

FISHING FOREVER

2023 REPORT



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Fishing Forever Overview

Fishing is for Everyone



Making the Outdoors Accessible

Fishing is a skill that can be learned and enjoyed by anyone—the B.C. Wildlife Federation's Fishing Forever program emphasizes that disabilities shouldn't hinder one's enjoyment of nature. With support from BCWF staff and volunteers, the Fishing Forever program ensures the outdoors remains accessible, allowing individuals with diverse abilities to begin or continue fishing.

Annually, BCWF-affiliated clubs organize Fishing Forever events throughout B.C.

Program History

Fishing Forever has been inspiring communities since 1989, when the idea of the project was first put forward by broadcast journalist, Walt Liimatainen. Since then, the dedicated clubs of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, volunteers and sponsors have spent many a day outdoors helping those who may need a little extra help to learn how to fish and enjoy the natural offerings around them.

Events & Locations

In 2023, Fishing Forever saw events in ten communities presented by members of BCWF's affiliate clubs across B.C.

Location	Event Host
Abbotsford	Fraser River Hatchery
Bulkley Valley (Smithers)	Babine Lake
Campbell River	Echo Lake
Courtenay	Courtenay Fish and Game
Lumby	Mabel Lake
Nelson	Cottonwood Lake
Parksville-Qualicum	Spider Lake
Prince George	Vivian Lake
Osoyoos	Owls Roost Cabins
Williams Lake	Biff's Ponds

Participant Turnout

In 2023, the BCWF's Fishing Forever program brought together over 600 participants.

Location	Participants	Participant Caregivers/Companions
Abbotsford	145	210
Bulkley Valley (Smithers)	16	4
Campbell River	56	15
Courtenay	208	40
Lumby	80	12
Nelson	71	8
Parksville-Qualicum	12	4
Prince George	17	2
Osoyoos	12	3
Williams Lake	18	6
Totals	635	304

Volunteer Engagement

The BCVWF's Fishing Forever program is largely made possible by the hard work and dedication of volunteers.

Location	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
Abbotsford	27	475
Bulkley Valley (Smithers)	5	59
Campbell River	7	89
Courtenay	36	322
Lumby	13	93
Nelson	18	146
Parksville-Qualicum	6	51
Prince George	8	84
Osoyoos	5	104
Williams Lake	4	56
Totals	129	1,429



Media & Outreach



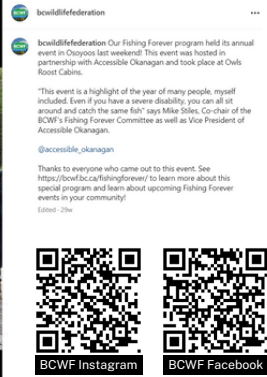
YouTube Video



Fishing is For Everyone! B.C. Wildlife Federation Fishing Forever 2023



Social Media Coverage



BC Outdoors Magazine Publication

For Mike Stiles, Fishing Forever is a way to feel the same as everyone else on the lake, despite his disability.

"I believe that fishing is one of the cheapest and most inclusive activities out there. It can also be empowering for someone with a disability, because you can participate alongside everyone else, and does not matter if you're disabled or not, you can all catch the same fish."



BCO Story



News Publication: Accessibility-focused fishing event near Osoyoos a success



Castanet story



Fishing Forever Funders

Fishing forever is also made possible with the support of the following funders:



HABITAT CONSERVATION
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