



**Mount Polley Mining Corporation**  
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# Community Update

## Introduction

Welcome to Mount Polley Mining Corporation’s (MPMC) 2018 Quarter 2 Community Update newsletter providing the local communities with information about what is happening at the mine.

## Fish in Hazeltine Creek



Upper Hazeltine Creek, early July 2018

On April 26, 2018, the fish fence at the Polley Lake Weir was removed and fish were allowed to return into the remediated section of upper Hazeltine Creek. A lower fish fence was installed upstream of the Gavin Lake Road bridge to prevent spawning in future work areas.

## MPMC Events:

### Past events:

**April 11:** Implementation Committee Meeting — Williams Lake, BC

**June 8-10:** Plato Island Fishing Derby sponsored by MPMC — Quesnel Lake, BC

**June 26:** Public Liaison Committee meeting — Likely, BC

**June 28:** Regional Operations Supervisors from Ministry of Environment Tour — Mount Polley mine site

### Upcoming events:

**TBD:** Public site tour — Mount Polley mine site (after labour dispute is resolved)

**September 17-21:** Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR) symposium and site tour — Williams Lake, Likely, and Mount Polley mine site

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Since August 2014, fish were prevented from entering Hazeltine Creek until suitable habitat was constructed. After two years of work, there is approximately 2.5 km of spawning and rearing habitat for rainbow trout, as well as red side shiners and long nose suckers in the creek. This marks a milestone in the remediation efforts at MPMC and could not have been achieved without the hard work and support of its employees, as well as consultants, contractors, First Nations and our community partners.



Spawning rainbow trout in Hazeltine Creek— late May 2018

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Weekly surveys of the fish populations are being conducted by MPMC environmental staff in cooperation with Minnow Environmental to track the success of the 2018 spawn and fish activity. The surveys include counting of fish at established monitoring stations and pools, and observing how the fish are using the creek (eg. seeking shelter under woody debris or boulders). The most recent spawning survey completed in early July observed over 18,600 rainbow trout in upper Hazeltine Creek, with the majority being young-of-year (ie. born from the 2018 spawn). In addition to the surveys, temperature data continues to be monitored within Hazeltine Creek as well as dissolved oxygen levels.

An engineered fish ladder was installed at the Polley Lake weir to allow fish to return into Polley Lake. The flows are monitored to ensure that the water elevations are properly maintained for fish passage. The fish ladder has been designed so that flow can be adapted to seasonal changes.



Fish using the ladder at the Polley Lake weir - late May 2018

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## Rainbow Trout Hatchery

To augment the rainbow trout age class numbers post-breach, MPMC built an on-site hatchery this spring. The eggs were harvested and fertilized from local rainbow trout in Hazeltine Creek.



Minnow Environmental Staff inspecting eggs harvested from rainbow trout, early May 2018.

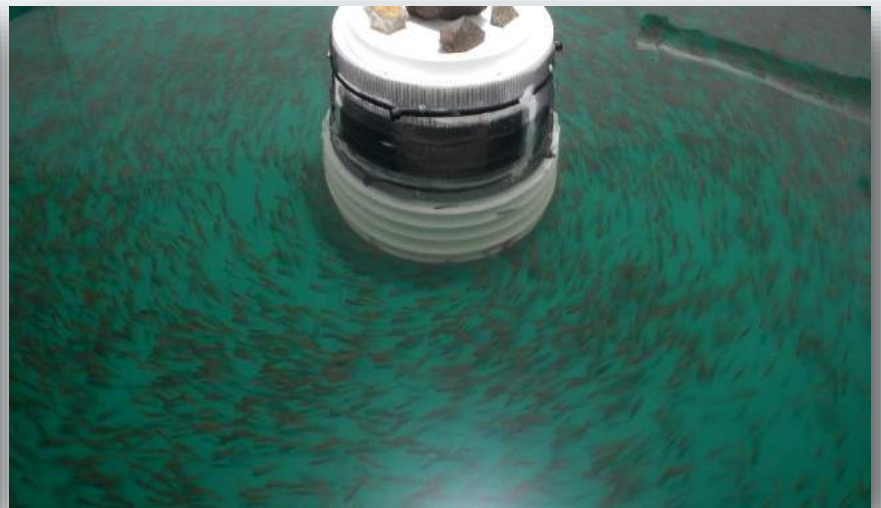
Once the eggs were fertilized, they were placed in incubation trays where temperature, flow and dissolved oxygen levels were regularly monitored. The water intake is sourced from below the thermocline in Polley Lake in order to maintain cooler temperatures. It took approximately two months for the eggs to hatch into alevins (yolk-sac fry) and another two weeks for the yolk sac to be completely absorbed. Throughout the incubation stage (except during their most sensitive phase), MPMC staff counted and removed the white dead/unfertilized eggs.

On July 5, the fry were transferred from the incubation trays to the shallow rearing tanks. They will remain there until the fish reach their target biomass and then will be transferred to deeper rearing tanks, and eventually released into the Polley Lake watershed.

MPMC staff have been monitoring the hatchery twice daily, at a minimum, to ensure the survival of the fish, and even have on-call overnight personnel to attend to an emergency.



Rainbow trout eggs hatching, late June 2018



Rainbow trout fry in shallow ponding tanks, early July 2018

## Hazeltine Creek Remediation

Approximately 3,030 willow cuttings harvested from site, were planted along 2.6 km of the lower floodplain in reach 2 of Hazeltine Creek in spring 2018. Additional planting of approximately 58,600 alder and 192,480 conifers plugs (eg. pine, spruce, and cedar) in the breach affected areas, will continue in the upcoming months.

Remediation work planned for summer 2018 includes further soil placement in the Polley Flats area. This will include the removal and remediation of the road south of the Polley Lake control structure. This will create a continuous area of remediation from the Polley Flats to the treeline east of Hazeltine Creek. Primary drainage control will be maintained/established during the construction.

Construction of fish habitat features in reach 3 of the Hazeltine Creek channel was scheduled to start in June, however, as MPMC is involved in a labour dispute with its unionized employees, this remediation work has been postponed to later this summer.

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## Wildlife

There have been many wildlife sightings on and around the site, especially black bear sows with cubs. Reminder to be aware of your surroundings and make noise when walking in the bush.



Black bear sow with cub along the west ditch on the Mount Polley site, June 2018



Bull moose observed on a Mount Polley site wildlife camera, June 2018

Please visit the Imperial Metals website for more information about MPMC's reports and ongoing projects:  
<https://imperialmetals.com/our-operations/mount-polley-mine/mount-polley-updates>