

Enhancing Estuary Resilience:
An Innovative Approach to Sustaining Fish and Fish Habitat in a Changing Climate

A BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) Project

Quotes: Tom Reid, West Coast Program Manager

On the Enhancing Estuary Resilience Project:

“This project is exciting, intimidating and challenging. It’s also one of the most rewarding projects I’ve worked on in my career because of the momentum of the project, the level of interest and the partnerships and relationships we’re developing. The complexity of the project is one of its strengths.”

On the project’s commitment to relationship building:

“The lifecycle of this project is five years but for me and for The Nature Trust of BC, this project is just the beginning of building relationships with First Nations communities. We’re building friendships and relationships that will go beyond the five years of the project.

The power of the project is something all partners want to get behind. There are two components: the scientific, monitoring, restoration component and the network of friendships with people from different coastal communities who want to make sure that these places are resilient for generations to come.”

On the importance of estuaries:

“From a scientific monitoring perspective, the estuary ecosystems are critically important. Estuaries are sometimes undervalued and not given the same cachet as an old growth forest or a river system, but estuaries are the heart of the ecosystems between rivers, the ocean and different upland environments. The project is looking at whether these systems are going to be resilient over time. Getting an answer to that will help The Nature Trust of BC and our partners be the most effective in our restoration and management efforts.”

On the MARS tool:

“This BCSRIF project needed a system-wide monitoring tool that could be implemented with relative ease, scaled to cover our large geographic area and be accessible and useable amongst our many partners. This led us to the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Marsh Resiliency to Sea-Level rise (MARS) tool. It Alaska. We aim to ensure our work is directly connected to and builds upon the ongoing NERRS research program.”