

The Columbia River Integrated Environmental Monitoring Program (CRIEMP)

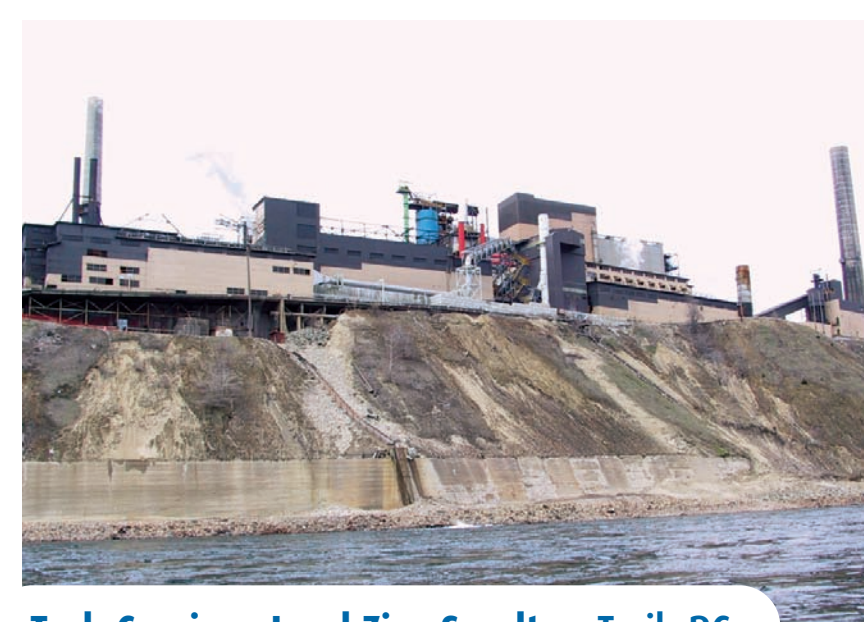
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What is CRIEMP?

The Columbia River Integrated Environmental Monitoring Program (CRIEMP) was established in 1991 to assess the status of ecological health of the Canadian portion of the Columbia River between Hugh Keenleyside Dam and the Canada-US Border. Partners now include all levels of government, local industry, First Nations, and non-government organizations from Canada and the US.



