

# WATERSHED NEWS

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**Canadian  
Okanagan  
Basin  
Technical  
Working  
Group**

**DFO-MWLP-  
ONA**

**August 15, 2003**

*Your coffee break update on regional fisheries issues!*

## Okanagan Basin Conference a Success

The June 22-24 conference Making Ecosystem Connections: Partnerships for a Restored Okanagan Basin Habitat in Penticton was attended by over 100 community members, scientists and policy makers from Canada and the United States.

This was an important platform to move forward with viewing the watershed as a whole and dealing with the issues created by a border bisecting the basin. The Colville & Okanagan Nations have agreed to progress joint planning through processes occurring on both sides of the border.

The major concepts of the conference were: fish; water; habitat; community and policy; and transboundary information transfer.

Conference products will be available online in the near future.

Thanks to the conference sponsors including: ONA, CCT, DFO, MWLAP, PSF, MEC, CCAIRN, CPC, EC, Summit Environmental, Realestate Foundation.

## Conservation Data Available Online

The BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, and the Biodiversity Branch of the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection, launched an enhanced Endangered Species and Ecosystems web site <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/>

A key component of the web site is an enhanced BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer search application <http://srmapps.gov.bc.ca:8888/apps/eswp/>

Both the web site and the search application changed their name to include the word "Ecosystems" and now provide access to Natural Plant Communities, Identified Wildlife and Species Recovery Program information.

As part of BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer, Reports

and References pages are now available for all elements, not just Red- and Blue-listed species. Reports and References include new categories for Recovery Team information and Recovery Plan documents. In addition, there is now a direct link to NatureServe Explorer from plant and animal Reports and Reference pages.

Links have been added to hundreds of new documents and there a new list of resources for teachers.

The CDC welcomes feedback on the enhanced site - especially suggestions for links to other web sites, and/or web-based documents about species at risk.

## Okanagan Water Woes

In June at a world Salmon Conference in Vancouver, UBC ecologist William Rees pointed to the slide of Northwest salmon stocks over the last 150 years "as emblematic of humans' inability to recognize that they are overwhelming ecosystems that support them."

Now, a month later we have prime examples of this right here in the Okanagan with low water and high human use and development. Trout Creek has come under the spotlight as the town of Summerland struggles to deal with low water levels and providing for homes, agriculture and fish.

Creeks throughout the Okanagan are experiencing low flows and high human demands, leaving the fish populations in hot water.

Okanagan residents need to start thinking about their effects on the water resources and the environment or the situation will only get worse for people and the natural environment we live in.

For more information on humans and fish see:  
[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/126526\\_salm13.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/126526_salm13.html)

## North American Environmental Cooperation

North American cooperation in the conservation of biodiversity was adopted as a long term strategy Wednesday by the environment ministers of Canada, Mexico and the United States at their annual meeting as members of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established by Canada, Mexico and the United States to build cooperation in implementing the North American Agreement

on Environmental Cooperation, the environmental side accord to NAFTA. The biodiversity resolution adopted by the three officials recognizes that "through shared migratory and transboundary species and ecosystems the environments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States are intricately linked and interdependent." Excerpt from: ENS; Aqua News

## Okanagan Climate Change

The interim report for the study, "Expanding the Dialogue on Climate Change and Water Management in the Okanagan Basin, BC" is now available online at [http://www.sdri.ubc.ca/publications/articles\\_reports.cfm#2](http://www.sdri.ubc.ca/publications/articles_reports.cfm#2) (see Cohen, S. and T. Neale, 2003).

This project is a 2 year collaborative assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources in the Okanagan region of BC, and options for adaptation. The project, which began in January 2002, is supported by the Climate Change Action Fund and involves researchers from the UBC, EC, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC MWLAP.

The interim report presents results from the first year of research for the climatology, hydrological modeling, crop water demand, adaptation costing and institutional analysis components of the study. The report also outlines plans for research in year two of the project including development of localized scenarios of future water supply and demand and dialogue with stakeholders on adaptation options and their implementation.

For more information, please contact:  
Tina Neale, Coordinator, Adaptation & Impacts Research Group (AIRG) IRES, UBC phone: 604-822-6899

### Upcoming Events 2003

**Aug 23-27** - Restoration on the Edge: International Conference on Ecological Restoration. Victoria.  
<http://www.serbc.info/SER-I%202004.pdf>

**Sept 13-21**—Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup! Help clean up river, stream lake or ocean shorelines this. Register online at [www.vanaqua.org/cleanup](http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup) or call 877-427-2422. (Group registration closes August 15th.)

**Sept 19-21**—Stream Restoration Hydraulic Design by Bob Newbury in Kelowna, British Columbia. [www.bcfi.ca](http://www.bcfi.ca).

**Sept 22-26** - The Art and Science of Ecosystem-Based Conservation Planning. Salmo. <http://www.silvafor.org>

**Sept 28 - Oct 1** - Aquatic Toxicology Workshop. Ottawa, Ont. <http://www.atw.ca/>

**Oct 17-18**- Electrofishing: <http://web.mala.bc.ca/faep/> Merritt.

**Nov 23-26** - Banff Mountain Summit - Mountains As Water Towers. <http://www.banffmountainfestivals.ca/festivals/>

### Job Postings

- Education Program Environmental Educator The Sierra Club, BC Chapter [www.sierraclub.ca/bc/education](http://www.sierraclub.ca/bc/education) Aug 27

- Geo-Environmental Coordinator, Port of Vancouver. 2 Yr Term. August 22

- Outreach & Education Officer, Oceans & Community Stewardship DFO, Nanaimo, BC

<http://jobs.gc.ca/jobs/p030330e.htm>

- Full time Fisheries Biologist. Degree in biology 2 years of relevant experience. Please submit resume and writing sample to Pacificus Consulting Inc. Box 2760, Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0 or [info@pacificus.ca](mailto:info@pacificus.ca) Aug 25.

### Resource Best Bet:

Upper Penticton Creek Web Site has been updated.  
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rsi/research/Penticton/index.htm>

This is your newsletter! Send us your fish, water and watershed related stories, event listings and job postings  
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