

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2022

Media Advisory / Photo Opportunity

The Premier and Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC Release Fish on Earth Day

What: Release of rainbow trout into Glen Lake

When: Friday, April 22, 2022

Time: 1:30 pm Honourable John Horgan and Society President say a few words
1:40 pm Fish are release

Where: Glen Lake Park, Glen Lake, Langford
Glen Lake Park is located at the north end of Glen Lake

Who: Honourable John Horgan
Freshwater Fisheries Society President Andrew Wilson
Hatchery staff and young guests

Details:

In celebration of Earth Day and the start of the spring fishing season, students will individually release catchable-size rainbow trout into Glen Lake

Premier John Horgan will assist with releasing trout into the lake

Each year, the Freshwater Fisheries Society's Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery stocks approximately 50 lakes on Vancouver Island, providing recreational fishing opportunities close to home. Glen Lake is stocked each spring and fall, receiving 2,000 catchable size rainbow trout annually.

The Society is also committed to supporting and creating a new generation of anglers, teaching youth and their families how to fish responsibly through our Learn to Fish programs. Bi-weekly sessions will be running at Glen Lake this spring. More information about this program can be found on our website, gofishbc.com.

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC is a not-for-profit organization, funded largely through freshwater fishing licence revenues. The Society works in partnership with Provincial fisheries managers to deliver fish stocking programs that support 50 percent of all fishing in B.C. lakes, releasing six million fish annually. The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC also invests licence fees into research, conservation, education, and improved access to fishing areas. Through these programs, the Society is working to ensure that BC has the most accessible, enjoyable and sustainable freshwater fishing in North America.

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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.