

### 3. Assessment of the Amendment Application

In assessing the amendment application, EAO considered whether the proposed changes to the Project have the potential for significant adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage, or health effects.

In undertaking the assessment, the following were considered:

- a) Proponent's Application for a Certificate Amendment;
- b) Advice from the Project Working Group;
- c) Comments from the public received during the public comment period on the Application; and
- d) Consultations with the 'Namgis First Nation and the Tlowitsis First Nation on potential effects of the Project on Aboriginal Interests.

#### *Summary of potential significant adverse effects*

Most Project effects identified during the EA that led to the issuance of the certificate will not change, as the original and proposed revised project would occupy the same project footprint.

The Proponent identified in the Application that the increase in the maximum diversion flow rate would result in an interaction with the following valued components (VCs) and issues of concern:

- Surface hydrology (VC);
- Geomorphology (VC);
- Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat (VC);
- Navigation Issues; and
- Accidents and Malfunctions.

Upon reviewing the Application and considering comments raised by the Working Group and the public EAO determined that the key issue of the amendment process was the potential effects to fisheries and aquatic habitat. The Application identified potential changes to fisheries and aquatic habitat due to the proposed increase in the maximum diversion flow rate including:

- Fish habitat (rearing, spawning, incubation);
- Change in migration;
- Invertebrate community;
- Ramping duration; and
- Efficiency of the intake Coanda screen.

Specifically, the Proponent identified in the Application that the proposed amendment would result in a predicted 0.1% loss of summer steelhead spawning habitat and a 0.3% to 0.9% loss of Chinook salmon spawning habitat. There would also be a minor reduction