



The following are some highlights of Fraser Basin Council's recent work in the Fraser Valley.

**Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy – LMFMS highlights**

- **Flood Risk Governance** – As always this is a busy and dynamic file. The Leadership Committee met Nov. 26 to continue evolving a new regional authority, its prerequisites, principles and scope, and how it would work with existing jurisdictions. On Dec. 4, the FBC team met with Ministers Mike Farnworth (Public Safety and Solicitor General) and Doug Donaldson (Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development) about the growing interest in a new provincially mandated authority to oversee implementation of the flood strategy.
- **Lower Mainland Flood Risk Assessment** – Significant work has been done acquiring necessary data and drafting surveys of local governments and non-residential properties to collect additional flood risk information. The consulting team IBI/Golder reported emerging details to the Advisory Committee on Dec. 5.
- **Hydraulic Modeling and Mapping** – FBC staff members can now provide modeling and mapping results to flood strategy partners on request. Municipalities and other partner organizations can use the model for their own specific needs. FBC is helping to draft data sharing and model-use agreements to assist the partners and to track this process. Partners use the tool to run and analyze flood scenarios, risk assessment, and for databases.
- **Environmental ecosystems** – A consultant recently hired has begun to identify and map ecosystem classes across the Fraser Valley floodplain, to include in flood management strategies. Provincial government data on sturgeon and eulachon has been added to the online Flood and Environment Atlas. This atlas can be accessed at [www.cmnbc.ca/atlasgallery/lower-mainland-flood-and-environment-atlas](http://www.cmnbc.ca/atlasgallery/lower-mainland-flood-and-environment-atlas)
- **BC Storm Surge Forecast** – The 2019-2020 almanac and tide calendars are at [www.stormsurgebc.ca](http://www.stormsurgebc.ca)

**Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewards (CLASS)**

- **Invasive species in Spring Creek:** An unknown water plant is growing prolifically in Spring Creek near the Lindell Beach area. FBC and CLASS are working with the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society (FVISS) and an invasive plant specialist and Early Detection Rapid Response Coordinator with the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to identify the grass. It is tentatively identified as either the invasive curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) or the native clasping-leaf pondweed (*P. richardsonii*). Further sampling will be done to determine the species. CLASS is exploring reasons why Spring Creek is filling with silt, which is allowing plants to take hold, and which deteriorates the site as a spawning bed for salmon. FBC and CLASS will seek ways to help FVISS survey the area for invasive plants, and to develop community workshops or work bees in the coming year.
- **CLASS volunteer tally:** FBC is gathering data on CLASS involvement in the community through a tally of its volunteer hours in a number of activities in the past year (goose counts, invasive plant treatment, water quality monitoring, smallmouth bass support, outreach events and more); a rough estimate to date is 500 hours.

**Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance (FVIDA)**

- Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance volunteers, along with FVRD director Orion Engar and members of the Fraser Valley Salmon Society, are taking an inventory of persistent squatter camps near the Swelter/Chilliwack confluence and along Chilliwack River Valley Road. FBC/FVIDA is also reaching out to Soowahlie First Nation and other First Nations to learn how they are addressing the illegal squatters and dumping issues.
- FVIDA members continue to report illegal dump site activity on the Fraser River at Gill Road to FLNRORD, RCMP and the City of Chilliwack. FVIDA members have begun organizing the Gill Road clean up coming in March.
- Wrapping up its year with FVIDA, FBC will provide local teachers with a Fishing with Rod video about the issue, [youtu.be/plrRgxBBsac](https://youtu.be/plrRgxBBsac); reach out to First Nations; and begin a database to share with partners in the future.

**Coded Wire Tag program to identify Chinook and Coho**

- FBC Fraser Valley staff continues to survey local recreational anglers and representatives on ways to boost participation in DFO's Salmon Head Recovery – Coded Wire Tag (CWT) program in the region in 2020.

Thank you to the FVRD and directors for your support and advice over the past year – Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a fruitful 2020. – Christina Toth

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