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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 and age should not hinder one's enjoyment of nature. With support from the 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.

Thank You to Our Coordinators

Members

Doug Phyall

Farley Lock

Steve Cooper

Jamie Studyko

Chris Albrecht

Brady Szabados

Peter Von Niesen

Brad Howard

Wayne Biffert

Fay Van Horn

Jim Van Horn

Jake Zimich

David Zurevinski

Lyle Litke

Randy Waloszek

Lisa O'Neill

Dennis Richardson

Co-Chairpersons

David Oliver Mike Stiles

BCWF Staff

Kendall McLaughlin Chris Lim



Photo Credits: Kendall McLaughlin - Comox Lake, Comox-Strathcona

Events & Locations

In 2025, Fishing Forever saw events in 14 communities presented by members of the BCVVF's affiliate clubs across B.C.

Region	District	Location	Event Host
1	Campbell River	Echo Lake	Campbell River Fish and Wildlife Club
1	Courtenay	Courtenay Club	Courtenay Fish and Game Protective Association
1	Nanaimo	Nanaimo Club	Nanaimo Fish & Game Club
1	Parksville-Qualicum	Spider Lake Provincial Park	Parksville Qualicum Beach Fish and Game Association
2	Abbotsford	Freshwater Fisheries Hatchery	Lower Mainland Branch of the BCWF
4	Invermere	Lake Windermere	Lake Windermere Rod & Gun Club
4	Nelson	Cottonwood Lake	Nelson District Rod & Gun Club
4	Wardner	Kootenay Trout Hatchery & Visitor Centre	BCWF Fishing Forever Program
5	Williams Lake	Williams Lake	Biff's Ponds
6	Smithers	Babine Lake	Bulkley Valley Rod & Gun Club
7A	Prince George	Vivian Lake Resort	Polar Coachman Flyfishers Association
7A	Vanderhoof	Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre	Vanderhoof Fish & Game Club, Endako Rod & Gun Club, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
8	Lumby	Mable Lake Provincial Park	Lumby & District Wildlife Association
8	Osoyoos	Owls Roost Cabins	Accessible Okanagan

Participant Turnout

In 2025, the BCWF's Fishing Forever program brought together 837 participants.

Region	District	Participants	Caregivers/ Companions
1	Campbell River	80	38
1	Courtenay	176	73
1	Nanaimo	39	41
1	Parksville-Qualicum	11	7
2	Abbotsford	140	260
4	Invermere	70	2
4	Nelson	104	260
4	Wardner	26	8
5	Williams Lake	55	11
6	Smithers	18	4
7A	Prince George	24	3
7A	Vanderhoof	30	2
8	Lumby	41	11
8	Osoyoos	23	11

Total 837 731

Volunteer Engagement

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

Region	District	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
1	Campbell River	8	181
1	Courtenay	24	622
1	Nanaimo	9	87
1	Parksville-Qualicum	7	39.5
2	Abbotsford	24	428
4	Invermere	9	108
4	Nelson	21	512
4	Wardner	13	129
5	Williams Lake	14	103
6	Smithers	6	59
7A	Prince George	11	87
7A	Vanderhoof	9	34
8	Lumby	15	98
8	Osoyoos	8	116
Total		178	2,604





Blog Post

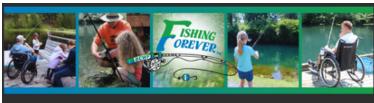
A Day on the Water with Rick Hansen







Newsletters



Every year, BCWF affiliated clubs host Fishing Forever events across B.C. Here is a list of dates, es, and locations confirmed for Fishing Forever 2025 events!

- May 10: Lumby
 May 20-23 & 26-30: Campbell River
- May 31- June 1: Abbotsford June 1: Nanaimo
- June 2-6 & 9-13: Courtenay
- June 7: Prince George
- June 7-8: Osoyoos June 9: Williams Lake
- June 11: Smithers
- June 14-16: Nelson
- June 21: Wardner

Learn More





Lumby & District Wildlife Association

Social Media Coverage

This past weekend was the Annual Fishing Forever event out Mabel Lake 3 Thank you to the BC Wildlife Federation for their continued support with this amazing program.

○ ↑ The Fishing Forever program provides an opportunity where people with diverse abilities and seniors, can learn, or continue, to fish and enjoy the outdoors."

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers, the social workers and care takers, and the participants! What a fun day we had!







ODB

Liked by briversports and others



Donations & In-kind Support

Total Volunteer Hours: 2,604 = \$52,080

In-kind Donations: \$22,782

i.e. space and equipment rentals, food, portable toilets, transportation, safety supplies, bait and tackle, firewood





Fishing Forever Funders

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













Follow us to stay up to date!















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