FISHING FOREVER

2026 REPORT



Prepared by:

Kendall McLaughlin & Abbegayle Smith

Approved by:

David Oliver & Mike Stiles

BCWF
BC WILDLIFE FEDERATION

FISHING FOREVER™

Photo Credits: Freshwater Fisheries Society, Abbotsford

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fishing Forever Overview	1
Fishing Forever Team	2
Events & Locations	3
Participant Turnout	4
Volunteer Engagement	5
Media & Outreach	6
Donations & In-kind Support	7
Program Funders	8

Fishing Forever Overview

Fishing is for Everyone



Photo Credits: Owls Roost Cabins, Osoyoos

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

Brad Howard
Brady Szabados
Chris Albrecht
Doug Phyall
Doug Skovberg
Jamie Studyko
Lisa O'Neill
Michelle Finch
Randy Waloszek
Teresa Durning
Wayne Biffert

Co-Chairpersons

David Oliver
Mike Stiles

BCWF Staff

Kendall McLaughlin
Chris Lim

Special Thank You

We extend our deepest gratitude to Fay and Jim Van Horn from the Bulkley Valley Rod & Gun Club for their outstanding 37 years of dedication to coordinating the Fishing Forever events in the Smithers community.

Photo Credits: Owls Roost Cabins, Osoyoos

Events & Locations

In 2026, Fishing Forever saw events in 10 communities presented by members of the BCWF'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	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	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
7A	Prince George	Vivian Lake Resort	Polar Coachman Flyfishers Association
8	Lumby	Mable Lake Provincial Park	Lumby & District Wildlife Association
8	Osoyoos	Owls Roost Cabins	Accessible Okanagan

Participant Turnout

In 2026, the BCWF's Fishing Forever program brought together 704 participants.

Region	District	Participants	Caregivers/ Companions
1	Campbell River	91	42
1	Courtenay	176	73
1	Parksville-Qualicum	1	1
2	Abbotsford	166	139
4	Nelson	111	0
4	Wardner	26	8
5	Williams Lake	38	16
7A	Prince George	14	10
8	Lumby	56	14
8	Osoyoos	25	16
Total		**704**	**319**

We look forward to the return of Fishing Forever Events in 2027 for the following regions: Nanaimo, Invermere, Smithers, and Vanderhoof.

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	27	139
1	Courtenay	27	450
1	Parksville-Qualicum	4	24
2	Abbotsford	30	409
4	Nelson	20	120
4	Wardner	14	170
5	Williams Lake	10	215
7A	Prince George	10	60
8	Lumby	15	190
8	Osoyoos	14	840
Total		**170**	**2617**

Media & Outreach



Photo Credits: Spider Lake Provincial Park, Parksville-Qualicum

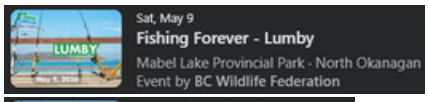
Newsletters





Social Media Coverage

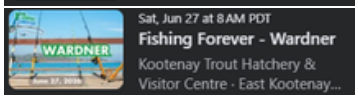
Lumby Facebook Event

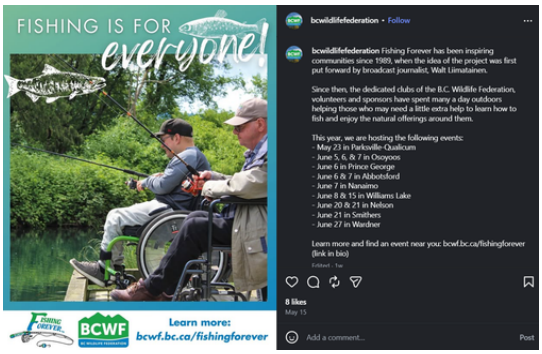


Abbotsford Facebook Event



Wardner Facebook Event





BCWF Instagram

BCWF Facebook





Facebook Post



Photo Credits: Owls Roost Cabins, Osoyoos

Donations & In-kind Support

Total Volunteer Hours: 2617 = $47,760

The value of volunteer contributions was calculated at $18.25 per hour, based on British Columbia's minimum wage.

In-kind Donations: $13,625.00

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



Photo Credits:Freshwater Fisheries Society, Abbotsford



Photo Credits: Owls Roost Cabins, Osoyoos

Fishing Forever Funders

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

Johnny Morris Bass Pro Shops Cabela's OUTDOOR FUND

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

Columbia Basin trust

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of the Kootenay Rockies

Follow us to stay up to date!

@bcwildlifefederation
www.bcwf.bc.ca/