

FACT SHEET - Okanagan/Similkameen River Guardian Program

KEY MESSAGES

Conduct angler interviews on both the Okanagan and Similkameen rivers to collect information on angling quality and satisfaction, angler catch and harvest and to promote angler education and awareness of fishing regulations and management concerns.

TIME FRAME

This program is aimed at Rainbow Trout and whitefish fisheries, as well as, fishing activity during the salmon spawning season. Year round.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY: Limited information exists on the Rainbow Trout and Whitefish fisheries in both the Okanagan and Similkameen rivers. These rivers currently have an exemption from the spring closure (April 1st – June 30th) . Data on stock status, angler effort, harvest and angling quality is required to help make scientifically defensible management decisions and ensure conservation of indigenous fish stocks.

GOALS:

1. Conservation of wild fish stocks.
2. Protection of First Nations cultural values (food, social and ceremonial needs).
3. Ensuring sustainable recreational opportunities for future generations to come.
4. Improved quality of the sport fishery, angler opportunity/experience and satisfaction
5. Collection of vital information needed to make fisheries management decisions surrounding the *Onchorhynchus mykiss* (rainbow/steelhead) & mountain whitefish sport fisheries, including the need for regulation changes and implementation of stock conservation or protection measures.

LOCATION: Penticton Channel from Okanagan Lake Outlet Dam to the confluence of Okanagan River and Osoyoos Lake. Similkameen River between Bromley Rock Provincial Park and Osoyoos Lake

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