downstream of the clayslides. Although data were limited, mid-season results for the sections above the clayslides, suggested efficiency of about 30% at low, clear flows. Application of this estimate to the maximum count for 2001 suggests that about 4000 fish were present, in the section surveyed, between April 10 and 12, 2001 (1204/30%). This rough estimate is for the survey section only, for a two day period. The total 2001 run size was larger, as the estimate does not include other sections, or fish leaving before or arriving after the survey.

Combined snorkel and telemetry surveys have also been conducted on the Cheakamus River, in 2000 and 2001. Raw observed versus detected tag results suggest mean observer efficiency for that river of between 34 and 41% (Korman and Ahrens 2000, Korman et al. 2002). Higher efficiency is expected for the Cheakamus River, as it is smaller and less turbulent than the Chilliwack River. Korman et al. (2002) and Korman (2002) develop more rigorous models of observer efficiency for the Cheakamus River.

# 4.2 Comparison with previous snorkel float results

Snorkel float results suggest that the 2001 steelhead return to the Chilliwack River was exceptional in comparison to others years surveyed. The maximum count in 2001 was 1204 fish, six times greater than our best count the previous year (209 fish). However, the length of the reaches covered was markedly different, so we standardised maximum counts by distance surveyed to permit comparisons (Section 4.2.1). Interestingly, the 2001 maximum occurred at the end of the season (April 10 – 12), while the highest count in 2000 was obtained between February 15 and 18.

Historical data for comparison are available from 25 Chilliwack River floats conducted over the 15 year period between 1973 and 1987. Variability is extreme, ranging between 39 (April 11, 1975) and 751 fish (February 8, 1973). Much of the variability is the result of huge differences in the length of reaches surveyed. Results are also affected by changes in escapement, as well by float conditions, time of survey, and number of surveys per year. Within-year variability (for years with multiple surveys) indicates the importance of repeat counts over the progress of the run, as both fish numbers and float conditions change over time. Confidence in data for years with only one survey is low.

All available data for Chilliwack River snorkel floats are presented in Figure 4.1. Adjacent bars of the same colour represent floats conducted in the same year. No floats were conducted between 1988 and 1999, and these years are not included on the graph. Detailed float data are provided in Appendices II and III. Appendix III includes schematic representation of sections floated on each survey.





Note: Adjacent bars of the same colour indicate swims completed in the same year. There is no gap to indicate 12 years with no floats (1988 and 1999). See Appendix II for full details, and Appendix III for the reaches floated in each year.

The highest count obtained for each of the years sampled is presented in Figure 4.2. No attempt is made to account for differences in float timing or sections surveyed. High variability and the lack of recent information is evident from the figure. As noted, results for some years are based on a single float only.





#### 4.2.1 Steelhead per kilometre of stream

Maximum standardised counts may not result from the maximum count for a given year, due to differences in section lengths. During some sampling events, spot checks of known holding pools resulted in very high counts over short sections of river: standardised counts for these surveys are very high. For example, on March 8, 1975, 120 fish were observed in pools totalling less than 1 km of river. In contrast, other surveys included all water between such pools, and so include long sections of relatively unsuitable steelhead habitat. Standardised counts in these situations are much lower, but may not represent any change in the true escapement.

Figure 4.3 presents maximum standardised counts for each year sampled. Results from 1975 spot checks are not included. Lengths of surveyed reaches were estimated in some cases for which explicit distances were not recorded. For February 16, 1979, only results upstream of Slesse Creek were included, because section length for the lower section could not be estimated.



Figure 4.3. Maximum number of steelhead observed / km surveyed: 1973 - 2001.

Maximum standardised counts are also highly variable. As for maximum counts, some of this variability is the result of sampling error (float conditions and timing, sections surveyed, number of surveys per year). However, standardised counts should be more representative of changes in escapement than are raw counts.

Standardised results for all floats conducted to date are presented in Figure 4.4. Results for 2001 compare favourably with most other floats. Two 1975 values are exceptionally high because very short, productive reaches were swum (spot checks as described).

Notes: *not including* 1975 spot checks. Survey length estimated for February 16, 1979, April 1, 1979 and March 11, 1981.



Figure 4.4. Steelhead observed per kilometre of river surveyed; Chilliwack River, 1973 through 2001.

Notes: March 8 and March 11, 1975 were spot checks of good holding areas. The reach length surveyed is estimated for February 16 and April 1, 1979 and for March 11, 1981. There is no gap to indicate 12 years with no floats (1988 and 1999).

#### 4.3 Correlation with other indices of abundance

Maximum standardised snorkel count data are compared with pooled whole river measured fry results and with SHA results in Figure 4.5. SHA capture data for both wild and hatchery fish are included because both are counted during floats.



**Figure 4.5.** Whole river fry densities, maximum count/km, and catch per angler day.

Only six years of data are available with both juvenile and snorkel float indices of abundance. Although this data set is too limited for rigorous comparisons, agreement between the two indices to date has been very poor (Figure 4.6). Correlation is somewhat weaker if densities are adjusted using the weighted useable area procedure (data on file). For the four years of ARL surveys, juvenile and adult data overlap in two years only, 2000 and 2001. Between 2000 and 2001, spring adult counts increased dramatically, suggesting sharp improvements in escapement over previous years. This increased abundance appears to have resulted in higher juvenile steelhead numbers, as sampled by juvenile surveys.

More years of data are available to compare snorkel floats with captures reported to the Harvest Analysis. However, much of the concurrent data are from years prior to the imposition of catch and release regulations in 1979/80. Correlation between the two indices, when all years of data are included, is poor. However, the correlation is worse when only data after 1979/80 are included (Figure 4.7).



**Figure 4.6.** Whole river mean fry densities and maximum steelhead count / km.





All available juvenile and adult indices of steelhead abundance are highly variable, and are subject to uncertainty as a result of sampling limitations. Poor correlation between the available indices reflects this variability and uncertainty. The lack of agreement between stock status measures emphasises the difficulties encountered in developing such tools.

#### 5 CONCLUSIONS

The Chilliwack River steelhead snorkel count in 2001 was higher than for any other year in which floats have been conducted. However, the total river length sampled has varied considerably over the history of surveys. The 2001 counts per kilometre surveyed were similar to results from some previous years, and were lower than 1975 counts in very short, productive sections.

Snorkel floats are limited by clarity and flow conditions over the course of the steelhead run. Floats provide an index of returns, rather than a total escapement estimate because not all of the fish are seen, some reaches are not floated, and fish may be recounted on subsequent floats. Limited observer efficiency data for the Chilliwack suggests that floats detect 20 - 30% of the fish present. About half of the length of the system can be surveyed in two days, including spot checks of a canyon section. The entire canyon can be surveyed at favourable discharge levels, but a third day is required. Exposed clay banks near Slesse Park mean that surveys of the lower river are unlikely in most years. When possible, two days are required to survey the two sections downstream of this point.

Due to variability in discharge, clarity and run timing, a single, annual float is unlikely to provide a robust measure of stock status. Repeated surveys are required, although it may be possible to limit each survey to a representative, one day section. Surveyed four times annually, this section would be used as the index measure. As few fish are present in the upper river early in the season, the section from the Hatchery to Slesse Park, plus the canyon spot checks, is the best candidate. Confidence in the index would decline later in the season, as fish move into reaches upstream. Without upstream surveys, we could not determine rates of immigration to and emigration from this index section. Application of an index section will be examined after completion of 2002 floats.

Snorkel floats appear to provide a useful index of steelhead abundance for the Chilliwack River. Exceptional 2001 adult counts were reflected in subsequent Fall 2001 juvenile surveys: juvenile densities increased dramatically between 2000 and 2001, but remained below results recorded in the mid-1980s. Angler catch, as indexed by the Steelhead Harvest Analysis, also increased dramatically between 2000 and 2001. However, longer-term correlation between these three indices of steelhead abundance is very poor.

