



The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC

“A Report to our Shareholders”

BCWF Annual Convention
April 2014



Freshwater Fisheries
Society of BC

Outline

- Economic Value Recreational Fishing
- 2013 FFBC Highlights
 - Stocking Program
 - Sport Fishing Enhancement
 - Research and Development
- New Funding Commitment
- Questions?



Freshwater Fisheries
Society of BC



ECONOMIC VALUE

Freshwater Recreational Fishery

\$546 million

Direct economic impact

\$144 million

Provincial & federal taxes

5,000

Person years of employment



Freshwater Fisheries
Society of BC

FFSBC Operations:



Hatcheries
Fraser Valley
Kootenay
Clearwater
Summerland
Vancouver Island
Vanderhoof

Corporate Office
Victoria

Research & Marketing
Vancouver (UBC)

2013 Lake Stocking Program

Total Lakes Stocked	762 (224 Okanagan)
Total Fish Stocked (Province)	7,230,068
Total Fish Stocked (Okanagan)	777,319
Total Kilos Stocked (Province)	150,494
Total Kilos Stocked (Okanagan)	13,453

Total Releases in Okanagan Region

Species	Total Fish Stocked	Total Kilos Stocked
Eastern Brook	69,400	460
Kokanee	20,148	52
Rainbow	687,771	13,000
Grand Total	777,319	13,512

Okanagan Region and FFSBC

- Summerland Trout Hatchery, Skaha Trout Production Site
- Egg Collections Stations - Pennask Lake (1.2M); Beaver Lake (1.1M)
 - Working with BCWF, Pennask Fish and Game Club, Nicola Tribal Association
- 224 lakes stocked. (Kokanee stocking in Yellow Lake and Otter Lake).
- Work with many clubs in the valley to promote fishing, Learn to Fish programs, Family Fishing Weekend, conservation projects, etc.

Angler days by region

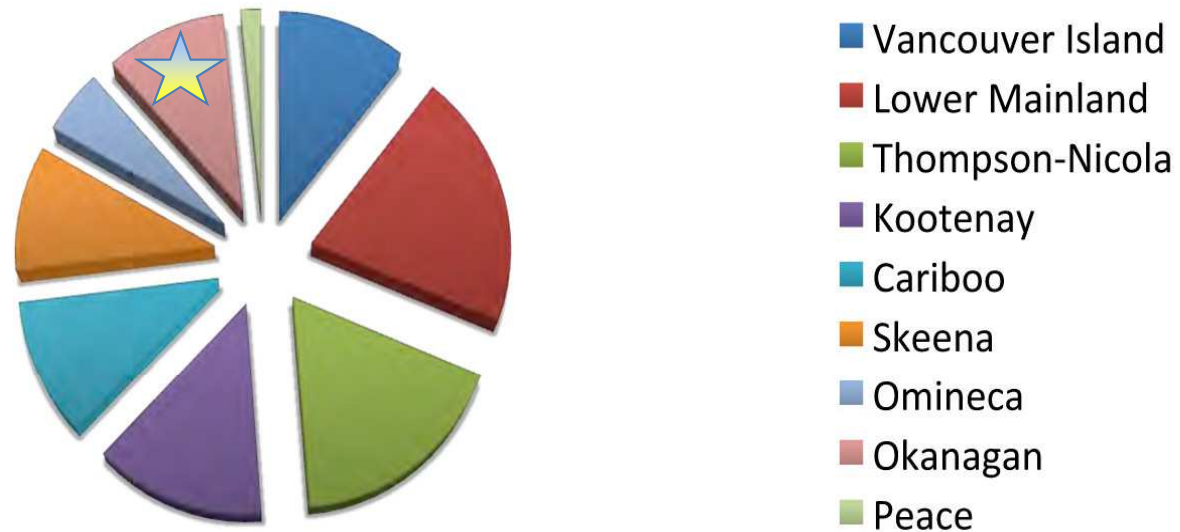


Figure 15. Proportion of days fished by provincial region, all residency categories combined.