Zellstoff Celgar Mill Castlegar, BC

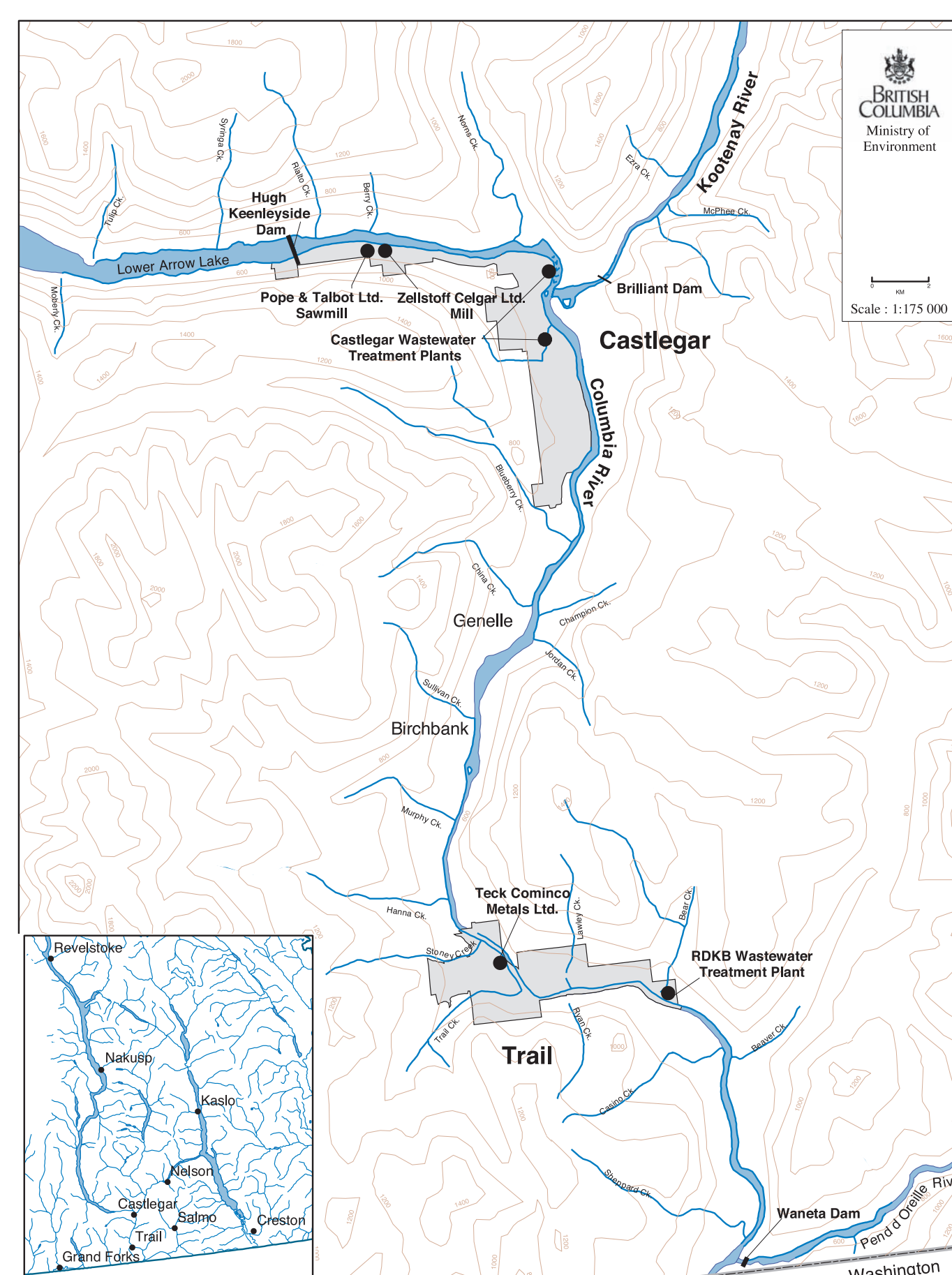


Teck Cominco Lead-Zinc Smelter Trail, BC

The primary objective of CRIEMP is to gather and share environmental information in a coordinated and cost-effective manner and to report this information to the public.

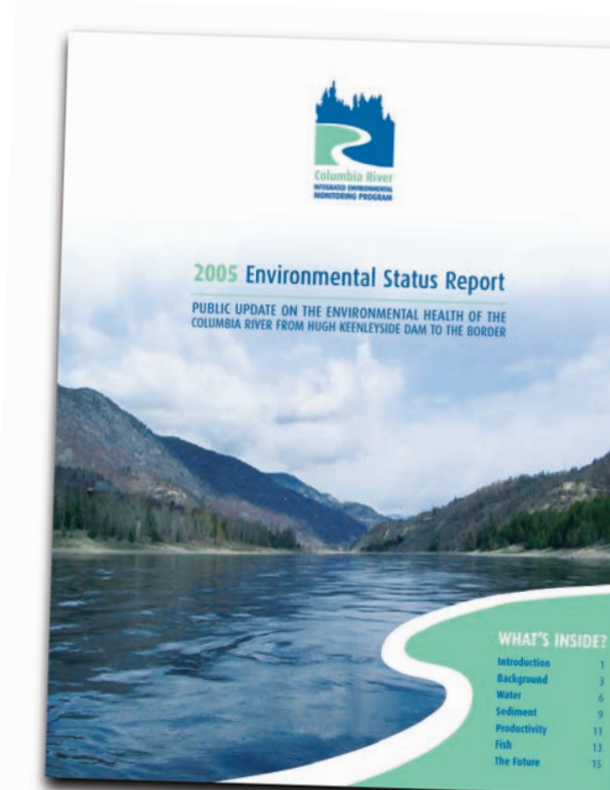
Study Area

CRIEMP monitors a 60 km stretch of the Columbia River (see right). The river is subject to large dams, municipal wastewater discharges, urban development and industrial operations such as a lead and zinc smelter, pulp mill, and saw mill. The Kootenay and Pend d'Oreille rivers converge with the Columbia River within this stretch.



