

METRO VANCOUVER'S JOINT WATER USE PLAN

To help ensure the sustainable management of the region's water resources.

JUNE 2020

Joint Water Use Plan Overview

Metro Vancouver has developed a Joint Water Use Plan (JWUP) for the Capilano and Seymour watersheds to ensure sustainable management of the water resources for drinking water, fish habitat and potential hydropower generation.

Purpose of the Joint Water Use Plan

The management of drinking water for the region is guided by the Metro Vancouver Drinking Water Management Plan (DWMP). The goals of the DWMP are to:

- Provide clean, safe drinking water;
- Ensure the sustainable use of water resources; and
- Ensure the efficient supply of water.

The JWUP provides recommendations on the operation of the reservoirs and dams in the Capilano and Seymour watersheds and on how water is released from the reservoirs and allocated for different uses. The JWUP reflects modern sustainability values for water management for both watersheds.



Cleveland Dam



Capilano Reservoir

What is a Water Use Plan?

Water Use Plans are administered under the provincial Water Sustainability Act and lay out how water resources are managed with respect to drinking water, fish habitat, recreation, culture and heritage, safety and power generation.

Collaborative Approach

Development of the JWUP began in 2010, and was created with extensive input from Metro Vancouver, provincial and federal agencies, municipalities with lands adjoining the watersheds, First Nations and the public. The following are some of the immediate and long-term benefits of the JWUP.

Benefits of the Joint Water Use Plan



Water Supply

- Maintains ability to manage drinking water supply, even during dry periods
- Provides Metro Vancouver with regulatory support to maintain a long-term drinking water supply
- Increases transparency and public awareness of Metro Vancouver activities



Fish Habitat

- Fish habitat benefits are anticipated from proposed operational changes at the Seymour Reservoir
- Anticipated fish habitat benefits of the proposed Capilano hydropower project include:
 - Improved ability to manage reservoir outflows will increase aquatic activity and benefit fish migration
 - Ability to provide warmer surface water to the Capilano River below Cleveland Dam to enhance aquatic productivity
 - Improved downstream flow conditions in the Capilano River will benefit steelhead, salmon and other aquatic life



Power Generation

- A proposed hydropower project at the Cleveland Dam has the ability to generate green energy equivalent to the amount needed to power approximately 6,000 homes per year, and help reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions



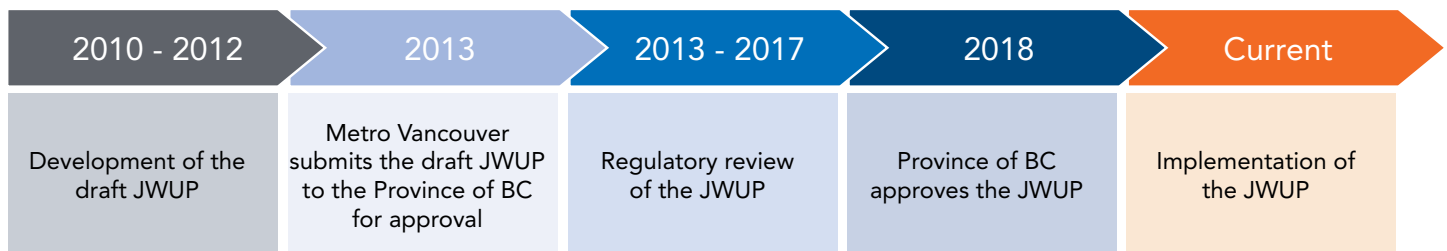
Recreation

- Real-time flow and water level information is available to users on the Metro Vancouver website
- The potential to increase downstream flows and improve angling, kayaking and canoeing



Coho Salmon in the Seymour River

Timeline



More information on the JWUP can be found on the Metro Vancouver website:

Website: Visit www.metrovancouver.org and search "JWUP".