Catch Success by Region

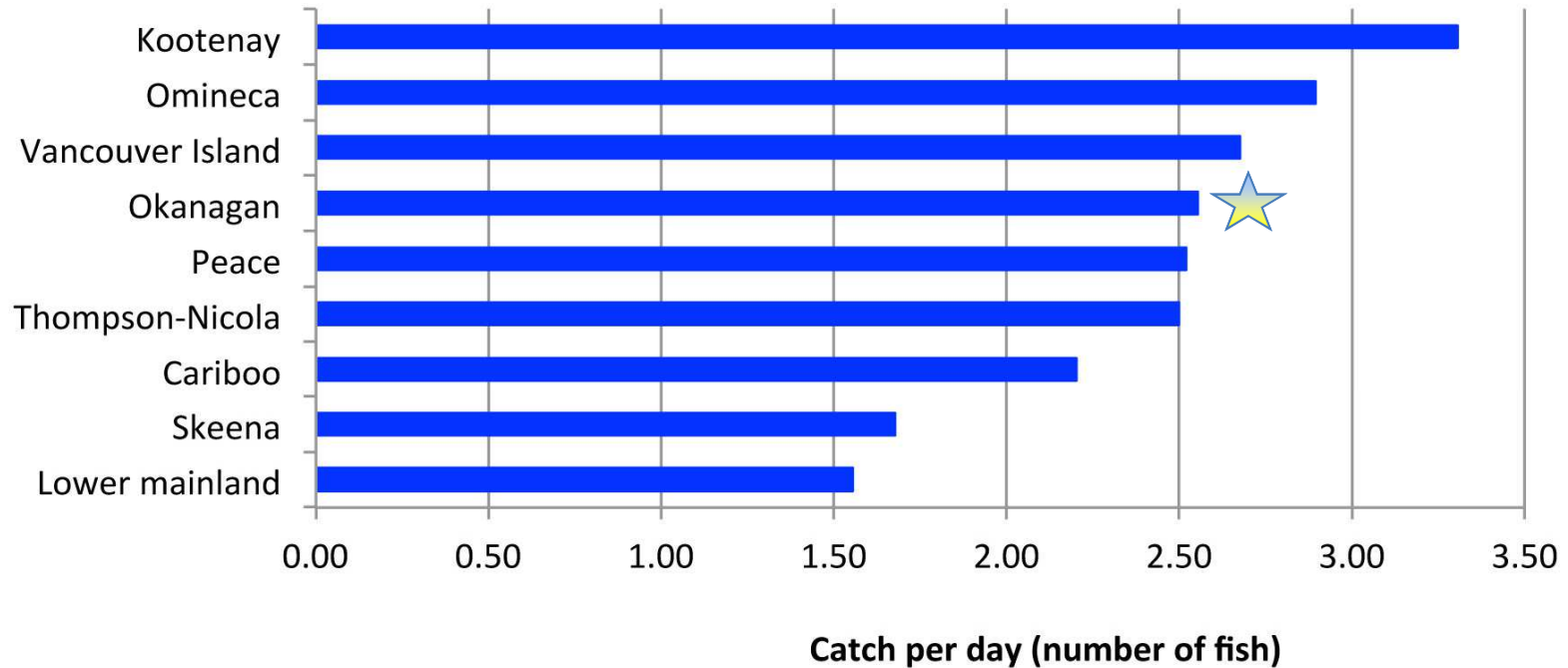


Figure 16. Average catch per day by provincial region.

Learn to Fish Program

Kids 5 to 15 and their adults learn about:

- Conservation
- Rods, reels, lines and tackle
- Casting and retrieving
- Fishing ethics
- Funded by FFSBC, HCTF and donations, corporate sponsors



Learn to Fish Program

- 125,000 participants since 2006 inception
- 55% of participants had never fished before
- 53% of child participants have fished since
- 12% of adult participants purchase a fishing licence after attending the program



