

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new season of recreational freshwater fishing in beautiful British Columbia. Angling opportunities in this province are unparalleled. Anglers can experience exciting fishing within urban centres, where many small lakes and ponds are stocked with ever-popular rainbow trout. They can also take part in world-class fishing in the province's numerous pristine rivers and streams. This Synopsis contains a variety of articles on initiatives we are undertaking and I would like to highlight a few of these.

Since 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Branch and its partners have been working on two important initiatives to make it easier for anglers to go fishing. **The Small Lakes Regulation Simplification initiative** was established to harmonize small lake angling regulations across all regions of the province ([URL](#)). Regulations were bundled into four

categories to make them more consistent and easier to understand.

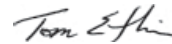
The Fish and Wildlife Branch, together with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC and local governments, also introduced the **Fishing in the City** program. This initiative was launched to make it easier for urban residents and visitors to experience fishing at local lakes. Fishing at these lakes is both fun and rewarding.

In 2008, an important licensing change took place. The White Sturgeon Conservation Licence was introduced. This licence permits anglers to participate in the white sturgeon catch-and-release fishery in the lower and middle portions of the Fraser River. Funds from this licence are used to maintain the fishery and to improve monitoring and research on this fascinating fish.

A new management approach to deal

with the illegal introductions of alien fish species was adopted during the past fishing season. This "no-tolerance" management strategy was put into effect to highlight this threat to B.C.'s high-value sport fisheries.

Beginning in 2009, the Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis will be published every two years. Regulation changes will be posted on the Fish and Wildlife website at [www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/). If you wish to be notified of these changes, please check our updated instructions on page 1 in the Provincial Regulations. Please be sure to retain this copy for both the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 fishing seasons.



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