

Case Study: Fraser River Ambient Monitoring Program

As part of its Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP), Metro Vancouver has committed to undertaking ambient monitoring "in areas where water quality... is potentially affected by wastewater and/or stormwater."

Ambient monitoring entails measuring conditions in the immediate environment surrounding but not directly affected by any discharge.

In 2002 ENKON Environmental Limited designed an ambient monitoring program to meet the LWMP commitment. The ambient monitoring program covers the Fraser River within Metro Vancouver (from the mouth up to Langley). The program includes water column sampling,



sediment sampling, and a fish tissue/fish health survey. Water column sampling is conducted annually. Sediment and fish sampling are conducted every five years.

To date ENKON has completed six years of the water column sampling program. There are seven sampling sites in the North Arm, Main Arm and Main Stem.

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Samples are collected weekly for five weeks during the winter low flow period and sent to laboratories for chemical analyses. ENKON also takes water quality measurements with field meters.



In 2006 ENKON conducted the first sediment sampling program. Samples were collected once at each of the seven sampling sites. The samples were sent to laboratories for analyses of metals and organic contaminants.

ENKON, supported by IRC Integrated Resource Consultants, conducted fish tissue/fish health surveys in



2004 and 2007. Fish were collected by beach seining in the North Arm, Main Arm and Main Stem. The fish health portion of the studies included



measuring the fish, weighting whole fish and various tissues, and recording observations of abnormalities and parasites. Whole fish and fish muscle and liver tissues were sent to laboratories for analyses of metals and organic contaminants.

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