

Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Centre Facility and Operations For the year ended March 31, 2017

The Nechako White Sturgeon Facility was successfully operated for a third full year in 2016-17. We were successful in capturing, holding and then spawning 5 mature males and 4 mature females in May and June, 2016, despite very difficult capture conditions. One of these 4 female brood had been held for 2 years (since 2014) before being spawned successfully. A total of 432,000 eggs were fertilized for both the hatchery and 3 sets of research experiments. Thirty-eight wild juvenile sturgeon were reared from 197 eggs captured during sampling in the river this year. A total of 11,510 juvenile sturgeon, weighing an average of 203 g. each will be released in the spring of 2017 at nine sites at 10 km intervals near Vanderhoof.

One significant capital project was completed in spring 2016 to mitigate issues with high river water levels. In 2015 high river levels and an alarm failure resulted in the temporary loss of the river pump supply and destruction of the pump motors. To mitigate this risk in future the pump chamber height was increased, a mechanical alarm was integrated into the emergency callout systems and minor leaks in the chamber were sealed to ensure security of this important water supply.



Figure 1. Flooding June 2015.



Figure 2. Pump chamber extension after completion.

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For the year ended March 31, 2017

Table 1. Funding, Operating and Capital costs.

OPERATIONS				
Funding related to operations	2015	2016	2017	2018 (budgeted)
Carry-over funding	69,636	28,574	- 8,648	- 51,668
Balance of building funding	-	28,164	-	
NEEF Funding received (F2017 requesting)	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
RTA Funding received	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Funds for operating expenses spent (budgeted)	- 409,777	- 452,754	- 489,848	- 494,688
Funds for operating capital spent (budgeted)	- 81,285	- 62,632	- 3,173	- 6,300
Balance of funding	28,574	- 8,648	- 51,668	- 102,656
* \$400,000 of NEEF Funding is requested each year. Actual expenses will vary each year, but are planned to be fully spent over the 10 years of operations. Any future deficits over the 10 years will be funded from FFSCB contributed capital funds. 2014 NEEF funding is only \$175,000 because \$275,000 was allocated to the facility funding. \$300,000 of NEEF funding was approved to be used for the building based on best estimates at the time.				
Fiscal 2017 (April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017)				
Operating Expenses	Total	NEEF 1061	RTA 1060	FFSCB/OTHER
Salaries	265,659	172,638	50,000	43,021
Travel	3,155	3,155	-	
Contract services	-	-	-	
Operating Supplies & Services	79,570	79,570	-	
Vehicle Expenses	5,509	5,509	-	
Fish Feed	9,949	9,949	-	
Facilities	53,685	53,685	-	
Utilities	27,679	27,679	-	
Property Taxes & Permits	12,065	12,065	-	
Administration	32,961	32,961	-	
Indirect expense allocation	- 384	- 384	-	
Total Operating Expenses	489,848	396,827	50,000	43,021
Operating equipment				
Vehicles (net)	304	304	-	-
Production Equipment and computers	2,869	2,869	-	-
Total Operating equipment	3,173	3,173	-	-
Total Operating costs	493,021	400,000	50,000	43,021
BUILDING				
Building capital costs (including gate)	Total	NEEF 1061	RTA 1060	FFSCB/OTHER
April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017	18,150	18,150	-	-
Prior years cumulative costs	5,459,676	3,810,741	1,648,935	-
Total Building and Gate Cost	5,477,826	3,828,891	1,648,935	