Despite strong adult results in 2001, conservation concerns remain for the Chilliwack system. The long term trend is one of marked and persistent declines.

Brood years prior to 2001 have been weak, and uncertainty remains about oceanic steelhead survival rates. Data to 2001 has suggested very weak ocean survival in comparison to years of strong recruitment through the 1980s (Ward 2000, B.Ward, BC MWLAP, Vancouver). Continued stock assessment is required to track population status and to measure the impact of management decisions. We must continue to develop conservation plans to ensure the long term sustainability of the Chilliwack River steelhead stock.

Further analysis of all stock assessment data will be completed following the completion of sampling activities planned under the Lower Mainland Wild Steelhead Conservation initiative.

# 5.1 **Recommendations**

- repeat annual steelhead snorkel counts.
- establish representative index section.
- continue juvenile assessment study.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Hilborn, R., Bue, B.G., and Sharr, S. 1999. Estimating spawning escapements from periodic counts: a comparison of methods. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. **56**: 888–896.
- Korman, J. 2002. Escapement of winter-run steelhead on the Cheakamus River in 2002. Prep'd for BC Hydro, Burnaby, BC by Ecometric Research.
- Korman, J. and R. Ahrens. 2000. Escapement estimation of winter-run steelhead on the Cheakamus River: fisheries management and monitoring implications. Prep'd for BC Hydro, Burnaby, BC by Ecometric Research.
- Korman, J., R. Ahrens, P.S. Higgins and C.J. Walters. 2002. Effects of observer efficiency, arrival timing, and survey life on estimates of escapement for steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) derived from repeat mark-recapture experiments. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 59: 1116-1131.
- McLean, D.G. 1980. Flood control and sediment transport study of the Vedder River. Unpublished M.A. Sc. Thesis. Department of Civil Engineering. University of BC. 125p. Cited in: Northwest (1994).
- Ministry of Forests (MoF). 1992. Bio-geoclimatic zones of British Columbia. Victoria, BC.
- Nelson, T.C., J.P. Rissling, and CEJ Mussell. In prep. Vedder/Chilliwack River steelhead telemetry program; 1999-2000. Prep'd for BC MELP, Lower Mainland Region, by LGL.
- Northwest Hydraulic Consultants and R. Hamilton. 1994. Hydrology and water use for salmon streams in the Chilliwack/Lower Fraser Habitat Management Area, BC. Prep'd for Fraser River Action Plan, DFO, Vancouver. Avail. as MS HP714, MWLAP, Surrey, BC.
- van Dishoeck, P. 2001. Chilliwack River adult steelhead sampling program. Snorkel counts and radio telemetry survey. Spring 2000. Prep'd for MELP Fish and Wildlife Management, Surrey, BC by Aquatic Resources Limited, Vancouver (Rpt ARL 337-4).
- van Dishoeck, P., T. Slaney and J. Korman. 1998. Wild steelhead conservation in the Lower Mainland: Chilliwack/Vedder River. Prep'd for MELP Fish and Wildlife Management, Surrey, BC by Aquatic Resources Limited, Vancouver, BC (Report ARL 277-4).
- Ward, B.R. 2000. Declivity in steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) recruitment at the Keogh River over the past decade. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 57: 298-309.

**Chilliwack River Snorkel Floats 2001** 

February 8, 2001 to February 14, 2001

Crew: Pier van Dishoeck, CEJ Mussell, Steve Latham

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Cut- throat	White- fish	Suckers	Unknown
not swum	56.0 to 55.5	Upper Log Jam to Old 4 Mile Log Jam								
not swum	55.6	Old 4 Mile Log Jam								
not swum	55.5 to 53.4	Old 4 Mile Log Jam to Centre Crk WRP intake								
not swum	53.4 to 53.0	Centre Crk WRP intake to Centre Crk overflow								
not swum	53.0 to 52.0	Centre Crk overflow to Centre Crk camping spot								
not swum	52.0 to 51.7	Centre Crk camping spot to Centre Crk WRP outlet								
not swum	51.7 to 51.0	Centre Crk WRP outlet to Centre Crk trail								
not swum	51.0 to 50.5	Centre Crk trail to Centre Crk bridge								
Feb. 9, 2001	50.5 to 48.0	Centre Crk Bridge to Middle Creek turnaround	1	25	1			9		
Feb. 9, 2001	48.0 to 46.5	Middle Creek turn around to 3rd Bridge	2	13	1			3		
Feb. 9, 2001	46.5	3rd Bridge Pool	4	4	1			2		
Feb. 9, 2001	44.8	Old Bridge Crossing								
Feb. 9, 2001	44.2	First Upper Box Canyon Pool	2							
Feb. 9, 2001	44.1	Second Upper Box Canyon Pool								
Feb. 9, 2001	44.0	Third Upper Box Canyon Pool	2							
Feb. 9, 2001	43.9	Chipmunk Pool	3							
Feb. 9, 2001	42.5	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	54					2		

Aquatic Resources Limited

604.266.1113

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Cut- throat	White- fish	Suckers Unknown
Feb. 8, 2001	39.5	Station 6	25	20	3				
Feb. 8, 2001	39.5 to 38.7	Hatchery storage area to 2 <sup>nd</sup> intake hole	29	31					
Feb. 8, 2001	38.6	Upper Hatchery Hole	1						
Feb. 8, 2001	38.4	Hatchery Hole	3						
Feb. 8, 2001	38.4 to 37.9	Below Hatchery Hole to Slesse Confluence	60	7					
Feb. 8, 2001	37.9 to 37.7	Limits Hole to Below Limits Hole	27	4	4			1	
Feb. 8, 2001	37.7 to 37.1	Below Limits Hole to Glide Above Ranger Run	40	1	2			1	
Feb. 8, 2001	36.7	Ranger Run	25	2					
Feb. 8, 2001	36.6 to 34.8	Below Ranger Run to Butterfly Run	88	9	3	1	1	57	
Feb. 8, 2001	34.7 to 32.7	Below Butterfly Run to Cedars	6	4		7		6	
Feb. 8, 2001	32.6 to 29.5	Below Cedars to Slesse Park clayslide	1						
Feb. 14, 2001	26.4	Above Tamihi Bridge (section not floated in 2000)	1						
Feb. 14, 2001	26.3	Below Tamihi Bridge							
Feb. 14, 2001	25.8	Boulder Hole	8					1	1
Feb. 14, 2001	25.5	Station 3 Run							
Feb. 14, 2001	25.3	Shelf Below Bourne Rd							2
Feb. 14, 2001	24.8	Culvert Above Sheller's Bridge	7	1				5	
Feb. 14, 2001	24.5	Run Above Sheller's Island						7	
Feb. 14, 2001	24.0	North Split Above Sheller's							
Feb. 14, 2001	23.7	Upper Sheller's Bridge Run	2	1				15	
Feb. 14, 2001	23.4	Lower Sheller's Tailout							
Feb. 14, 2001	23.0	Top of Way's Field Rapids	4					21	
Feb. 14, 2001	22.2	Pool Below Way's Corner							
Feb. 14, 2001	21.7	Outside Bend of Way's Field							

