

Oil Sands Monitoring (OSM)

2016-2017 PROJECT PLAN SUMMARY

Project Name:	F1-1-1 Contaminant Monitoring: Aquatic Species (Fish, Muskrat)
Type of Project:	Long Term Monitoring
Delivery Agent:	ECCC/AEP
Project Contact:	Krista Tremblett (AEP) - krista.tremblett@gov.ab.ca Mark McMaster (ECCC) - mark.mcmaster@Canada.ca
Budget:	\$ 200,000

Project Description:

Part of this project is to evaluate fish in the Alberta Oil Sands Region (AOSR) as part of the Oil Sands Monitoring Program (OSM). Specifically, this project is using community involvement to collect fish in areas identified by the community for fish health and contaminant analysis. This work also contributes to the establishment of baseline conditions for future monitoring efforts.

Project Objectives:

- To develop a science-based framework for the monitoring and assessment of the environmental health of the Alberta Oil Sands Region through the use of fish health assessments, fish assemblage monitoring, and contaminants level;
- Collection of baseline information on fish populations/communities required for establishing predictive relationships for assessing potential cumulative effects;
- And, to establish linkages between fish health and benthic invertebrates within the oil sands development region and downstream receiving environments, to examine assess status and trends, and to support integration of results with the Lower Athabasca Water Management Framework.

Key Outcomes:

The project aims to improve the understanding of the status and health of fish in the lower Athabasca Region.

Geographic Scope:

Sites on main stem include: Fort McMurray (M2), Fort McKay, and Fort Chipewyan.

Associated Data and Reports:

All the fish health data collected (either by ECCC or AEP contractor) under this project plan will be provided to AEP for data management and accessibility purpose.

Reviews of field data, data evaluation, and reporting will be done in the last quarter.