

16TAN Aquatic Habitat Report

Husky Energy contracted SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd. (SLR) to complete an aquatic habitat compilation report as a component of the fisheries assessment activities for the pipeline release (16TAN) incident which occurred on July 21, 2016. The aquatic habitat inventory assessment was carried out 50km upstream and 400km downstream of the break point.

Methodology

Existing baseline data was collected and reviewed by desktop analysis, information on fish and fish habitat in the North Saskatchewan River was gathered from specialists from local agencies, data collection from surface water, sediment monitoring and the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team on the 16TAN incident was also drawn on. Field investigations mapped main channel types on the North Saskatchewan River with a focus on the mainstem and downstream right bank based on main accumulation of oil. As well as channel type, bank habitat and special habitat features such as pools, backwater and riffles, were documented. The field teams employed habitat assessment methods and classification techniques adapted from established protocols.

Maps

The resulting maps characterized habitat types that support reproduction and survival of aquatic biota, and identified the type and quality of habitat impacted. The maps could also be used to pinpoint sampling locations for the long-term monitoring of potential residual effects of the spill event, and identify opportunities for conservations offsets.