# Appendix I – Detailed results for 2001 Chilliwack River snorkel floats.

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Cut- throat	White- fish	Suckers Unknow
Feb. 14, 2001	21.2	Glide Above Twin Cedars	12					47	
Feb. 14, 2001	20.7	Twin Cedars							
Feb. 14, 2001	19.8	Liumcheen Crk	2					1	
Feb. 14, 2001	19.0	Above Swoolie Dike							
Feb. 14, 2001	18.9	Riffle Before Swoolie Dike	3					10	
Feb. 14, 2001	18.4	Top of Swoolie Pool							
Feb. 14, 2001	17.1	Above Swoolie Cedars							
Feb. 14, 2001	16.9	Swoolie Cedars Log Jam							
Feb. 14, 2001	16.5	Below Stella's Rock							
Feb. 14, 2001	15.7	Teskey Rock	3					1	
Feb. 13, 2001	15.5	Vedder Crossing	12					5	
Feb. 13, 2001	14.7	Above Rock Quarry	9					7	8
Feb. 13, 2001	14.2	Above Peach Rd							
Feb. 13, 2001	13.9	Peach Rd							1
Feb. 13, 2001	13.6	Below Peach Rd							
Feb. 13, 2001	13.2	Above Lickman Rd							
Feb. 13, 2001	12.6	Above Ernie's Hole	10					22	1
Feb. 13, 2001	12.4	Lickman Rd							
Feb. 13, 2001	12.3	Lower Lickman							
Feb. 13, 2001	12.1	Upper Brown Rd							
Feb. 13, 2001	11.8	Brown Rd	4					8	
Feb. 13, 2001	11.3	Tom's Tailout							:
Feb. 13, 2001	10.2	Above Hydro Bridge	4					20	2
Feb. 13, 2001	9.3	Wilson Rd							

|--|

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Cut- throat	White- fish	Suckers Unknown
Feb. 13, 2001	9.1	Six Fish Run							
Feb. 13, 2001	8.7	VTV Spot	3					5	53
Feb. 13, 2001	8.4	Above Sawween							
Feb. 13, 2001	8.3	Sawween							
Feb. 13, 2001	8.1	Below Sawween							
Feb. 13, 2001	8.0	Ernie's Corner	1		1			21	63
Feb. 13, 2001	7.0	Vedder Canal							
Feb. 13, 2001	6.4	Above Keith Wilson Bridge		1					27
Feb. 13, 2001	6.2	Keith Wilson Bridge							
		Total:	458	123	16	8	1	277	155 6
Weather	Feb 8	overcast and snowing							
	Feb 9	overcast in am but clearing and sunny in afternoon							
	Feb 13	clear and sunny							
	Feb 14	overcast							
Visibility	Feb 8	10-15 m u/s Borden Split, 6-10 m d/s Borden Split							
	Feb 9	10+m in Box Canyons, 3-4m u/s of 3rd Bridge due to bubbles but 10+ in calm water	rocks and						

Feb 132-4m, some pools in which bottom not visibleFeb 141-3m, some pools in which bottom not visible

Gauge Feb 8 0.72m

#### **Chilliwack River Snorkel Floats 2001**

March 6, 2001 to March 7, 2001

Crew: Pier van Dishoeck, CEJ Mussell, Steve Latham

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Whitefish	Notes
March 7, 2001	56.0 to 55.5	Upper Log Jam to Old 4 Mile Log Jam		6			2	
March 7, 2001	55.6	Old 4 Mile Log Jam						
March 7, 2001	55.5 to 53.4	Old 4 Mile Log Jam to Centre Crk WRP intake		6			2	
not swum	53.4 to 53.0	Centre Crk WRP intake to Centre Crk overflow						1
not swum	53.0 to 52.0	Centre Crk overflow to Centre Crk camping spot						2
not swum	52.0 to 51.7	Centre Crk camping spot to Centre Crk WRP outlet						
March 7, 2001	51.7 to 50.5	Centre Crk WRP outlet to Centre Crk bridge		2				
March 7, 2001	50.5 to 48.0	Centre Crk Bridge to Middle Creek turnaround	7	35	2		23	
March 7, 2001	48.0 to 46.5	Middle Creek turn around to 3rd Bridge	9	11		1	3	
March 7, 2001	46.5	3rd Bridge Pool	4	6			2	
March 7, 2001	44.8	Old Bridge Crossing	65					
March 7, 2001	44.2	First Upper Box Canyon Pool	30					3
March 7, 2001	44.1	Second Upper Box Canyon Pool		6				
March 7, 2001	44.0	Third Upper Box Canyon Pool	30	2			6	
March 7, 2001	43.9	Upper Chipmunk Pool	76		1			
March 7, 2001	43.8	Lower Chipmunk Pool	40	7				4
March 7, 2001	42.5	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool						5

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Whitefish	Notes
March 6, 2001	39.5	Station 6	17	13				
March 6, 2001	39.5 to 38.7	Hatchery storage area to 2nd intake hole	39	62		1	2	
March 6, 2001	38.6	Upper Hatchery Hole						
March 6, 2001	38.4	Hatchery Hole	5	10			1	
March 6, 2001	38.4 to 37.9	Hatchery Hole to Slesse Confluence	48	31			2	6
March 6, 2001	37.9 to 37.7	Limits Hole to Below Limits Hole						
March 6, 2001	37.7 to 37.1	Below Limits Hole to Glide Above Ranger Run	39	18	8		28	
March 6, 2001	36.7	Ranger Run	21	4	8		1	7
March 6, 2001	36.6 to 34.8	Below Ranger Run to Butterfly Run	189	12	5		6	
March 6, 2001	34.7 to 32.7	Below Butterfly Run to Cedars	15	7	7		3	
March 6, 2001	32.6 to 29.5	Below Cedars to Slesse Park clayslide	6	1				
March 6, 2001	30.0	Split above Slesse Park (N split not swum before)	9	1				
not swum	26.3 to 6.2	Below Tamihi Br. To Keith Wilson Br.						
		Total:	649	240	31	2	81	
		Plus fish in sections floated March 8 (but not floated March 7)	48	49	6	0	21	
		Grand total:	697	289	37	2	102	

Note that the full section between 3rd Bridge and Lower Chipmunk Pool was floated on March 8 (see next page). This section is not usually floated, but could safely be done at very low 2001 discharge levels

The intent was to swim 3rd Bridge to Hatchery Intake, and to compare March 7 and March 8 results for pools floated both days, and to count fish in pools in this section not usually swum. However, overnight rain reduced visibility

Counts in pools swum both days were drastically different. 48 steelhead were seen in pools not floated March 7.

see notes below

Weather	Mar 6	sunny and hot
	Mar 7	sunny and hot
Visibility	Mar 6	Slesse Creek: 10+m u/s, +/-6 m d/s, 5-8 m d/s Thurston
	Mar 7	15+m in Box Canyon Pools, 8-15 m from Old 4 mi. Log Jam to 3rd Br.
Gauge	Mar 7	0.6m

#### Notes

1	river so low that water into intake reduces maimstem flow.

- 2 drove from Centre Creek Watershed Restoration Project intake to outlet.
- 3 20 of these fish were in the upstream end of this pool, which has not been floated in previous ARL floats
- 4 as we spooked fish out of the upper pool, these 40 50 fish are probably those from the pool above (we only saw 29 in the upper pool on the second float, with good conditions  $[50+29 = 79 \sim 76]$ ).
- 5 ideal float conditions, zero fish.
- 6 1 fish called brown trout by Steve, who would know, but might have been a cutthroat.
- 7 plus one DEAD steelhead.

