

WATERSHED BI-WEEKLY

Published by the Okanagan Nation Alliance—Fisheries Department
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Canadian
Okanagan
Basin
Technical
Working
Group

DFO-MWLP-
ONFC

April 4, 2003

Your coffee break update on regional fisheries issues!

Updates on Changes with OSBFP

Due to recent changes in funding and commitment the OSBFP is "going into hibernation". The OSBFP has been an effective delivery body for Fisheries Renewal BC funding and an important facilitator of community initiatives and communication for the Okanagan, Similkameen and Boundary.

Because of strong feedback about the usefulness of the watershed weekly, the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) will continue to send out the watershed weekly with similar content. The newsletter will likely change format and will become a bi-weekly or monthly publication.

We are exploring opportunities to host OSBFP reports, tools and information through the internet.

Thank you to the many people who have served on the steering committee and participated in projects. I sincerely hope that communication and capacity within the Okanagan, Similkameen and Boundary continue to build to enable community involvement and stewardship in the years to come.

If you have any questions about stewardship needs in fisheries, please contact Jillian Tamblyn at 707-0095. Jillian will be handling the wind down for the OSBFP.

State of BC Rivers

According to an article in the Streamline Watershed Management Bulletin Vol7/NO1, the Living Rivers section of the Biodiversity Branch of MWLAP anticipates release a draft "State of Rivers" report in the summer of 2003.

The report will give a picture of our freshwater systems at present and also note how they have changed from the past where possible.

Indicators and background information will be provided on: water quality; water quantity; aquatic and riparian species; and aquatic and riparian habitats.

For a full list of indicators and opportunity to comment please see the article or contact Rowena Rae, MWLAP. Tel 250-490-8275 or rrae@victoria1.gov.bc.ca.

Bits and Bites

* call for Letters of Interest on Climate Change and Water Resources for the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program at the following website:

http://www.adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/proposal_e.asp?CalD=4&PgID=60

The deadline is April 30, 2003

* The Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, SEHAB and Speirs & Co have made arrangements for groups wishing to purchase their April 15 2003 to April 15 2004 volunteer insurance policy to do so with this fiscal budget. Policy provides (amongst other things) Directors and Officers Insurance, Comprehensive general liability @\$2,000,000.00

each occurrence and accident insurance benefits for the volunteer themselves. All for only \$3.00 per member/volunteer from the group. Information at <http://www.pskf.ca/program/insurance.html>

* Notes from the December 12 Riparian Working Group meeting have now been posted on the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program website. http://www.soscp.org/species/wet_rip.htm

* URL:<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/workingforest/comments.htm>

The deadline for commenting on the proposed "working forest" initiative has been extended to April 30

BC and Ottawa urged to Re-think Budget Cuts

From Aqua News: Wild Pacific salmon are facing threats on several fronts and now is not the time to cut government support, says the head of the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council. John Fraser, chairman of the federally funded advisory body, spoke out as Fisheries and Oceans Canada is developing what is expected to be a tighter budget for the coming year and as B.C. eliminates funding for habitat improvements. "The arguments for not cutting resources are just overwhelming," Fraser said from Ottawa, where he addressed the Senate committee on fisheries and oceans. "I think the decisions to cut are made by well-meaning financial officers who know absolutely nothing about fish." At the same time, Fraser praised Fisheries Department staff members who are doing everything they can

to mitigate the impacts of a money crunch. Last year's Fisheries Department budget for the Pacific region was \$237 million. This year's is still being developed, but will be down by \$11.5 million once the \$400-million Pacific fisheries adjustment and restructuring program ends March 31. The federal government contributed those funds to this region to help restructure the industry. Fraser reeled off a list of potential impacts facing Pacific salmon, citing this winter's smaller-than-usual snow-pack, which could mean "perilously" low water levels for fish.

From: Victoria Times Colonist <http://www.canada.com/victoria/news/story.asp?id={1CBB838B-FC9F-4810-A881-3CB504C43105}>

Upcoming Events

April 5 - The Green Legacies Project (www.greenlegacies.ca) workshop (with Hollyhock Leadership Institute) in Kelowna for nature conservation groups on the topic of planned giving. \$25, which includes a copy of the Green Legacies Guide and lunch. Contact Nora Layard, Green Legacies Project (250) 537-4612 www.greenlegacies.ca

April 6 - City of Kelowna and Regional District of Central Okanagan, Family Environment Day—Mission Creek Regional Park 11am- 3pm "Native Species, Nature's Choice"

April 27-29 - BC Water & Waste Assoc. Annual Conference & Trade Show. Penticton www.bcwwa.org/index.php

April 29-30 - Livestock Management for Fisheries Habitat: A Collaborative Approach. Prineville, OR. http://oregonstate.edu/dept/range/events/livestock_fisheries.htm

April 30 - Water Resources in a Changing Climate: Hydrologic Scenario Development for Long-range Planning. University of Washington, Seattle. http://tao.atmos.washington.edu/PNWimpacts/Workshops/Apr03_Scenarios_water/Index_April03.htm

April 29-May 1 - Fish Inventory and Capture Methods, OUC, Kelowna. <http://web.mala.bc.ca/faep/RegInfo.htm>
Course ID: Aqua 641, Section No.: S0306

May 2-4—Wetland Keepers Course. Penticton, BC. Contact Wendy Schebel to register: Phone:(250)490-8246 Fax:(250)492-1314 Email:w_schebel@ducks.ca

May 16-18 - "Northern Exposure" Terrace, BC for Salmon Enhancement and Streamkeepers. www.sehab.org and www.pskf.ca For the volunteer community, hosted by the volunteer community.

May 30-31 - Kelowna Mayor's Environmental Expo—City Park

June 11-13- 56th Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA)Annual Conference, Water Stewardship How Are We Managing? Vancouver, BC. http://www.cwra.org/events/arts/vancouver_03/van03promo1en.html

June 10-13 - World Summit on Salmon. Simon Fraser University. <http://www.sfu.ca/cstudies/science/calendar.htm>

June 22-25 - Partnerships for Restored Okanagan Basin Habitats: Making Aquatic Ecosystem Connections. Contact Jillian at 707-0095 or jtamblyn@syilx.org

July 3-6—The Leading Edge: Stewardship and Conservation in Canada. National Conference. University of Victoria. Victoria, BC. <http://www.stewardship2003.ca>

Electrofishing: <http://web.mala.bc.ca/faep/> April 22-23, Castlegar; April 26-27, Kamloops; April 28-29, Kelowna; Oct 17-18, Merritt.

Job Postings

- Environmental Work. Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and Katim Enterprises Ltd April to September. Due April 7. Fax resume with cover letter to: Katim Enterprises Ltd. Attn: Project MEET Coordinator Fax: (250) 869-1534

- Research Staff—Cominco -CESL's Refined Metals Project please visit our web site at www.cesl.com

Resource Best Bet:

Journal of Conservation Ecology
<http://www.consecol.org/Journal/subscribe/index.html>

This is your newsletter! Send us your 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.