

Sydney Tar Ponds - Fish Rescue Report – December 22, 2009

Fish rescue work was carried out in Coke Oven Brook and Wash Brook on December 22, 2009. Areas associated with the pumping of Coke Oven Brook and Wash Brook around the South Pond required that they be made devoid of fish before any pumping activity commenced.

The work was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Jim Foulds, under DFO licence # 323640. MB2/Beaver Joint Venture staff carried out the work. Rick Penny assisted with logistics along with Steve Deveau, and Doug Cathcart, Pat Fitzgerald, and Wilfred Shaw did the actual seining of the areas.

The net used was an 8 ft. deep shore seine (bottom lead line, upper line with floats) with a mesh size (stretched) of 6 mm.

1. Coke Oven Brook (COB)

The lower portion of COB had two silt barrier fences near the mouth and a side channel constructed and lined with concrete (photo 1). A fish net marked off the upper boundary (photo 2). Photo 2 also shows the significant discharge rate that was in progress at this time.



Photo 1 Coke Oven Brook – lower portion showing side channel. South Pond is in the background.



Photo 2 Upper end of Coke Oven Brook closed section showing fish barrier and discharge characteristics.

The seine net was placed across the upper barrier fence and swept downstream to the lower end of the section (photo 3).



Photo 3 Net being drawn through Coke Oven Brook.

The net was closed off at the lower end and retrieved. No fish were captured.

2. Wash Brook (WB)

The section of wash brook to be fished extended from the concrete overpass down to a submerged coffer dam at the mouth of the channel. The net was stretched across the channel (photo 3) and drawn down by pulling on both sides and retrieved (photo 4) at the downstream end. No fish were captured.



Photo 4 Net placed across Wash Brook.

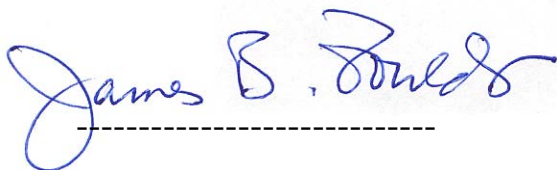


Photo 5 Net retrieved at Wash Brook.

Interpretation:

This work was carried out under less than ideal conditions. Discharge was at a “high” level. The lack of fish captured can be explained in a number of ways. There may be no fish present. There may be fish present that were not captured due to the high water conditions. Fish may still enter from upstream especially in times of high discharge when water is flowing over the barrier fence.

My professional opinion is that all that could be done - was done – and the likelihood of fish being present, but not captured, is low.



Jim Foulds, Ph.D., CCEP