



Coastal Restoration Fund

Cowichan/Koksilah
Watershed to Sea –
Protecting and Restoring
Canada's Wild River
Heritage as an Integral Link
to the Salish Sea

Overview

- Part of Canada's Oceans Protection Plan
- \$75M to support projects that help restore coastal aquatic habitats
- \$200K-\$1M/year for a project
- Multi-year; indigenous partners, broad number of partners, addressing coastal restoration priorities
- Focus on estuaries, coastal watersheds and near-shore rearing areas
- Advice from DFO to focus on priorities

Cowichan Proposal

- Cowichan Tribes lead applicant
- Partnering with BC Conservation Foundation; and SeaChange with support from CWB, CVRD, Industry, and ENGO's
- Link to the Cowichan Watershed Health and Chinook Initiative and Cowichan Recovery Plan – focus on Chinook as key species with link to Southern Resident Killer Whales
- Whole of watershed approach including estuary

\$3.54M Proposal for Funding:

- 3 key earth moving projects that are high profile and priorities.
- Included planning and understanding the watershed or estuary habitat processes.
- Partnership approach, include capacity building and employment
- Multi-year fund with the opportunity to apply for other projects like the weir in subsequent years

3 Projects

1. Cowichan/Koksilah Estuary Connectivity (2nd breach of causeway; maintenance of the 1st breach) and Eelgrass Restoration using Adaptive management; include understanding habitat processes
2. Cowichan Habitat Sustainability – Stoltz Bluff – Extending a Decade of Success with a Major Maintenance Upgrade
3. Riparian Assessment and Restoration – mid and upper river, lake shore and main tributaries