**Water Flow Gradient-Guidelines for Data Collection**

Low-Slow moving water; finer grain sediments

Medium-Average flow; cobble/gravel substrates

High-Swift moving water, whitewater; too fast for booming; larger boulders

Naturally deposited substrate provides an indicator to gradient but beware that man-made additions to a waterway for bank stabilization may skew the evaluation as rip-rap habitat is not natural.

At access points to waterway, look upstream, look downstream. Take notice of any whitewater or cascading pools. High flowing waters have high energy to move large substrate and therefore too much energy to conduct recovery operations. Safety is paramount.

Medium energy flows may have riffles and lower level cascading pools. The energy would be enough to transport cobble/gravel substrates and therefore any medium flows may be suitable sites for a strategy designed to recover product.

Low energy flows would be much less energy where wading into the water wouldn’t be unsafe. Most deflection/collection strategies would be ideal since safety is the key to successful response operations.