Aquatic Resources Limited	Pier van Dishoeck
Chilliwack River Snorkel Floats 2001	604.266.1113

#### March 8, 2001

Crew: Pier van Dishoeck. CEJ Mussell, Steve Latham

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Whitefish	
not swum	56.0 to 46.5	Upper Log Jam to 3rd Bridge					
March 8, 2001	46.5	3rd Bridge Pool	4	3		1	
March 8, 2001	46.5 to 45.7	3rd Bridge to LWD corner	21	31	3	15	
March 8, 2001	45.7 to 44.8	LWD corner to Old Bridge Crossing	5	16	3	4	
March 8, 2001	44.8	Old Bridge Crossing	37	4		11	
March 8, 2001	44.8 to 44.3	Old Bridge Crossing to Upper Box Canyon Pools	22	2		2	
March 8, 2001	44.2	First Upper Box Canyon Pool		2			
March 8, 2001	44.1	Second Upper Box Canyon Pool		3		2	
March 8, 2001	44.0	Third Upper Box Canyon Pool	4				
March 8, 2001	43.9	Upper Chipmunk Pool	33	2			
March 8, 2001	43.8	Lower Chipmunk Pool	2			1	
not swum	42.5 to 6.2	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool to Keith Wilson Bridge					
		Total:	128	63	6	36	
		Sections not floated March 7:	48	49	6	21	
This section is n	ot usually floated,	but could safely be done at very low 2001 discharge levels.	Weath	er light ra	ain; heavy rain overnig	ght	
The intent was to compare March 7 and March 8 results for pools floated both days, and to count fish in sections not usually swum. However, overnight rain reduced visibility. Drastic reduction in visibility at confluence with Chipmunk Creek u/s of Upper Box Canvon pools		Visibili	i <b>ty</b> +/- 8m visibili - takeo	<ul> <li>y +/- 8m u/s Chipmunk Creek</li> <li>visibility very poor d/s of Chipmunk Cree</li> <li>- takeout at Chipmunk FSR.</li> </ul>			
Counts in pools	swum both days ve	ery different. 48 steelhead seen in pools not floated March 7.	Gauge	?			

**Chilliwack River Snorkel Floats 2001** 

March 26, 2001 to March 27, 2001

Crew: Pier van Dishoeck, CEJ Mussell, Steve Olson

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Whitefish	Juvenile salmonids	Unknown (SH ?)	Notes
March 27, 2001	56.0 to 55.5	Upper Log Jam to Old 4 Mile Log Jam	2	6					
March 27, 2001	55.6	Old 4 Mile Log Jam	1						
March 27, 2001	55.5 to 53.4	Old 4 Mile Log Jam to Centre Crk WRP intake	20	12		1	1		
March 27, 2001	53.4 to 50.5	Centre Crk WRP intake to Centre Crk bridge	28	13		1			
March 27, 2001	50.5 to 48.0	Centre Crk Bridge to Middle Creek turnaround	77	55	8	23			
March 27, 2001	48.0 to 46.5	Middle Creek turn around to 3rd Bridge	54	8	1	13			
March 27, 2001	46.5	3rd Bridge Pool	11	6	2	5			
not swum	46.5 to 44.8	3rd Bridge to Old Bridge Crossing							
March 26, 2001	44.8	Old Bridge Crossing	60	8	1	14			1
not swum	44.8 to 44.3	Old Bridge Crossing to Upper Box Canyon Pools							
March 26, 2001	44.2 to 44.0	First to Third Upper Box Canyon Pools	9	2					
March 26, 2001	43.9	Upper Chipmunk Pool	6	1		1			
March 26, 2001	43.8	Lower Chipmunk Pool	8	2		5			
March 26, 2001	42.5	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	11	2					
March 26, 2001	39.5	Station 6	4	10					
March 26, 2001	39.5 to 38.7	Hatchery storage area to 2nd intake hole	15	24		2			

Aquatic Resources Limited

Pier van Dishoeck 604.266.1113

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Whitefish	Juvenile salmonids	Unknown (SH ?)	Notes		
March 26, 2001	38.6	Upper Hatchery Hole	6	4		2					
March 26, 2001	38.4	Hatchery Hole	4	5		2					
March 26, 2001	38.4 to 37.9	Hatchery Hole to Slesse Confluence	11	3		1					
March 26, 2001	37.9 to 37.7	Limits Hole to Below Limits Hole									
March 26, 2001	37.7 to 37.1	Below Limits Hole to Glide Above Ranger Run	10	2	1	4					
March 26, 2001	36.7	Ranger Run	9	1		2					
March 26, 2001	36.6 to 34.8	Below Ranger Run to Butterfly Run	40	7	2	45					
March 26, 2001	34.7 to 32.7	Below Butterfly Run to Cedars	7	3	2	5		3			
March 26, 2001	32.6 to 30.0	Below Cedars to split above Slesse Park clayslide									
March 26, 2001	30.0	Split above Slesse Park (N split not swum in 2000)	14			2					
March 26, 2001	30.0 to 29.5	to Slesse Park clayslide	8	1		13					
not swum	26.3 to 6.2	Below Tamihi Bridge to Keith Wilson Bridge									
		Total:	415	175	17	141	1	3			
Weather	Mar 26	Rain overnight, but dry in am; high snow. Overcast with a mix of sun, showers and clouds	;	Notes							
	Mar 27	Cloudy in am, snow starting at 1400	1	1 Large group of fish in this pool, but difficult to assess because the water is higher and there are bubbles throughout the pool.							
Visibility	Mar 26	Slesse Ck.: 5-6 u/s, 4-6 d/s, 7+ in Box Canyons		Two group wheeling p	os of 35 an bast twice	nd 36 fish m , and so our	ay have been best assessm	the same bur ent was 60 fis	nch h.		
	Mar 27	Centre Ck. Br.: 8m u/s, 6m d/s, +/- 5m by Third Bridge									
Gauge	Mar 26	0.95m									

#### **Chilliwack River Snorkel Floats 2001**

April 10 to April 12, 2001

#### Crew: Pier van Dishoeck, CEJ Mussell, Steve Latham

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Cutthroat	Whitefish	Juv.	Fry	Notes
Apr. 11, 2001	56.0 to 55.5	Upper Log Jam to Old 4 Mile Log Jam	3	8							
Apr. 11, 2001	55.6 to 53.4	Old 4 Mile Log Jam to Centre Crk WRP intake	20	14	1			6	1		
Apr. 11, 2001	53.4 to 50.5	Centre Crk WRP intake to Centre Crk Bridge	37	23			1	2			1
Apr. 11, 2001	50.5 to 48.0	Centre Crk Bridge to Middle Creek turnaround	84	58	3	1	1	30	4	1	
Apr. 11, 2001	48.0 to 46.5	Middle Creek turn around to 3rd Bridge	66	23	1			29			
Apr. 11, 2001	46.5	3rd Bridge Pool	25	5	2			11			
Apr. 12, 2001	46.5	3rd Bridge Pool (day 2, April 12)	18	2	8			2			2
Apr. 12, 2001	46.5 to 45.5	3rd Bridge Pool to LWD Corner	59	29	1		1	27			
Apr. 12, 2001	45.5 to 44.8	LWD Corner to Old Bridge Crossing	30	15	6		5	1			
Apr. 12, 2001	44.8	Old Bridge Crossing	59	10	2			15			
Apr. 12, 2001	44.8 to 44.2	Old Bridge Xing to Upper Box Canyon Pools	55	11			1	3			
Apr. 12, 2001	44.2 to 43.9	Upper Box Canyon Pools	38	14			1	9			
Apr. 12, 2001	43.9	Upper Chipmunk	19	1	1		1				
Apr. 12, 2001	43.8	Lower Chipmunk	14	1			1				
Apr. 12, 2001	43.8 to 43.2	Lower Chipmunk to Fisherman's Pool	8	20	2		3	9			
Apr. 12, 2001	43.2	Fisherman's Pool	14								
Apr. 12, 2001	43.2 to 42.5	Fisherman's Pool to Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	5	12	1		1	1	1		
Apr. 12, 2001	42.5	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	36	4				23			
Apr. 12, 2001	42.5 to 40.5	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool to Sandbar Campsite	57	59			9	20	1		

