



Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project

Exploring Environmental Protection

Construction of the new bridge is taking place on the shores and in the waters of the Fraser River. This area is home to many species of fish and plants that need to be protected during and after construction.



Permitting

Before any large construction project can start, the Project team must apply for permits. Permits are one of the ways the government can make sure the Project has carefully considered possible environmental impacts, to meet the goal of environmental sustainability.

As part of the permit process, the Project team studied the potential impacts of construction in and near the river. They looked at impacts on wildlife, fish and fish habitat and fishing. They also had to provide a plan to avoid or minimize these impacts. In cases where impacts to fish or fish habitat could not be avoided, the Project team had to provide a plan for offsetting those impacts by creating new habitat.



1 Studying fish and fish habitat

In advance of project construction, the project team worked with First Nations on studies to learn more about two fish species in the Project area that are important to the Nations: eulachon and white sturgeon.

You can learn more about these studies by visiting pattullobridgereplacement.ca/fn-participation or scanning the QR code.

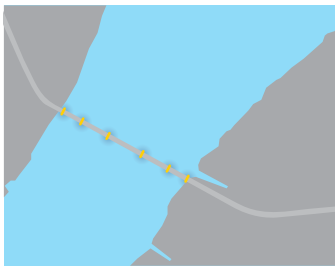


2 Protecting fish and fish habitat

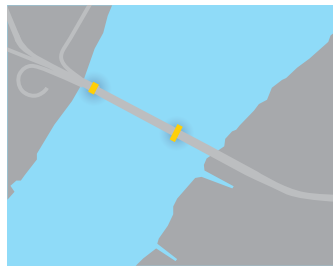
The Fraser River is home to many types of fish, including all five species of pacific salmon, and the white sturgeon – which can live to over 100 years old! It also supports an important fish species called eulachon. Eulachon is a food source for many marine mammals and other fish species and is important to First Nations.

One way we protect fish and their habitat is by minimizing the amount of construction that is needed in the river. The new bridge has only two in-river supports (called piers). This is fewer than the current Pattullo Bridge, which has six in-river piers.

Pattullo Bridge piers



New bridge piers



The new bridge has only two in-river piers, minimizing construction in the river.



The white sturgeon can live to over 100 years old and grow up to 6 meters long – that's longer than most SUVs!

3 Creating new fish habitat

Since constructing piers in the river can impact the ecosystem, the project is building new fish habitat to balance out habitat loss from the in-river bridge piers. This is called “habitat offsetting”.

The project team is working with First Nations on the qiqéyt Foreshore Habitat Restoration Project, located along the Fraser River by the new bridge in Surrey. The project will include new marsh habitat along the river for fish, including five species of salmon. In addition, various native riverbank plants will be planted, which may include wapato, salmonberry, and others.

Planning is also underway with First Nations for a second fish and fish habitat offsetting project and initiatives to benefit eulachon and sturgeon.

