



8th World Recreational Fishing Conference

Guest Speaker

Rick Hansen

CEO, Rick Hansen Foundation

Rick Hansen's ability to inspire has no boundaries. He has demonstrated time and again that leadership and collaboration can turn dreams into reality; whether it is removing barriers for people with disabilities, or supporting conservation efforts for sustainable sturgeon and salmon populations. Anything is possible if you have the courage and determination to try.

About Rick Hansen

Rick Hansen's earliest memories are of fishing adventures with his grandfather, father, uncle and cousins. At the age of 15, Rick sustained a spinal cord injury after a truck accident on his way home from a fishing trip. Following his injury, fishing proved to be therapeutic and helped Rick realize that he was still an adventurer. Using adapted equipment, he ventured out again with family and friends, catching lots of fish and realizing that life is what you make of it.

A gold-medal Paralympian and World Champion wheelchair marathoner, Rick became best known as the "Man in Motion" for spearheading one of history's most memorable journeys – the Rick Hansen Man In Motion World Tour. While the Tour ended in 1987, Rick's lifelong journey to make a positive difference in the lives of others was just beginning.

Rick is founder and CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation, and a passionate advocate for people with disabilities in Canada and around the world. In addition to utilizing his leadership to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, Rick is an advocate of environmental stewardship. For over 20 years he has worked closely with government, fisheries scientists, enforcement personnel, students and academics, plus commercial, sport, and aboriginal fishermen, for sturgeon and salmon conservation efforts in British Columbia.