Aquatic Resources Limited

Pier van Dishoeck 604.266.1113

Date	River km	Local name	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Bull trout	Cutthroat	Whitefish	Juv.	Fry	Notes
Apr. 12, 2001	40.5 to 39.5	Sandbar Campsite to Hatchery Intake	10	27				8			
Apr. 10, 2001	39.5	Hatchery Intake	2	10				4			
Apr. 10, 2001	39.5 to 38.7	Hatchery storage area to 2nd intake hole	21	38			5	2			
Apr. 10, 2001	38.6	Upper Hatchery Hole	7	5				4			
Apr. 10, 2001	38.4	Hatchery Hole	65	14	1			2		150	
Apr. 10, 2001	38.4 to 37.9	Hatchery Hole to Slesse Confluence	38	13			1	4			
Apr. 10, 2001	37.9 to 37.7	Limits Hole to Below Limits Hole	5								
Apr. 10, 2001	37.7 to 37.1	Below Limits Hole to Glide Above Ranger Run	48	15	3			43			
Apr. 10, 2001	36.7	Ranger Run	44	2	6			5			
Apr. 10, 2001	36.6 to 35.2	Ranger Run to pool u/s Thurston Meadows	133		4			63			3
Apr. 10, 2001	35.2	Pool u/s Thurston Meadows	45				1	6			
Apr. 10, 2001	35.2 to 34.8	Thurston Meadows	3					1			
Apr. 10, 2001	34.8 to 33.5	Below Butterfly Run to Upper Thurston	10	1	2			25			
Apr. 10, 2001	33.5	Upper Thurston	75								
Apr. 10, 2001	33.5 to 31.3	To Allison Pool	3					21			
Apr. 10, 2001	31.3 to 30.0	Split above Slesse Park (N split not swum before)	10								
Apr. 10, 2001	29.9	Log Jam in S/C (too dangerous previously)	51								
Apr. 10, 2001	29.9 to 29.5	Below Split to Slesse Park clayslide	5					19			
not swum	26.3 to 6.2	Below Tamihi Br. to Keith Wilson Br.									
		Total:	1204	432	36	1	32	393	7	151	
		Fish in canyon section not usually swum:	238	173	10	0	20	69	2	0	
		Total "usual" count:	966	259	26	1	12	324	5	151	

see notes below

This float contains sections not floated in previous years (the complete section from 3rd Bridge to Hatchery).

Fourth person on Apr. 12 swam behind regular swimmers and recorded additional fish seen separately.

These fish are totalled below, and are in addition to fish recorded in the complete record:

Fourth Swimmer Apr. 12 (Allen Hanson)	Steelhead	Rainbow	Dolly Varden	Cutthroat	Whitefish
Third Bridge to Lower Chipmunk Pool	7	7		4	9
Lower Chipmunk Pool to Hatchery Intake	3	9	1	10	4
Total:	10	16	1	14	13

Weather	Apr 10	showers overnight; overcast in am; showers at midday; overcast in afternoon
	Apr 11	clear and cold overnight; sunny all day
	Apr 12	sunny in am; overcast in pm; rain starting after float complete
Visibility	Apr 10	8m by Slesse Creek; 6-7 m by Thurston split; 5 m by Slesse Park
	Apr 11	10+m, but limited by boulders and bubbles; 8+ at Third Br. in pm
	Apr 12	10+m at Third Bridge; 6-7m at Hatchery intake
Gauge	Apr 12	0.75m

#### Notes

1 One of the trout was a hatchery fish.

2 This pool floated twice (April 11 and 12). Only maximum counts for each species used in totals.

3 1 fish called brown trout by Steve, who would know, but might have been a cutthroat.

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
February 8, 1973 # Fish Observed	adults	low flow & clear	751	6	40	MoE Surrey file	4 mi. log jam to Centre Ck. Camp 19	Centre Ck. Camp to Rearing Pond 36	Rearing Pond to 3rd Bridge	3rd Bridge to Box Canyon	Box Canyon to sandbar camp 37	Sandbar camp to Wells Ranch Br. 168			
February 15, 1973 # Fish Observed	adults		291	6	20 BCIT	MoE Surrey file	Slesse Creek to Thurston Camp 86	Thurston Camp to Tamihi Bridge 89	Tamihi Bridge to Edwards Road 25	Edwards Road to Vedder Bridge 9	Vedder Bridge to Lickman Road 20	Lickman Road to Vedder Canal 62			
March 21, 1973	Slesse (	see Creek floated by 5 divers but NO fish were sighted, despite excellent conditions.													
February 21, 1974	adults	exc.		8	20 BCIT	MoE Surrey file	Post Ck. to Centre Ck. Br.	Centre Ck. Br. to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Rearing Pond	Rearing Pond to Old Bridge	Old Bridge to 3rd Bridge	Ford Camp to Box Canyon	Box Canyon Pool to Sand Bar	Sand Bar to Slesse Creek	
Sect. length (km)							1.93	1.93	2.09	2.25	2.25	2.74	2.58	1.77	
# Fish Observed			278				13	8	33	13	96	81	22	12	
August 30, 1974	Spot ch	ecks and sh	ort swims th	rough Alli	ison Po	ols to Sl	esse Park. N	o SH sighted	l but 12 RBT	$\Gamma > 8$ " and 15	57 RBT < 8"	(150 fingerl	ings) sighted	l.	
January 8, 1975	adults - tagged fish	exc.		4		MoE Surrey file	Old Bridge abutment to 3rd Bridge	3rd Bridge to Reco Br.	Box Canyon spot check	Camp Site Pool spot check					
# Fish Observed	noted.		174				116	31	23	4					
January 23, 1975	Slesse (	Creek floate	d by 3 divers	s. Poor wa	ater cor	nditions	(visibility=1	-2m) prevail	ed and NO S	H were sigh	ted.				

II.1

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
February 5, 1975	adults	exc. u/s Slesse Park	counted	11 & spot checks	30 (BCI T)	MoE Surrey file, Bech (1986)	Post Ck. hole & 4 mi. log jam to Centre Creek Br.	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Rearing Pond	Rearing Pond to Old Bridge	Old Bridge to 3rd Bridge	Reco Bridge to Box Canyon	Slesse Creek to Borden Creek	Nursery Run to top of Allison Pool	Allison Pool to Slesse Park Store
Sect. length (km) # Fish Observed		poor d/s	400				1.61 1	1.29 3	1.93 16	1.77 2	2.25 73	2.59 95	2.90 14	3.54 91	4.83 65
February 5, 1975	same float as above						Slesse Park Store to Tamihi Pool (10)	Boulder Hole to Osbourne Road (11)	Post Ck., Ford Camp and Wells Ranch						
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						1.93	2.58	spot checks						
# Fish Observed	-						3	7	30						
February 7, 1975	Attemp	t to float fro	om Osbourne	e Road to t	he dyk	e at Yarı	ow failed du	e to poor wa	ter condition	18.					
March 8, 1975	adults	clear		7	6 + tende rs	MoE Surrey file	Middle Ck. Br. abutment (spot check)	Road Run on Middle Ck. (spot check)	Main Br. (Middle Ck.) (spot check)	Reco Bridge (spot check)	Box Canyon (spot check)	Limits Hole (spot check)	Bedrock Run to Allison		
# Fish Observed		low flow	120				25	20	20	4	15	1	35		
March 27 & 28, 1975	adults	~9m		7	5 (2 days)	MoE Surrey file	Boom Sticks (Vedder X) to Hopedale	Hopedale Road to Wilson Road	Wilson Road to d/s Meat Hole	d/s Meat Hole to Power line	Schellers Br. to u/s J. Little's	J. Little's to High bank	High bank to Vedder Crossing Br.		
# Fish Observed		1	135				47	19	26	6	13	14	10		

