ABOUT US

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC is a private, non-profit organization. Working in partnership with government, industry, and anglers, our goal is to make fishing in British Columbia even better through the enhancement and conservation of our province's freshwater fish resources.

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC was created in 2003 with the transformation of British Columbia's provincial hatchery program into North America's only private, non-profit fisheries service – funded by licence revenues. Under a 30-year contract, the provincial government retained management authority of B.C.'s freshwater fisheries while fish culture, fish health, and other biological and technical services were transferred to the Society. This unique model sees the Freshwater Fisheries Society working alongside government's fisheries management agencies (the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, and the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy).

OUR VISION

The best freshwater fisheries in North America.

OUR MANDATE

To enhance and conserve B.C.'s freshwater fisheries for the benefit of the public.
ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF FRESHWATER RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN B.C.

Each year, more than 350,000 licensed anglers spend about $500 million in B.C. Much of this economic activity takes place in rural areas, contributing to the employment of 3,000 people with $94 million in wages and benefits.
BUYING YOUR FISHING LICENCE ISN’T JUST A LEGAL REQUIREMENT – IT FUNDS OUR WORK

Effective April 1, 2015, under an amended agreement between the Province and the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, the Society receives 100% of recreational freshwater fishing licence revenue (previously, the Society received 70% of the revenue). Every penny goes into research, conservation, and educational programs, improving angler access and our stocking program. The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation continues to receive 100% of the surcharge revenue collected from angling licence sales to provide grants for fish conservation projects.

And under the amended funding agreement, an even wider range of projects is being undertaken, allowing the Society to work with provincial biologists to improve angling for both stocked and wild fisheries.
HOW THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES SOCIETY OF BC WORKS

Our Board

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC is governed by a Board of Directors. Our Board is comprised of five independent members, two members appointed by the Province, and the Society’s President. The Board sets policy, provides strategic direction, and monitors the financial and operational health of the organization. New independent members are selected by the Board of Directors.

The President is an employee of the Society and a non-voting director. The President is also responsible for the ongoing operations and management of the organization.

Our Staff

We employ 72 full-time staff, and an additional 45 seasonal staff, to deliver our operational and outreach programs.

Our Locations

We own and operate six major fish hatcheries, located in:

Duncan – 1080 Wharncliffe Road, Duncan, B.C. V9L 2K7

Abbotsford – 34345 Vye Road, Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 7P6

Summerland – 13405 Lakeshore Dr. South, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z1

Clearwater – 40 Old N. Thompson Highway East, Clearwater, B.C. V0E 1N2

Fort Steele – 4522 Fenwick Rd. Fort Steele, B.C. V0B 1N0

Vanderhoof – 3030 Burrard Ave. PO Box 710, Vanderhoof, B.C. V0J 3A2

Our corporate headquarters are in Victoria, our fish health lab is in Duncan, and marketing and research staff are located at UBC in Vancouver.
Learn to Fish
Since 2006, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC has been introducing anglers to the passion of freshwater fishing through its Learn to Fish Program. The program was developed in response to a documented sharp decline in angler participation that followed a peak in recreational fishing's popularity in the mid-1990s.

Each year, over 25,000 youth and adults learn about fish habitat, how to identify their catch, and how to fish responsibly. Learn to Fish participants also get hands-on experience while learning about casting and retrieving, and tips for catching fish. Thanks to the generous financial support of our partners, Learn to Fish events are held at provincial, regional, and municipal parks, and other locations across British Columbia.

Raising and Releasing Fish
Every year our hatcheries raise and release six million trout, char, and kokanee - enhancing recreational fishing opportunities in 800 lakes around the province. We also manage special hatchery programs to help in the recovery of endangered species like white sturgeon.

Infrastructure Projects
By investing in trails, boat launches, and fishing docks, we’re helping reduce barriers to fishing, ensuring that everyone – from beginning to avid anglers – can access B.C.’s freshwater fisheries in their community.

Scholarships
Every year, the Freshwater Fisheries Society awards up to four scholarships to students enrolled in fish culture or natural resource management programs at a recognized post-secondary education institution in British Columbia. Each student receives $1,500 towards tuition.
The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC is a private, non-profit society funded mainly by fishing licence revenues – not tax dollars.

100% of freshwater fishing licence fees go toward programs that directly benefit recreational fisheries. The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC invests these licence fees into research, conservation, education, stocking programs, and improved access to fishing areas.

Each year our hatcheries raise and release approximately six million trout, char, and kokanee – ranging from small fry to catchable-sized fish – for delivery into the provincial recreational stocking program. Approximately 50% of all recreational angling takes place on the over 800 lakes and streams that we stock.

The Society also operates conservation hatchery programs to bolster numbers of juvenile fish for recovery initiatives. We are helping to save endangered white sturgeon populations by raising thousands of young sturgeon and releasing them into the Columbia and Nechako rivers.

Scientists with the Freshwater Fisheries Society are continually researching new ways to improve the growth, survival, and quality of fish stocked into B.C. lakes. We are a pioneer in the development of triploid (sterile) and all-female fish – reducing genetic risks to wild stocks, and improving catch rates for anglers.

We’re committed to creating a new generation of anglers. Each year, we loan out free rods and tackle to over 10,000 people, and provide Learn to Fish lessons for more than 25,000 youth and their families.

The Society works with governments and angling groups to create easily accessible, family-friendly fishing piers in towns and cities around the province.

Please direct media enquiries to our Communications Coordinator:
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