

WATERSHED NEWS

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3255 C Shannon Lake Rd, Westbank BC V4T 1V4
Phone: 250 707 0095, Fax: 250 707 0166, Email: jtamblyn@syilx.org

Canadian
Okanagan
Basin
Technical
Working
Group

DFO-MWLP-
ONA

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Your coffee break update on regional fisheries issues!

Okanagan Basin Fisheries Ecosystem Planning

Under the direction and guidance of provincial and federal agencies the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) is embarking on a project to set the stage for "Watershed-based Fish Sustainability Planning" (WFSP) in the Okanagan and Similkameen.

WFSP is a process developed by DFO and provincial agencies to be fish focussed and to identify and address watershed priorities by developing comprehensive watershed plans. Although the focus is on fisheries it does recognize the need to obtain support from non-fish interests.

This year will be spent: compiling relevant reports; assessing the state of the basin for fisheries; developing an implementation plan for WFSP; and starting community consultations.

Further details on the process will follow in the next few months. Watch for the meeting announcements in upcoming newsletters. For more information contact Jillian Tamblyn, ONA Stewardship Coordinator at (250) 707-0095

Low Flow Regimes

Discussion Paper by regional watershed specialists online BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management.

Overview of the potential effects of forest management on low flows in snowmelt-dominated hydrologic regimes

Robin G. Pike and Rob Scherer

The authors summarize findings on the hydrologic response of low flows to forest management in terms of magnitude, time, and space. They report that forest management gen-

erally increases water volume, and that low flows usually return to pre-treatment levels within 3-6 years with the re-establishment of vegetation. The review also identifies many knowledge, research, and extension needs related to low-flow hydrology.

Read the article at: <http://www.forrex.org/jem/2003/vol3/no1/art8.pdf>

Sockeye Reintroduction

This spawning season, working with DFO disease specialists and incubation consultants, the ONA was able to conduct a small egg take of Okanagan Sockeye.

The egg take was used to test strict collection procedures and to observe the incubation success before the proposed full scale egg take and implementation in the fall of 2004.

Adaptive implementation planning is underway with a steering committee comprised of experts from Federal, Provincial and First Nation agencies.

The sockeye will be reintroduced near Skaha Lake which will provide increase rearing habitat for the juveniles. Osoyoos sockeye presently only have the hot, low oxygen waters of Osoyoos Lake to rear in.

The Sockeye reintroduction process by egg take with hatchery incubation is using the best option available based on a three year risk assessment. This method is reversible and provides the best format for monitoring.

For more information contact Howie Wright, ONA Senior Biologist at (250)707-0095

U.N. seeks answer to water problem by re-evaluating agriculture

From October 30, 2003 By James Crawford, Reuters
 ROME — Farms swallow up more than two-thirds of global water consumption, and keeping the land topped up is just as important as quenching the thirst of a growing world population, the U.N. food agency said Wednesday.
 "Each person needs two to four liters (quarts) of water a day to drink," said Jean Marc Faures, FAO's senior water resources officer. "But some 4,000 liters (1,040 gallons) of water are needed to produce the food you eat on your plate. If you want to address the problem of water you have to address agriculture."
 Faures said irrigation systems had to be modernized and governments must work together to improve water management for the future.
 An FAO report last year said fast-growing farming, indus-

trial, and urban needs will boost water demand by 40 percent by 2030 in arid developing countries.
 "On an individual basis it is very hard to do anything. This is a problem that needs to be addressed at a governmental level," Faures said.
 He said adapting farming systems to suit local climates was one way to maximize financial return and productivity from the water available.
 Many farmers in the dry areas such as Mexico and Central America, Africa, and Central Asia and China were going bust as water was diverted to urban areas.
 "We call it 'virtual water'. A country that has limited amount of water ... can try to grow valuable cash crops which give a much higher return on the water used. With that money you can import staple foods."

Action Centre for the Okanagan River

Earthwild International and Wildcanada.net teamed up to move this years Canadian Endangered Rivers list to an online action centre. The countdown has reached Okanagan at # 3. Check out the web site to send your letter to officials about restoring the Okanagan River and its Salmon
www.endangereddrivers.net

Upcoming Events

Nov 19-20 - BCWWA & CWRA Post-Wildfire Conference on water resources, Kamloops. www.bcwwa.org
Nov 23-26 - Banff Mountain Summit - Mountains As Water Towers. <http://www.banffmountainfestivals.ca/festivals/>
Nov 29 - Interpretation Canada Workshop, Mission Cr Park, Kelowna. Contact: aurness@cord.bc.ca
Dec 10 - CWS Hosted Riparian Meeting, OUC Penticton 9am Contact Lisa Scott lscott@vip.net
March 2- 6, 2004 - Species at Risk 2004: Pathways to Recovery Conference Victoria. For more info: www.speciesatrisk2004.ca. e-mail distribution update list, please contact Clare.Rumball@gems1.gov.bc.ca
April 21-24, 2004 - CanWell 2004: bi-annual Pan Canadian convention and conference on groundwater. BCGWA. Kelowna. <http://www.bcgwa.org/canwell/canwell.htm>
Apr 26-28, 2004 - Forest Land – Fish Conference II, Edmonton, Alberta forestfish@buksa.com
May 2- 6, 2004 - 4th World Fisheries Congress, Vancouver. Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation: The Challenge of Managing Aquatic Ecosystems. <http://www.worldfisheries2004.org>.
June 6-10, 2004 - North American Benthological Society 52nd Annual Meeting. University of British Columbia. <http://faculty.forestry.ubc.ca/richardson/NABS2004.htm>

Job Postings

- City of Vernon— GIS Technician, Water Manager, Water Reclamation Supervisor, Manager of Planning Development and Engineering www.vernon.ca
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Extension Program (FAEP), Malaspina University-College— independent, contract instructors for community-based training courses and programs. faep@mala.bc.ca Attn: Fisheries Extension Coord
- Dec 5 - Project Assistant, BC Lakes Stewardship Society, Kelowna. Heidi Hicks heidib-bclss@shaw.ca

Resource Best Bet:

Non-Point Education for Municipal Officials:

for local land use officials this addresses the relationship of land use to natural resource protection.
<http://nemo.uconn.edu/index.htm>

Send us your local fish, water and watershed related stories, event listings and job postings
 Email: jtamblyn@syilx.org or Fax 250-707-0166. To unsubscribe, please contact Jillian at 250 707 0095.