Aquatic Resources Limited
---------------------------

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
April 9 & 10, 1975	adults	~10m		9	4 (2 days)	MoE Surrey file	Vedder Crossing to Pump House	Pump House to Log Jam (d/s Peach Pool)	Log Jam (Peach Pool) to Lickman Road	Lickman Road to Hopedale Road	Hopedale Road to BCE Bridge	BCE Bridge to Wilson Road	Wilson Road to Meat Hole	Meat Hole to top of Canal	Top of Canal to 400m u/s Power line
# Fish Observed			398				35	151	48	11	15	14	4	116	4
April 11, 1975	adults	<10m		3	3	MoE Surrey file	Run d/s Meat Hole	Cutbank run d/s Meat Hole	Meat Hole						
# Fish Observed			39				37	1	1						
April 16, 1975	4 divers juvenile	s floated the es or eviden	e lower ~8km ce of spawni	of the Lit	tle Chi l habita	lliwack	R. (Dolly Va	urden Ck.).	A helicopter	was required	for drops. I	Excellent wa	ter condition	s but no SH	adults,
February 11, 1976	adults	good (20')		12	37	MoE Surrey file	Campsite pool, Wells Ranch & 4 mi log jam spotchecks	4 mi. log jam to Centre Ck. Br.	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Rearing Pond	Rearing Pond to Middle Ck. Br. abutment	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3rd Bridge	3rd Br. to Reco Br.	Box Canyon	Slesse Ck. Confluence to Borden Ck.
Sect. length (km)								1.93	1.93	1.93	2.25	2.25	1.21		2.90
# Fish Observed			252				7	18	3	6	43	99	21	8	5
February 11, 1976	same float as above						Butterfly to Anderson Ck. (10)	Anderson Ck. to Slesse Park Store (11)	Slesse Park Store to Tamihi Bridge (12)						
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						3.54								
# Fish Observed							15	27	0						

Appendix II – Snorkel float results for the Chilliwack River, 1973 – 2001.

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
March 20 & April 4, 1976	adults	~8m u/s Slesse Pk. <1m d/s.		9	8 (2 days)	MoE Surrey file	Post Ck. to Centre Ck. Br.	Centre Ck. Br. to Rearing Pond	Rearing Pond to 3rd Br.	3rd Br. to Box Canyon	Wellhead (?) to Slesse Ck.	Slesse Ck. to Borden Ck.	Borden Ck. to Allison Railing	Allison to Slesse Park Store	J. Little's to Vedder Crossing
# Fish Observed			584	552 + 32 steelhead	(VC) = 1	= 584	2	87	233	98	32	27	71	2	32
January 9, 1977	adults					MoE Surrey file	Allison to Yarrow								
# Fish Observed			148				148								
February 2, 3 & 4, 1977	adults & res. RBT	exc.		3.5 °C		MoE Surrey file	4 mi. log jam (spot check)	Centre Ck. to F.S. Campsite	Middle Ck. abutment to 3rd Bridge	3rd Bridge to Peter's (?) Bridge	Box Canyon (spot check)	Sandbar Campsite (spot check)	Slesse Creek to Borden Creek	Borden Ck. to Anderson Ck.	
# Fish Observed		low flow	216				0	12	62	39	50-75 (?)	0	3	50	
February 16, 1978	adults			18	43	MoE Surrey file	4 mi. log jam to Centre Creek Bridge	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Riverside Camp	Riverside Camp to Middle Ck. abutment	Middle Ck. abutment to 3rd Bridge	3rd Bridge to Reco Bridge	Upper Box Canyon to Lower Box Canyon	Sandbar Campsite to Borden Ck. (?)	Borden Ck. to Anderson Ck.
# Fish Observed			297				9	5	13	7	42	6	53	45	2
February 16, 1978	(cont.)						Anderson Ck. to Slesse Pk. Store (10)	Slesse Pk. Store to Tamihi Br. (11)	Tamihi Br. to Osbourne Rd. (12)	Osbourne Rd. to J. Little's (13)	J. Little's to Vedder Crossing (14)	Vedder Crossing to Peach Road (15)	Peach Road to Log Jam (16)	Log Jam to Meat Hole (17)	Meat Hole to head of Vedder Canal (18)
# Fish Observed							2	11	1	16	5	18	12	17	33
February 16, 1979	adults					Bech (1986)	Downstrea m of Slesse Creek	Upstream of Slesse Creek							
# Fish Observed			99				30	69							

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
April, 1979	adults					Bech (1986)	Upstream of Slesse Creek								
# Fish Observed			169				169								
February 15, 1980	adults	> 10 m		11	42	MoE Surrey file	Chilliwack Lk. to Centre Ck. Br.	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Riverside Camp	Riverside Camp to Middle Ck. abutment	Middle Ck. abutment to 3rd Bridge	3rd Bridge to Reco Bridge	Reco Br. to Lower Box Canyon	Lower Box Canyon to Slesse Creek	Slesse Creek to Borden Creek
# Fish Observed			167				11	1	0	3	32	17	40	17	2
February 15, 1980	(cont.)						Borden Creek to Anderson Culvert (10)	Anderson Culvert to Slesse Park Store (11)							
# Fish Observed							26	18							
February 15, 1980		Slesse Cre steelhead,	ek floated fro another says	om Box C one steell	anyon ( nead sig	(?) to con ghted.	nfluence with	n the Chilliw	ack River. (	One report sa	iys no				
April 3 & 16, 1980	adults	~3m		4	8	MoE Surrey file	Post Ck. [Hole]	4 mi. log jam to Centre Ck. Bridge	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Left Channel Middle Creek	Riverside Campsite to 3rd Bridge	3rd Bridge to Reco Bridge	Reco Bridge to Slesse Confluence	Slesse Confluence to Butterfly Falls	Butterfly Falls to Slesse Park
# Fish Observed			132				1	11	13	2	27	3	32	19	24
March 11, 1981	adults					Bech (1986)	Upstream of Slesse Creek								
# Fish Observed			380				380								

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
March 11, 16, 17, 24, 26 & 31, 1982	adults			11		MoE Surrey file	4 mi. log jam to Centre Creek Bridge	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Riverside Camp	Riverside Camp to Middle Ck. abutment	Middle Ck. abutment to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bridge	3 <sup>rd</sup> Bridge to Reco Bridge	Upper Box Canyon to Lower Box Canyon	Sandbar Campsite to Thermogra ph	Thermogra ph Hole & Run
# Fish Observed			663				48	23	32	15	166	75	72	3	50
March 11, 16, 17, 24, 26 & 31, 1982	(cont.)						Chilliwack Hatchery to Thurston Camp (10)	Thurston Camp to Slesse Park (11)							
# Fish Observed							120	59							
February 8, 10 & 14, 1983	adults; water cond. poor for Lower R. float	75m(!) u/s Slesse; 3- 4 m d/s		11	3 (4 days)	MoE Surrey file	Post Ck. hole & 4 mi. log jam to Centre Creek Br.	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Riverside Campsite	Riverside Camp to Middle Ck. Br. abutment	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Br.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Br. to Reco Br.	Upper & Lower Box Canyon	Sandbar Campsite to Slesse Confluence	Slesse Ck. to Borden Ck.
# Fish Observed			270				20	12	32	10	28	8	22 & 22	45	26
February 8, 10 & 14, 1983	(cont.)						Borden Creek to Thurston Camp (10)	Thurston Camp to Allison Pool (11)							
# Fish Observed							43	2							
February ??, 1983	Slesse C No stee	Creek floate lhead were	ed from releas sighted.	se site to c											