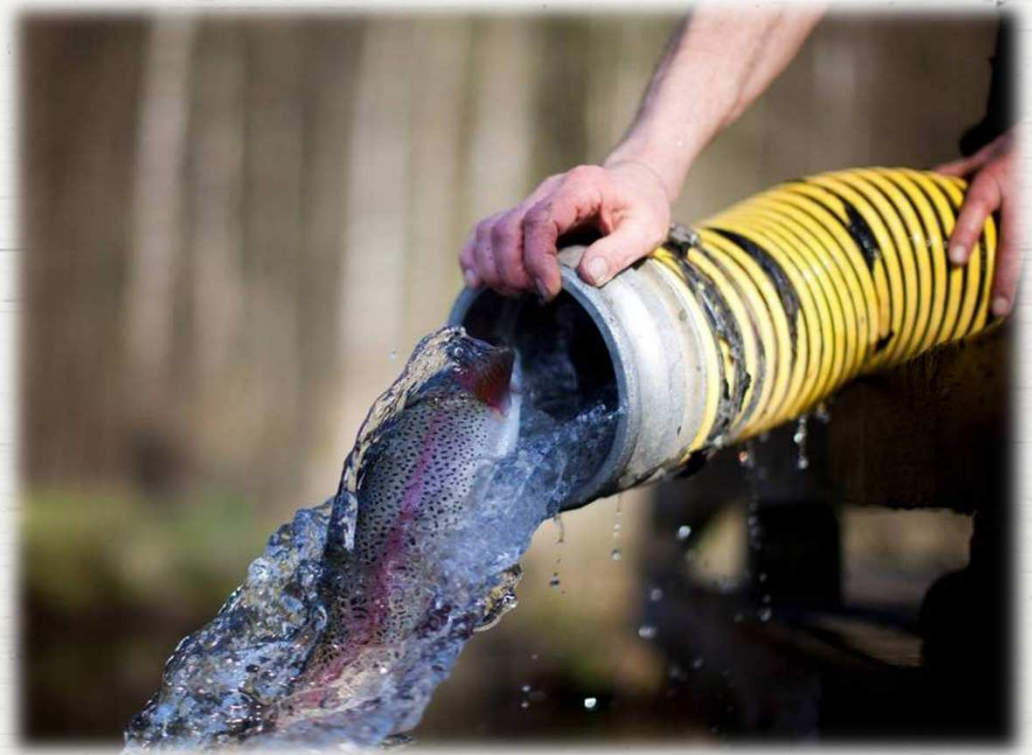
Learn to Ice Fish Program

- 8 Programs in Thompson Okanagan
- 650 Youth and Families
- Tremendous support from BCWF clubs including:
 - Kamloops
 - Peachland
 - Oceola
 - Keremeos-Cawston
 - Enderby and District
 - Nicola Valley



Fishing in the City

- Urban focus
- Enhanced stocking programs
- Improved angler access
- Local promotion
- Education and monitoring



Fishing in the City

More Encouraging Results:

- Effort increased 300%
- 50% of anglers are *new, lapsed or occasional*
- 40% of anglers born outside of Canada
- Average travel time - less than 10 minutes



Fishing Docks Program

- Seed Funding: FFSBC and HCTF
- In 2013 docks installed on:
 - Edith
 - Yellow
 - Greeny
- Plan for 2014 is to install on:
 - Walloper
 - Nicola
 - Shannon
 - Cottonwood

Fishing Buddies

- Encourages experienced anglers to “give back”
- An informal commitment to introduce someone to fishing
 - on-line registration
 - newsletter support
- **40,000** registered in the first 3 years



Rod Loan Program

- 4,830 Rod Loans in 2013
- Available from 12 locations around BC
- Rapala new sponsor in 2014

Stocking Program Research and Development - Carp Lake Rainbow

Goal:

Evaluate Carp Lake rainbow trout as a potential sterile product for mixed species and other challenging environments.

Preliminary findings:

- Aggressive
- Fast growth
- Compete well
- High initial survival



Stocking Program Research and Development: AF3n Kokanee

New lakes stocked

- ✓ Paul
- ✓ Scheidam
- ✓ Turquoise
- ✓ Crown
- ✓ Genier
- ✓ Eena
- ✓ Ness
- ✓ Nadsilnich (West)



180,000 AF3n kokanee stocked in 2013. Only agency to produce these fish.

Stocking Program Research and Development: High pH Tolerance

- High pH in lakes influence fish survival, performance.
- Climate change likely to exacerbate the problem.

What factors affect high pH tolerance in rainbow trout?

1. Identify mechanisms involved in high pH tolerance.
2. Is tolerance strain specific?
3. Does hatchery rearing affect tolerance?
4. Test Stump Lake as a brood source.



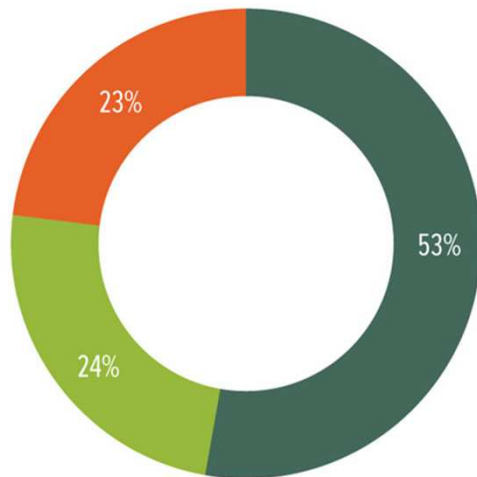
Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre

- Funded by Province, RTA, Vanderhoof, FFSSBC
- Construction April 2013 – May 2014 (On budget/time!)
- \$5.5M Capital, \$.45M annual operating
- Brood capture April 2014
- First yearling releases May 2015



FFSBC Funding Model Change

Allocation of angler licence revenues



- Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (sport fishing)
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (fish conservation)
- Province of BC

- Commitment transfer balance of revenues to FFSBC by 15/16
- Negotiations now getting underway
- FFSBC position: Funding principles should remain intact:

“Angling licence revenues are directed to recreational service delivery”

Thank you: Our Funders, Partners and Clients

- Freshwater Fishing Licence Purchasers
- Province of BC (FLNRO)
- The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- BCWF and affiliated clubs

and,

- BC Hydro
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC)
- Teck – Highland Valley
- And many others....



Questions?

