



BCWF News



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You have one week to ensure your fisheries are not privatized! Call your MP

Bill C-32 was been featured in the [February 2008](#), [July 2007](#) and [March 2007](#) newsletters. Bill C-32 originally came out as Bill C-45 and was shot down only to return with what was essentially only a new number. This bill does not guarantee access to tidal water fisheries and the legislation appears to allow the Minister of Fisheries the ability to gift or privatize fisheries.

With the recent announcement of poor returns on the Fraser, gravel extraction on the Fraser, potential closures of fisheries, and little to no habitat enhancement or protection for tidal fisheries this bill does not address the issues that will affect you and your grandchildren's ability to fish. There is no guarantee which adequately protects fish habitat, resident anglers or the fish themselves.

Despite adversity from resident anglers this bill is being rammed through in Ottawa with no consultation from the people who have been the stewards of the resource. As a conservationist you have a strong background as the group who has taken care of these fish.

Bill C-32 will likely be back in the house at the end of May. This bill should not even be debated in the house. To change it you have to contact your MLA, the Minister of Fisheries and the Prime Minister and let them know this not acceptable.

This is your last chance to take a stand. Don't wait until it's too late.

Bear Hunting under attack

Over the past month there have been several articles written across British Columbia and Canada calling for an end to bear hunting and the use of bear hides as far away as Europe. Black bear, grizzly bear and polar hunting have been under attack for quite some time and it seems in the last couple of months the propaganda has increased. With a provincial election and the Olympics only a year away political pressure will increase.

Total grizzly bear kill in 2007 was 426 compared to 294 in 2006 and 328 in 2005. The hunter kill for these years was 365 last year, 253 in 2006 and 268 in 2005.. Media articles have tried to sensationalize this as a record harvest, that government data and population estimates are not reliable or accurate and that grizzly bear hunting is not sustainable. It is very clear that the individuals opposed to bear hunting are not properly informed or educated and that radicals will likely never acknowledge the truth or understand the science behind bear management and

Hon. Loyola Hearn
Minister of Fisheries and
Oceans

Right Hon. Stephen
Harper
Prime Minister

Bear Hunting under attack

Using genetic tagging to
estimate animal
population parameters

Scientists snare bear
hair for DNA analysis

Grizzly Bear Harvest
Management in British
Columbia

Genetic tagging of free-
ranging black and brown
bears

conservation. These same people typically produce the same 3 or 4 biologists each time they turn on the rhetoric, supposedly adding credibility to their arguments, yet somehow these people always fail to address the specific complaints against the estimation process or the harvest management system (which, in fact, was also carefully reviewed and endorsed by an independent Science Panel of internationally recognized bear biologists).

After a video from a guided black bear hunt on the Queen Charlottes ended up on YouTube there have also been calls to end black bear hunting as well. The video does not illustrate what one would consider ethical hunting behaviour.

All the negative media is aimed at swaying people's emotions and misdirecting their thoughts. In a day and age where biology can be directed by politics this uninformed approach poses a great risk to hunting but also presents an opportunity. As a conservationist there is an immense opportunity for you to educate friends, coworkers and acquaintances on bear hunting, harvest and a conservationist's role in wildlife management. The following are a couple facts that can help you educate others specifically as they relate to grizzly bears:

- The provincial estimate is approximately 17,000 grizzly bears
- Grizzly bear population estimates are attained through DNA analysis through hair samples snagged on a systematic grid over 4-5 sessions with re-baiting each session (only scent baits are used)
 - This allows biologists to identify species, individuals, sex, and how the bears are related which allows biologists to construct population estimates
 - This Mark-Recapture method is used across North America and elsewhere in the world to estimate bear populations
 - It is the same method that was used to institute a moratorium in Alberta
- The greatest challenge grizzly bears face today is habitat loss and fragmentation (people, buildings and highways)
- The increase in harvest in 2007 occurred mainly in Region 6. This is due to the fact that in the past the harvest in Region 6 was only approximately 40% of the annual allowable harvest (Region 6 is now fully applying the provincial Grizzly harvest procedure)
- Grizzly bear hunting is managed through Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) whereby hunting opportunity is extremely regulated
- Grizzly bear harvest calculations include animals that must be destroyed by Conservation Officers, vehicle collisions and other mortality – predictions for future conflicts are calculated on the basis of past conflict mortalities
- A separate estimate of illegal unreported kills are also explicitly factored in
- Female harvest cannot exceed 30% of the total annual allowable harvest
- Should female harvest exceed 30% the area may be closed the following year even if no males were harvested
- Hunting the family unit (sows and cubs) is illegal which should protect approximately 2/3 of females (they keep their cubs for 27 months after birth)
- Areas where the population estimate is less than half of the areas habitat capability are closed to hunting
- Areas where the population estimate is <100 animals even if the population is

greater than half of the areas habitat capacity are also closed

- All grizzly bears harvested are compulsory inspected
- All human caused mortality is capped at a maximum of 6% per year, however most MU's in the province are managed to either 4 or 5%

