



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DIVISION
FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH

EAST KOOTENAY ANGLING MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Introduction

The East Kootenay Angling Management Plan (AMP) document summarizes the regulatory measures that have been implemented to address angling use issues on selected East Kootenay Streams and their tributaries. These measures reflect some of the recommendations made by the East Kootenay AMP Committee, and documented in the *East Kootenay Angling Management Plan – Status Report* (attached). There are a number of recommendations made in the *Status Report* that have not been implemented at this time due to logistical and legislative barriers. However, the East Kootenay AMP is a living document, subject to review and revision as needed under the *Provincial Quality Waters Strategy*.

Area and Fishery

“East Kootenays” refers to a geographical region in the south eastern corner of British Columbia characterized by hilly to mountainous terrain typical of the approaches to the Rock Mountains. The predominant fish species pursued by anglers in the waters in question are Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), Westlope Cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*) and to a lesser extent Mountain Whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*). Regulatory changes have been implemented to address overcrowding concerns on the following waters:

- Elk River (excluding the following tributaries: Wigwam River; Coal Creek downstream of the old M.F. & M. Railway bridge located about 7 km upstream of the Elk River)
- Kootenay River (upstream of White River)
- Skookumchuck Creek
- St. Mary River
- White River
- Wigwam River

Additional information on the history and geography of the area and its fisheries can be found in the attached *East Kootenay Angling Management Plan – Status Report*.

Inclusive Changes

In response to the recommendations of the East Kootenay AMP Committee, the above-listed waters (or the portions indicated) have been included in Schedule A of the *Wildlife Act: Angling and Scientific Collection Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 125/90 (the regulation). Schedule A of the regulation lists the classified waters in British Columbia; there are additional licensing requirements for both anglers and commercial angling guides operating on these waters.

Recreational anglers are required to purchase an additional classified waters licence in addition to their basic angling licence if they wish to angle on any of these waters. Resident anglers require an annual classified waters licence that is valid on all classified waters in the province, whereas non-resident Canadian and non-resident alien anglers require a time and water-specific classified waters

licence. Commercial angling guides are subject to additional fees to operate on these waters, as well as the limits described below.

With the creation of angler day quota limits on these newly classified waters, each water has limited angler day quota associated with it that can be used by commercial angling guides. This quota will be allocated among eligible guides up to the limits prescribed in the regulation. There is a fee associated with each day of angler day quota held by each guide.

Water-Specific Changes

As noted above, each of the waters classified under this AMP has limited angler day quota associated with it, the quantity of which has been set to reflect the recommendations of the East Kootenay AMP Committee. By Classified Water, these limits are:

- Bull River – 500 days
- Elk River – 2950 days
- Kootenay River – 0 days
- Skookumchuck Creek – 150 days
- St Mary River – 1250 days
- White River – 0 days
- Wigwam River – 150 days

Additional information on the process and determination of these regulatory changes can be found in the attached *East Kootenay Angling Management Plan – Status Report*.

Summary Forms

Appended are Summary Forms for each of the classified waters encompassed in the East Kootenay Angling Management Plan.