

FERC Hydropower Licensing and Compliance Fisheries and Wildlife Studies

BRI has more than a quarter-century of experience performing fisheries and wildlife licensing and compliance work on FERC-regulated reservoirs and related waters.

The BRI Advantage

BRI staff have extensive history working with hydro companies, private consultants, and state and federal resource agencies to develop and execute wildlife and fisheries studies related to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydroelectric licensing and compliance.

Our experience includes:

- State and federal permits maintained for handling a variety of species
- Pre-licensing study design, execution, data analysis and reporting to provide results that fulfill client needs and inform the FERC hydro licensing process
- Facilitation of the consulting process among our clients, resource agencies, stakeholders and FERC regarding wildlife studies
- Performance of all facets of hydro-related studies for a broad range of wildlife including fish, waterfowl, wading birds, furbearers, and more
- Mercury and PFAS assessment and monitoring using wildlife bioindicators (birds and fish)
- Study design, execution and reporting with attention to agency and FERC requirements



Field Capabilities

- State and federal permits maintained for handling a variety of species
- National Association of State Boating Law (NASBLA) certified boat operators
- Threatened and Endangered species survey experience
- Use of cutting edge technology for remote monitoring and tracking
- All-season work capability: on-foot, boat, snowmobile, and aerial modes of access/survey

Study Experience

Fisheries:

- ✓ Fish telemetry studies (tagging and tracking)
- ✓ Spawning surveys
- ✓ Fish sampling (electrofishing, seining, trap netting, fish weirs, etc.)
- ✓ Tributary access surveys
- ✓ Drawdown/fish stranding surveys
- ✓ Mussel surveys

Avian Studies and Management:

- ✓ Common Loon population monitoring and management
- ✓ Waterfowl and wading bird surveys
- ✓ Shorebird and Black Tern surveys

Mammals and Other Wildlife:

- ✓ Furbearer camera and tracking studies
- ✓ Wood turtle tracking studies
- ✓ Bat inventory surveys

Mercury and PFAS:

- ✓ Capture and sampling of Bald Eagles, Common Loons and other avian piscivores as bioindicators for environmental contaminants
- ✓ Fish sampling using agency-certified field and lab techniques
- ✓ In-house USDA certified lab for analyzing mercury samples

Featured Expertise

BRI has participated in a broad range of wildlife and fisheries related **licensing studies** for numerous hydro projects in Maine, and we have performed continuous **compliance** work on several licensed hydro projects for **over 25 years**.

Common Loon Population Monitoring and Management

Many hydro licenses in New England require life-of-license mitigation for the impacts of water level fluctuations on Common Loon nesting success. As the nation's preeminent experts in this field, we can provide assessments and options for addressing agency interests and mitigation needs regarding Common Loons. Our program is highly effective in supporting nesting success, addressing FERC mandates, and meeting agency approval. Our success is largely attributable to the unique expertise and continuity of field staff devoted to these projects.



Mercury and Contaminant Assessment and Monitoring



BRI is an industry leader in designing and implementing robust biomonitoring programs, and analyzing and interpreting data with respect to implications for environmental and human health. We specialize in sampling a broad range of taxa including invertebrates, fish, birds, and mammals. With over 25 years of experience, BRI is a global leader in collecting, analyzing, and publishing data on the fate and transport of mercury in ecosystems. Other investigations include historical or legacy contaminants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and lead. Mercury samples are analyzed in BRI's in-house laboratory.

Science for Sustainable Fisheries



BRI routinely conducts fisheries projects for the hydroelectric industry. As part of the FERC licensing and compliance process, BRI staff work collaboratively with state and federal agencies, Ministries of the Environment and Health, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders to develop appropriate study design, and to deliver data driven results. Our expertise includes: tagging and tracking studies; mapping movements and habitat utilization; contaminants sampling, monitoring and analyses; tributary inspections; spawning surveys; and fish inventories.

To learn more about BRI's wildlife work, scan the QR code or visit:
www.briwildlife.org



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