These are a few of the facts associated with Grizzly bear management and hunting in BC. There are several groups out to stop bear hunting. Many of their members do not live in BC and many who oppose bear hunting likely haven't seen bears before. We are but one large organization with an active membership. We live here and hunt continuing the tradition of conservation providing for our families. Our Province undoubtedly has some of the healthiest grizzly bear populations in the world. The BCWF members have a long history of supporting conservation and science based decisions. As a result we have a Province in which diversity of wildlife is unmatched. Grizzly bears greatest threat today is habitat fragmentation. As conservationists we need to be cognizant of habitat supply and access management to ensure the future of the species. It's vital to the future of grizzly bears, conservation and hunting that we're informed and that we inform and educate others who may not be aware of the facts.

Convention 2008

BCWF Executive and Board of Director contact information

Using the E Newsletter

All subheadings in the left column and blue words in the body of the newsletter are hyperlinked.

When your mouse pointer is on them a hand will appear. This will allow you to click once when the hand appears and will automatically direct you to a website or email address.

Convention 2008

This year's convention was one to remember. "It was one of the best in recent times," according to Andy Pezderic, land use committee chairman. The Salmon Arm Fish and Game club did a wonderful job of organizing and managing the convention. Although final numbers are not yet ready all events were well attended and everyone had a great time.

There were numerous guest speakers who spoke to issues that were extremely relevant to what affects us in today's day and age. Presenters discussed varying topics from mountain pine beetle to First Nations issues to the latest technologies used by fisheries biologists. Particularly interesting was the presentation by the wildlife panel composed of MoE biologists from Victoria as well as regions 3, 4 and 7B. Concepts such as carrying capacity and sustainable yield were discussed as well as targets and thresholds for wildlife species. Discussions regarding hunting seasons and proper wildlife management were discussed; the word overly-conservative was used several times. The concept of proper wildlife management to ensure sustainability and healthy wildlife populations is something we as an organization need to tackle.

The Minister of Environment also presented and discussed a multitude of different topics including electronic licensing and independent power projects. The Minister also presented the BCWF with an additional \$20,000 for the Wilderness Watch, Enforcement and Rewards program.

Youth representatives were sent from most regions. Youth had several opportunities to participate in the convention and stand up at the mic to provide input on resolutions. It was fantastic to see the future of the BCWF participating in the direction of the organization. The youth delegates were also privy to a special presentation from Al Martin, Executive Director Fish, Wildlife and Ecosystems. Al's presentation discussed the North American Conservation Model, wildlife management, hunters' role in conservation and public perception of hunting.

Saturday concluded the convention with elections, the closed room session and finally the Wildlife Game Banquet and Awards. The following picture is of your 2008 Executive and Board of Directors.



Front row left to right: Mike Fowler (Region 5), George Wilson, Ted Brookman (Region 1), Paul McLean, Patti MacAhonic (Executive Director), Ken Franzen (Region 6), Joan McKay, Darlene Clark

Top left to right: Ed George (Region 2), Doug Flintoft, Doug Peck, Kent Petovello (Region 4E), Wilf Pfleiderer (Past President), Mel Arnold (President), Rod Wiebe (Vice-president), Rick Mayor, Bob Baker, Richard Green (Region 4W), Bill Bosch (Treasurer), Ron Thiel (Region 7A), Peter Aussem (Region 8), Cyril George (Region 3)

We want to hear from you

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Send us your news, stories and items of interest. If your article is selected for an upcoming newsletter we will send you a T-Shirt:

The purpose of the BCWF Newsletter is to provide your club with news and information that you want to see. This is your Newsletter containing your news.

If you have any comments, questions or an article for future newsletters please contact Jesse at Jesse@bcwf.bc.ca or 1-888-881-2293 EXT. 224 or feel free to contact any BCWF staff member.