Hydronet’s networking structure

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The general objective of NSERC HydroNet is to provide knowledge and tools that will permit the sustainable development of hydropower in Canada. This is achieved by developing strategies to assess, minimize, and mitigate the effects of hydropower on fish and their habitats. Specific projects conducted by NSERC HydroNet have been designed to facilitate the decision-making process in the context of the application of existing regulations such as the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Species at Risk Act, and the Habitat Policy. The Network presently consists of 16 university professors, 30 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, 14 research associates, 8 industry collaborators (BC Hydro, Manitoba Hydro, Nalcor, Brookfield Power), 9 scientists from Fisheries and Oceans, and 4 scientists from provincial agencies (Manitoba Water Stewardship, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministère des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune du Québec). This group collectively conducts 21 projects in 44 regulated and unregulated rivers and 5 reservoirs distributed from Newfoundland to British-Columbia. The focus on a common set of study sites has played a critical role in the realization of collaborative projects. Networking and knowledge transfer has taken numerous forms including the development of a Web Site (restructured in 2012), the production of General Public Annual Reports, and the organization of Workshops (including a Workshop on Hydropower, Science, and Policies to be held in Ottawa in May 2012), Training Sessions (Introduction to R-Statistical Package for students of the Network, Vancouver, March 2012), and International meetings (HydroNet-CEDREN joint workshop planned for the fall of 2012 in Trondheim, Norway). Future developments of NSERC HydroNet will require additional government and industry partnerships and a research strategy adapted to answer questions posed by an anticipated new regulatory framework.