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
April 6, 8, 13 & 14, 1983	adults: Lower R. float	>5m		13	3 (4 days)	MoE Surrey file	4 mi. log jam to Centre Creek Br.	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Riverside Campsite	Riverside Camp to Middle Ck. Br. abutment	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3rd Br.	3rd Br. to Reco Br.	Upper & Lower Box Canyon	Sandbar Campsite to Slesse Confluence	Slesse Ck. to Borden Ck.
# Fish Observed	float		705				40	46	57	70	65	30	56	68	60
April 6, 8, 13 & 14, 1983 # Fish Observed	(cont.)						Borden Creek to Thurston Camp (10) 106	Thurston Camp to Anderson Creek (11) 29	Anderson Creek to Slesse Park Store (12) 64	Slesse Park Store to Boulder Hold (13) 14					
March 13 & 15, 1984	adults			8	9	MoE Surrey file	Post Ck. hole & 4 mi. log jam to Centre Creek Br.	Centre Ck. Bridge to Centre Ck. Camp	Centre Ck. Camp to Riverside Campsite	Riverside Camp to Middle Ck. Br. abutment	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3rd Br.	3rd Br. to Reco Br.	Upper & Lower Box Canyon	Sandbar Campsite to Slesse Confluence	
# Fish Observed			223				2 & 9 = 11	13	13	26	41	13	22 & 48 = 70	36	
May 12, 1986 Note: Latest (spring) float on record	adults	~3m, low flow		3	3	MoE Surrey file	Abutment to 3rd Bridge	Lower Box Canyon	Upper Box Canyon						
# Fish Observed			45				25	18	2						
March 25, 1987	adults; late	exc. to OK		3	3	MoE Surrey file	Abutment to 3rd Bridge	Upper Box Canyon	Lower Box Canyon (Thermogr aph)	Recomment w/out floati	ds that future ng the middl	e floats spot e section ("a	check Upper is no fish are	& Lower Bo ever seen the	ox Canyons ere").
# Fish Observed			118				77	20	21						

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2
August 25, 1988	adult res. <b>RBT</b>	35-50% of fish thought to be seen		2	3	MoE file	4 mi. log jam	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3rd Bridge
Sect. length (km)				2.6			0.7	1.9
# Fish Observed			51 RBT				8 RBT 30cm+, 11 RBT 40cm+	11 RBT 30cm+, 21 RBT 40cm+
September 1, 1989	adult res. <b>RBT</b>	4m		2	3	MoE file	4 mi. log jam	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3rd Bridge
Sect. length (km)				3.1			0.7	1.9
# Fish Observed		low flow	42 RBT				2 RBT 30cm+	18 RBT 30cm+, 19 RBT 40cm+, 3 RBT 50cm+
September 27, 1990	adult res. <b>RBT</b>	4m		2	3	MoE Surrey file	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3rd Bridge	3rd Bridge to Foley Creek
Sect. length (km)		12° C		3.1			1.9	1.2
# Fish Observed		low flow	67 RBT				17 RBT 20cm+, 15 RBT 30cm+, 10 RBT 40cm+	12 RBT 20cm+, 9 RBT 30cm+, 4 RBT 40cm+
September 23, 1991	adult res. <b>RBT</b>	6m		2	3	MoE Surrey file	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3rd Bridge	3rd Bridge to Foley Creek
Sect. length (km)		11° C		3.1			1.9	1.2
# Fish Observed			62 RBT				20 RBT 20cm+, 13 RBT 30cm+, 1 RBT 40cm+	21 RBT 20cm+, 6 RBT 30cm+, 1 RBT 40cm+
October 13, 1992	adult res. <b>RBT</b>	4m		2	3	MoE Surrey file	Middle Ck. Br. abutment to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bridge	3 <sup>rd</sup> Bridge to Foley Creek
Sect. length (km)		13° C		3.1			1.9	1.2
# Fish Observed			93 RBT				11 RBT 20cm+, 21 RBT 30cm+, 5 RBT 40cm+	28 RBT 20cm+, 20 RBT 30cm+, 8 RBT 40cm+

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
February 16, 17, 18, 19, 2000	adults			18	3 (4 days)	ARL floats	Old 4 Mile Log Jam to Centre Creek Prison	Centre Creek Prison to Centre Creek Bridge	Centre Creek Br. to Upper side channel	Upper side channel to 3rd Br. Pool	Old Bridge Crossing	Upper Box Canyon Pools	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	Hatchery Intake to Hatchery Hole	Slesse Creek to Borden Creek
Sect. length (km)							2.8	2.2	2.2	1.9	spot check	spot check	spot check	spot check	1.9
# Fish Observed			209				0	0	2	1	1	3	0	75	13
February 16, 17, 18, 19, 2000	same float as above						Borden Creek to Thurston Camp (10)	Thurston Camp to Allison Pool (11)	Allison Pool to Slesse Park clayslide (12)	d/s Tamihi Br. to culvert u/s Sheller's Br. (13)	culvert u/s Sheller's Br. to Way's Field (14)	Way's Field to Liumchen Creek (15)	Liumchen Creek to Vedder Crossing (16)	Vedder Crossing to Lickman Road (17)	Lickman Road to Keith Wilson Bridge (18)
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						2.4	2.6	1.5	1.5	2.4	2.6	4.3	3.1	6.2
# Fish Observed							35	18	4	2	6	5	12	10	22
March 20, 21, 2000	adults			12	3 (2 days)	ARL floats	Old 4 Mile Log Jam to Centre Creek Prison	Centre Creek Prison to Centre Creek Bridge	Centre Creek Bridge to Middle Creek turn around	Middle Creek turn around to 3rd Bridge Pool	Old Bridge Crossing	Upper Box Canyon Pools	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	Hatchery Intake to Hatchery Hole	Slesse Creek to Borden Creek
Sect. length (km)							2.8	2.2	2.6	1.5	spot check	spot check	spot check	spot check	1.9
# Fish Observed			163				4	3	6	7	4	5	23	84	9
March 20, 21, 2000	same float as above						Borden Creek to Thurston Camp (10)	Thurston Camp to Allison Pool (11)	Allison Pool to Slesse Park clayslide (12)	d/s Tamihi Br. to culvert u/s Sheller's Br. (13)	culvert u/s Sheller's Br. to Way's Field (14)	Way's Field to Liumchen Creek (15)	Liumchen Creek to Vedder Crossing (16)	Vedder Crossing to Lickman Road (17)	Lickman Road to Keith Wilson Bridge (18)
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						2.4	2.6	1.5	1.5	2.4	2.6	4.3	3.1	6.2
# Fish Observed							10	8	0	not floated	not floated	not floated	not floated	not floated	not floated

