

WATERSHED NEWS

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

**DFO-MWLP-
ONA**

May 9, 2003

Your coffee break update on regional fisheries issues!

Updates on Okanagan Basin Conference

We have a great selection of presenters and discussions on the transboundary Okanagan Basin for the upcoming "Making Ecosystem Connections: Partnerships for a Restored Okanagan Basin Habitat" Conference June 22-24 at Penticton Lakeside Resort.

Sessions include US and Canada presentations on: Habitat, Water, Fish, Communities, Intergovernmental Policy, Transboundary Information Sharing.

- Earlybird registration ends May 15.
- Special rate for NGO's and Students.
- Volunteer for half a day you get in for free
- Sponsorship Opportunities Available

For more information contact Jillian Tamblyn (250) 707-0095 or email jtamblyn@syilx.org

Skaha Experimental Reintroduction one Step Closer to Reality

Okanagan Sockeye has been in decline for decades and action must be taken to help the population before it is extirpated. One approach is reintroduction.

Three years of research into disease, habitat and exotic species risks associated with the potential reintroduction of Sockeye into Skaha Lake was recently completed. The Okanagan Nation Alliance and Colville Confederated Tribes have been leading this project with funding from Bonneville Power Administration in Washington.

Okanagan Sockeye have been excluded from their northern

range for several decades due to dams. This study has looked at the benefits and risks of bringing the fish back to their former range.

The final reports on the findings will be completed in the next month. An experimental reintroduction plan is being developed for review with regulatory agencies.

This project has had close involvement of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Okanagan Receives Stewardship Funding

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has delivered \$382,600 to Okanagan organizations to work on environmental stewardship.

Some of the projects receiving major funding include:

- OUC research in South Okanagan
- Nature Trust for weed management
- Land Conservancy for SOSCP activities
- Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund ecosystem mapping

The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) also secured funding to begin watershed planning for the Okanagan Basin. The ONA will work closely with provincial and federal agencies.

They will also work with interested parties to identify scientific, historic and indigenous knowledge that will help determine restoration priorities.

This is an important step towards the ONA fisheries goal to restore the Okanagan and its fishery for the Okanagan people. It will also benefit Okanagan residents as a whole.

Keeping open communication with the major planning processes in the rest of the Columbia Basin will ensure that restoration planning in both portions of the watershed are complimentary.

Temperature Guidance For Salmon, Trout

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released water temperature guidance on Tuesday to protect Pacific Northwest salmon and trout. The guidance, according to EPA officials, is intended to assist the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and Pacific Northwest tribes to develop temperature water quality standards that will meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Federal scientists believe elevated water temperature, caused in part by development and population growth, is a factor in the decline of threatened and endangered Pacific salmon and bull trout. Warm water can kill cold water fish directly, but is more likely to stunt fish growth, increase disease and provide advantages to warm water species. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, elevated water

temperature is the most widespread water quality problem in the Pacific Northwest and have identified some 1,500 rivers and streams in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington as "temperature impaired." High water temperature, combined with low water levels, was a major cause of last year's massive fish kill that killed more than 30,000 adult fall chinook in the lower Klamath River. States and tribes that meet the EPA's guidance on water temperature are likely to satisfy requirements for both the Endangered Species Act and the Essential Fish Habitat rules, according to NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator Bob Lohn. (AquaNews)
Full article: <http://ens-news.com/ens/apr2003/2003-04-30-09.asp#anchor6>

Upcoming Events

- May 9** - Two presentations: Moving from Consultation to Co-Management [A DFO and First Nations Case Study] and Riparian Restoration Project. By Shawn Clough. DFO Regional Headquarters, Boardroom B, C & D, 2nd Floor, 401 Burrard Street, Vancouver Not Your Typical
- 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 7-8** Streamkeepers Course. Instructor: Daryl Arsenault. Kelowna. Contact Lynn at 862-3339 local 338 or email: ljablons@city.kelowna.bc.ca \$50 plus text book
- 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>
- July 12-13**— Grass Identification Workshop. Presented by the Native Plant Society of BC (NPSBC) University College of the Cariboo, Kamloops, BC. Contact: Perry.Grilz@gems2.gov.bc.ca Phone: 250-565-6100 (Perry Grilz)
- Oct 17-18**- Electrofishing: <http://web.mala.bc.ca/faep/> Merritt.

Job Postings

- Youth Internship-Ecosystems Biologist/Technician. Okanagan Nation Alliance. Tentative Start Date: May 26, 2003 – March 31, 2004. \$13/Hour, 40 Hours/Week. May 16. Deana Machin, ONA Fisheries Department Program Manager at 250-707-0166 or deanamachin@syilx.org
- Development Officer, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia <http://www.charityvillage.com/careerCentre/job.asp?ID=21357>
- DFO Temporary position - 3 to 6 months. Full Time. \$45,046 - \$54,804 per annum (EG - 04). Persons residing within a 20km radius of Prince Rupert. May 12, 2003
- Environmental program co-ordinator (for summer outreach) www.spec.bc.ca Temporary, Full Time \$10.00 Hourly for 35 hours per week. Vancouver 10th Avenue Area, British Columbia
- Hydrobiologist Temporary, Full Time. Cranbrook. Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council Apply to: Jaime Cristales, 7468 Mission Road Cranbrook, BC V1C 7E5 Phone: (250) 417-3474 Fax: (250) 417-3475 jaime@cyberlink.bc.ca
- Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area Endowment Fund Campaign Manager Job Posting.

Resource Best Bet:

Water, Storm, Sewer and GIS—Talk
http://www.haestad.com/hmicom/listserv/?m=030321_Forum_b

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.