

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2022

Clear Your Gear and Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC Partnership Clears Waterways of Gear Used Fishing Line Will Be Recycled, Repurposed

As more and more people are taking up the sport of angling, there is growing need to protect the waterways to ensure these spaces will stay clean and beautiful for future generations to enjoy. To help keep discarded gear out of streams and lakes, The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC has partnered with Canada's volunteer fishing-line recycling program, Clear Your Gear, to facilitate disposal and recycling of fishing line and promote environmental stewardship by freshwater anglers.

The Society has received thirty fishing line receptacles, which have been placed at hatchery fishing ponds, high-use urban lakes, high-traffic fishing areas, and popular fishing docks. The fishing recycling receptacles are manufactured by Clear Your Gear and their distinctive periscope shape makes them especially recognizable.

Most fishing line is made of monofilament, a synthetic fibre that is non-biodegradable and can remain in the environment for up to 600 years, depending on environment factors. This is longer than Styrofoam cups, plastic bottles and cigarette butts. Fishing line poses a particular risk for birds and animals, as it is often clear, making it hard to see. Birds and animals can easily ingest the line, or become entangled, leading to injury and death. Fishing line is the leading cause of entanglement issues for people, property & wildlife.

"We are very excited to partner with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC and expand this program through their networks and expand awareness of the importance of keeping fishing line out of the environment," says Steve Loney, Community Relations, Clear Your Gear. "When people find out how long fishing line remains in the ecosystem and how much damage it can do, they are often surprised. It motivates them to find in a more environmental solution to used gear."

Anglers are able to dispose of used monofilament and fluorocarbon line in the Clear Your Gear receptacles. Through the Clear Your Gear program, the fishing line is collected from recycling receptacles and cleaned of hooks, leaders, weights, and trash by volunteers. Line is shipped to the Berkley Pure Fishing company in Iowa where it is melted down into raw plastic pellets. The pellets can be made into other plastic products including various components for the automotive and foot wear industries. Fishing line is made of a high density plastic that requires a unique recycling process. It cannot be recycled through household recycling programs.

Fishing line that is braided or contains wire cannot be recycled and should be cut into short lengths and put into the trash.

Anglers can find a line recycling location by searching for receptacles by location or checking the map on the Clear Your Gear [website](#) for the nearest location. The map is updated regularly as new receptacles are installed.

“We have partnered with local organizations, municipalities and governments, utilizing local knowledge to place receptacles where they are the most beneficial to anglers. Maintenance of the receptacles and collection of the used fishing line will be shared by these partners and the Society and we’ve placed them to ensure they are emptied regularly,” says Marleau Brown, Outreach Coordinator, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC. “It’s another tool not only for anglers but for anyone who wants to leave our streams and lakes cleaner than they found them.”

FFSBC has also partnered with the City of Chilliwack and the Chilliwack Vedder River Clean Up Society with twenty units installed in commonly used areas along the Chilliwack and Vedder River. Locations are posted at: <http://fraservalleynewsnetwork.com/2021/03/12/chilliwack-vedder-river-cleanup-society-where-to-recycle-fishing-line/>. Locations are also posted on the Clear Your Gear website.

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC was created in 2003 as a private, not-for-profit organization, funded mainly through freshwater fishing licence revenues. In partnership with the Province, the Society annually stocks six million trout, char and kokanee salmon in 800 B.C. lakes. It also manages special hatchery programs for endangered species including white sturgeon, conducts fisheries research, education and conservation programs, and works to make angling more accessible for all. To find out more, visit gofishbc.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2022

Family Fishing Weekend Kicks Off Summer of Freshwater Fishing Events

As families are able to gather again, many are looking to make great memories with Dad in the outdoors on Father's Day weekend. To kick off the summer fishing season, free Family Fishing Weekend events are being hosted in all regions of the province June 17 – 19. Fishing licence requirements are waived for Canadian citizens that weekend, helping to make it an affordable activity for families.

Family Fishing Weekend events offer hands-on instruction as well as the opportunity to fish in a social setting. Loaner rods, reels and tackle are provided for those who do not have their own gear. The events also offer opportunities to learn about fishing gear, share fishing tips and learn about environmental stewardship and the tradition of recreational fishing.

Family Fishing Weekend events take place June 17 – 19, 2022 with several organized events in the Kootenays. The events combine fishing, learning and socializing for participants who range from avid anglers to those trying the sport for the first time. Canadian residents can fish licence-free over the three days. Some requirements remain in effect; details are posted on the BC Family Fishing website and the Fisheries and Oceans website.

“It is so exciting to have Family Fishing Weekend and other events return! It's a great time to introduce or reintroduce people to the sport and build the community,” says Mike Gass, Manager of Recreational Fishing Development. “We hope the increased youth participation we saw through the pandemic will continue, and families will make freshwater fishing part of their summer for years to come. The return of instructional events will make it even more accessible.”

Through the summer, Learn to Fish programs will also resume after a two year pause. An introductory half-day program appropriate for kids 5-15 and their families, Learn to Fish teaches the basics of how, when and where to catch fish in fresh water. Also through the summer the Rod Loan program is available in many communities, offering free loans of spinning rods with reels and a basic box of tackle to individuals and families.

The Summer Fishing challenge is also underway for 2022. Participants 15 years old and younger keep a fishing journal, posting a photo of five fishing trips taken over the summer. Those who complete the challenge are eligible to win fishing gear prizes.

“We have heard how much people missed the in-person events,” says Outreach Coordinator of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Marleau Brown. “They create a fun environment to learn in while enjoying time outdoors. By providing gear and instruction at no cost, the events are very accessible to families with children of all ages.”

Events are supported by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, and organized by BC Wildlife Federation Fish and Game clubs, the Conservation Officer Service, municipalities, community groups, and local businesses. A complete list of participating communities, locations, and event descriptions, along with step-by-step fishing instructions, can be found at www.bcfamilyfishing.com. Freshwater and tidal fishing regulations, including daily catch quotas, always apply; details are posted at www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca or www.fishing.gov.bc.ca.

Family Fishing Weekend was established by the Province of BC to encourage new anglers as well as promote other angling initiatives targeted toward families and young people. 2022 marks the 23rd year of the licence-free fishing weekend.

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About the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC was created in 2003 as a private, not-for-profit organization, funded mainly through freshwater fishing licence revenues. In partnership with the Province, the Society annually stocks six million trout, char and kokanee salmon into 800 B.C. lakes. The Society also manages special hatchery programs for endangered species including white sturgeon, conducts fisheries research, education and conservation programs, and works to make angling more accessible for all. To find out more, visit gofishbc.com.