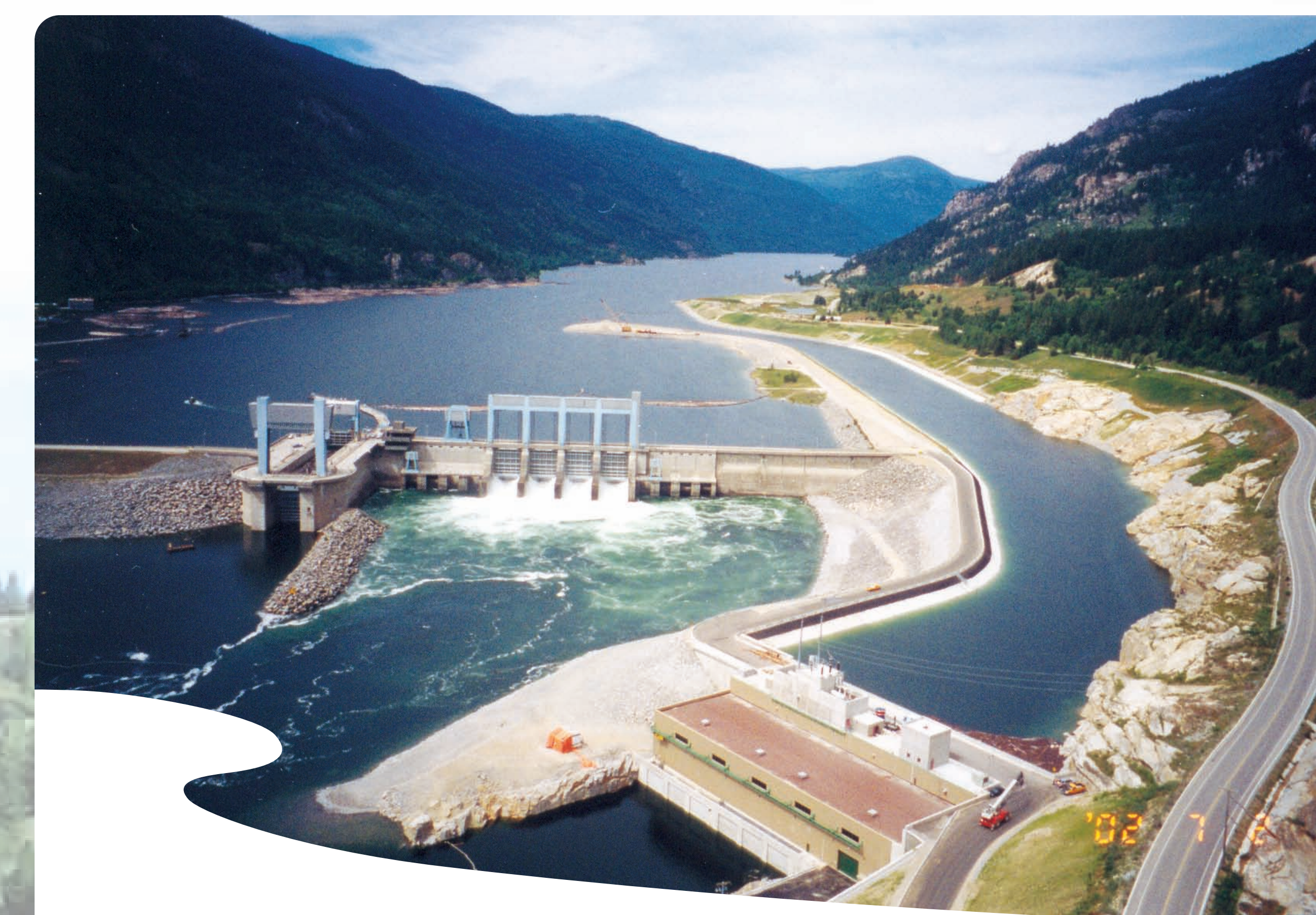
2005 Environmental Status Report

The 2005 Environmental Status Report provides a public update on the environmental health of this 60 km stretch of the Columbia River. The report gives an overview of the changes and improvements in the study area since the early 1990s.



Select environmental indicators – water flow, water quality, sediment quality, productivity, and fish – were compared to accepted environmental guidelines and scientific criteria. The report found an overall improving trend in the health of the river. The Water Quality Index improved from “poor – marginal” to “good” at the Waneta site while Birchbank remains at “good – excellent”. Dam operations are adjusted to reduce total gas pressure (TGP) and sediment contamination is expected to continually improve. Fish consumption advisories were issued in the late 1980s due to mercury in walleye and dioxins and furans in whitefish. Both of these advisories were lifted in 1996 and contaminant levels in sport fish continue to be monitored. Copies of the report are available on the website at www.criemp.org.

Sediment sampling on Columbia River near Trail, BC



Hugh Keenleyside Dam and Arrow Lakes
Generating Station near Castlegar BC

Future

CRIEMP will continue its partnership between government agencies, industry, First Nations, and NGOs to assess the ecological health of a complex river system with cumulative impacts from a variety of point and non-point sources. This partnership has resulted in effective information sharing and has built good working relationships.

The CRIEMP website (www.criemp.org) will allow public access to CRIEMP reports and information. CRIEMP would like to assess the potential impact of “emerging” contaminants such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs).

For further information, please contact the author or info@criemp.org.

Columbia River
INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL
MONITORING PROGRAM

CRIEMP Partners