

# **Monetizing Fish Habitat Credits**

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The Fisheries Act revised in 2013 changed how we manage our fisheries resources. One of those changes included the opportunity to create fish habitat banks. This has created a potential revenue source for stream restoration and in so doing, has the potential to revolutionize the stream restoration business. The Act currently allows only proponent-led fish habitat banks. This means that only the legal entity that created the bank and the associated habitat credits is allowed to use the credits. This would tend to suggest that there is no need to monetize fish habitat credits. However, at present, most of the habitat banks are being established by municipal stormwater utilities, which generally keep a separate set of accounting books. This means that utilities could ‘sell’ credits to other departments (e.g., transportation) that might need credits. There is also the possibility that upcoming changes to the Fisheries Act will allow third party banking. Thus, the question of the value of fish habitat credits (\$) is very relevant. The presentation explores how to monetize fish habitat credits.

## **Biography**

Brad Fairley has 35 years of experience working in water resources management across North America. He spent the last 18 years doing stream restoration projects. 13 of those years were spent working on stream projects in North Carolina, which is a leader in the field of stream restoration. Since returning to Canada in 2013, Brad has completed projects in every province and territory except PEI and Nunavut. Brad is responsible for the stream restoration practice in Canada.