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9
April 3, 2000	adults			12	3	ARL floats	Old 4 Mile Log Jam to Old Ford	Old Ford to Upper Centre Ck. outside bend	Upper Centre Ck. bend to Centre Ck. WRP in	Centre Ck. WRP intake to Centre Ck. overflow	Centre Ck. overflow to Lower Centre Ck. prison	Lower Centre Ck. prison to Centre Ck. camp spot	Centre Ck. camping spot to Centre Ck. WRP out	Centre Ck. WRP outlet to Centre Ck. trail	Centre Ck. trail to Centre Ck. bridge
Sect. length (km)					(1 day)		1	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5
# Fish Observed			27				4	4	0	1	4	5	0	1	2
April 3, 2000	same float as above						Centre Ck. Bridge to 3rd Bridge (10)	Old Bridge Crossing (11)	Upper Box Canyon Pools (12)	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool (13)	Hatchery Intake to Hatchery Hole	Slesse Creek to Slesse Park clayslide	d/s Tamihi Bridge to Vedder Crossing	Vedder Crossing to Keith Wilson Br.	
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						4.1	spot check	spot check	spot check					
# Fish Observed							not floated	0	1	5	not floated	not floated	not floated	not floated	
April 26, 27, 2000	adults			18	3 (2 days)	ARL floats	Upper Log Jam to Old 4 Mile Log Jam	Old 4 Mile Log Jam to Centre Ck. WRP in	Centre Ck. WRP in to Centre Ck. WRP overflow	Centre Ck. overflow to Centre Ck. camping spot	Centre Ck. camping spot to Centre Ck. WRP out	Centre Ck. WRP outlet to Centre Ck. trail	Centre Ck. trail to Centre Ck. Bridge	Centre Ck. Bridge to Middle Ck. turn around	Middle Ck. turn around to 3rd Bridge Pool
Sect. length (km)							0.5	2.2	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.5	2.6	1.5
# Fish Observed			104				9	5	0	3	1	2	6	12	7
April 26, 27, 2000	same float as above						Old Bridge Crossing (10)	Upper Box Canyon Pools (11)	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool (12)	Hatchery Intake (13)	Hatchery Storage Area to Hatchery Hole (14)	Slesse Creek to Borden Creek (15)	Borden Creek to Thurston Camp (16)	Thurston Camp to Allison Pool (17)	Allison Pool to Slesse Park clayslide (18)
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						spot check		spot check	spot check	0.6	1.9	2.4	2.6	1.5
# Fish Observed		(Tamihi B	r. to Keith W	ilson Br.	not floa	ted)	0	not floated	1	5	17	15	7	6	8

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7
February 8, 9, 13, 14, 2001	adults	1 - >10m		12	3 (4 days)	ARL floats	Upper Log Jam to Centre Ck Bridge	Centre Ck Bridge to Third Bridge	Third Bridge to Old Bridge Crossing	Old Bridge Crossing	Old Br Crossing to Upper Box Canyon Pools	Chipmunk Pools to Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	
Sect. length (km)							5.5	4	1.7	spot check	0.8	1.4	
# Fish Observed			458				not floated	7	not floated	0	4	3	
February 8, 9, 13, 14, 2001	same float as above						Cable Car Box Canyon Pool (7)	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool to Hatchery (8)	Hatchery Intake to Butterfly Run (9)	Butterfly Run to Slesse Park Clayslides (10)	Tamihi to Vedder Crossing (11)	Vedder Crossing to Keith Wilson Bridge (12)	
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						spot check	3	4.7	5.2	10.8	9.3	
# Fish Observed							54	not floated	298	7	54	31	
March 6, 7, 2001	adults	5 - >15m		10	3 (2 days)	ARL floats	Upper Log Jam to Centre Ck Bridge	Centre Ck Bridge to Third Bridge	Third Bridge to Old Bridge Crossing	Old Bridge Crossing	Old Br Crossing to Upper Box Canyon Pools	Chipmunk Pools to Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	
Sect. length (km)							5.5	4	1.7	spot check	0.8	1.4	
# Fish Observed			649				0	20	not floated	65	60	116	
March 6, 7, 2001	same float as above						Cable Car Box Canyon Pool (7)	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool to Hatchery (8)	Hatchery Intake to Butterfly Run (9)	Butterfly Run to Slesse Park Clayslides (10)			
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						spot check	3	4.7	5.2			
# Fish Observed							0	not floated	358	30			
March 8, 2001	adults	3 - 8m		6	3	ARL floats	Upper Log Jam to Centre Ck. Bridge	Centre Ck Bridge to Third Bridge	Third Bridge to Old Bridge Crossing	Old Bridge Crossing	Old Bridge Crossing to Upper Box Canyon Pools	Chipmunk Pools to Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool
Sect. length (km)							5.5	4	1.7	spot check	0.8	1.4	spot check
# Fish Observed			128				not floated	4	26	37	26	35	not floated

Date	For	Visibility	TOTAL # of steelhead counted	# of sections	# of crew	Source	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7
March 26, 27, 2001	adults	4 - 8m		10	3 (2 days)	ARL floats	Upper Log Jam to Centre Creek Bridge	Centre Ck Bridge to Third Bridge	Third Bridge to Old Bridge Crossing	Old Bridge Crossing	Old Br Crossing to Upper Box Canyon Pools	Chipmunk Pools to Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	
Sect. length (km)							5.5	4	1.7	spot check	0.8	1.4	
# Fish Observed			415				51	142	not floated	60	9	14	
March 26, 27, 2001	same float as above						Cable Car Box Canyon Pool (7)	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool to Hatchery (8)	Hatchery Intake to Butterfly Run (9)	Butterfly Run to Slesse Park Clayslides (10)			
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						spot check	3	4.7	5.2			
# Fish Observed							11	not floated	99	29			
April 10, 11, 12, 2001	adults	5 - >10m		10	3 (4 on April 12)	ARL floats	Upper Log Jam to Centre Ck Bridge	Centre Ck Bridge to Third Bridge	Third Bridge to Old Bridge Crossing	Old Bridge Crossing	Old Br Crossing to Upper Box Canyon Pools	Chipmunk Pools to Cable Car Box Canyon Pool	
Sect. length (km)					(3		5.5	4	1.7	spot check	0.8	1.4	
# Fish Observed			1204		days)		60	175	89	59	93	60	
April 10, 11, 12, 2001	same float as above						Cable Car Box Canyon Pool (7)	Cable Car Box Canyon Pool to Hatchery (8)	Hatchery Intake to Butterfly Run (9)	Butterfly Run to Slesse Park Clayslides (10)			
Sect. length (km)	(cont.)						spot check	3	4.7	5.2			
# Fish Observed							36	67	411	154			

Date	Total SH	Pos	t 4-mi. log jam	Centre Creek Br	Third Bridge	<b>Box Canyons</b>	Sandbar Camp	Wells Ranch	Slesse Creek	Anderson	Allison	Slesse Park	Tamihi
Feb. 8, 1973	751												
Feb. 15, 1973	291												
Feb. 21, 1974	278												
Jan. 8, 1975	174												
Feb. 5, 1975	400												
Mar. 8, 1975	120												
Mar. 27, 1975	135												
Apr. 9, 1979	398												
Apr. 11, 1975	39												
Feb. 11, 1976	252												
Mar. 20, 1976	584												
Jan. 9, 1977	148												
Feb. 2, 1977	216												
Feb. 16, 1978	297												
Feb. 16, 1979	99	?											
Apr., 1979	169	?											
Feb. 15, 1980	167												
Apr. 3, 1980	132												
Mar. 11, 1981	380	?											
Mar. 11, 1982	663												
Feb. 8, 1983	270												
Apr. 6, 1983	705												
Mar. 13, 1984	223												
May 12, 1986	45												
Mar. 25, 1987	118												
Feb. 16, 2000	209												
Mar. 20, 2000	163												
Apr. 3, 2000	27												
Mar. 26, 2000	104												
Feb. 8, 2001	458												
Mar. 6, 2001	649												
Mar. 8, 2001	128												
Mar. 26, 2001	415												
Apr. 10, 2001	1204												, I

Appendix III – Reaches floated on Chilliwack River surveys, 1973 – 2001

Note: Schematic diagram approximate, and *not to scale*, and relies on file records of reaches floated (see Appendix II). Some records sum counts over large sections, and do not indicate whether all reaches were floated, or if some dangerous portions were walked. Sections for which there is particular uncertainty are indicated in grey. Spot checks indicated by short bars (Post Creek, Box Canyons, Sandbar Camp and Wells Ranch).

Aquatic Resources Limited



III.1