



# BCWF News



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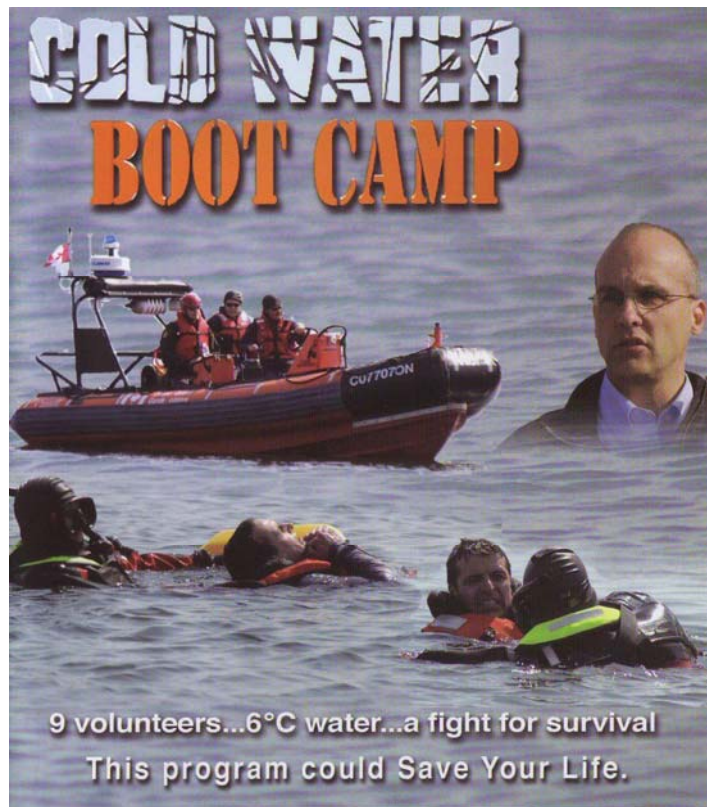
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## Cold Water Boot Camp

When we first spoke with Chris Marrie, a Boating Safety Officer with Transport Canada, we didn't realize what an interesting subject he was bringing to our membership. He's been giving presentations to BC Freshwater Fishing Resorts and Outfitters Associations which were very well received.

What Chris is trying to do is to raise awareness about cold water survival. One of the ways he does that is via a Cold Water Boot Camp where volunteers go overboard into cold water and fight for survival. Yes, believe it or not, this refers to actual research and DVD clips from a program called Cold Water Boot Camp, in which 9 volunteers are videotaped after they go overboard in 6C degree water.



A sample of the DVD may be seen at [www.coldwaterbootcamp.com](http://www.coldwaterbootcamp.com). Being prepared for cold water is essential to staying alive whenever we are heading out around the water. The DVD and Chris' presentation are relevant to all outdoor sports, including fishing, hiking, snowmobile and hunting.

Some startling facts from this DVD are:

**MYTH:** Most people believe that they don't need a life jacket "if they are close to shore" or "because they can swim" and that "they can put a lifejacket on the water" if they need it.

**FACT:** In 90% of drownings a lifejacket was not worn. Research has also demonstrated that, in cold water under 59 degrees, the risk of drowning increases by 500%, and many of those drownings will occur within 6 feet of safety.



**REALITY:** Cold Water Boot Camp takes nine hardy volunteers from across Canada and puts them in cold water to learn what really happens. The Instructor is Dr. Gordon Giesbrecht, Professor of Thermophysiology at the University of Manitoba and an expert in the study of the effects of cold water on the human body.

Under Dr. Giesbrecht's (AKA as "Professor Popsicle") watchful eye, the volunteers face the undisputable fact – that the difference between becoming an Statistic and a Survivor...is wearing a lifejacket.

Chris says, "I am writing in the hopes that I may present to the BCWF and members regarding Cold Water Survival and boating safety. Perhaps your AGM/Conference would be a good time to present to your members. As an avid hunter and fisherman, I look forward to meeting with you and hopefully presenting to fellow outdoor enthusiasts".

## Art Downs Award: Notice of Correction

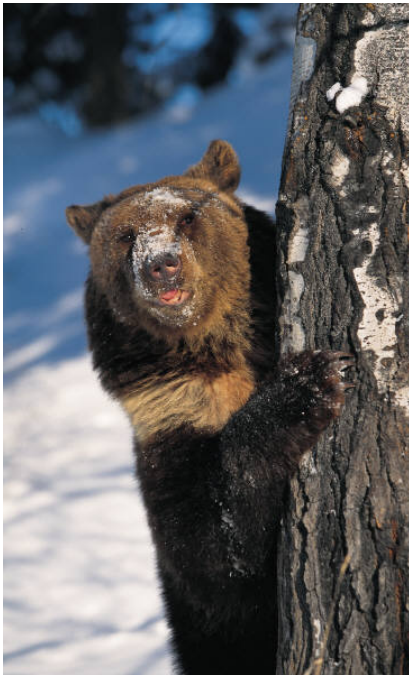


In our previous Newsletter edition, we incorrectly indicated that Scott Simpson was the only two-time winner of this award when in fact another prestigious reporter has also received this award twice. We apologize to Judie Steeves who received this award in 2006 and 2008. And we regret our mistake using for our October newsletter a 2007 quotation from Bill Otway regarding the award granted to Scott Simpson in that year which is misleading our readers.

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# Bear Facts - The Myth of The Vanishing Grizzly Bear

BCWF has produced this factual document to shed some light in the debate around Grizzly Bear hunting. Some excerpts:



## **Grizzly Bear Numbers**

The current conservative population estimate is 17,000 grizzly bears in British Columbia. These figures have been established through extensive inventory work by grizzly bear scientists and researchers in representative areas throughout the province.

Estimating the number of bears in the province is not a simple process. Although they are a large, imposing animal, they are also secretive and often nocturnal and their typical habitat makes sightings difficult or even impossible.

## **Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates**

One of the arguments that we have heard regarding the sustainability of grizzly bear populations is their low reproductive rates. While mature females produce cubs only every second or third year, what is not mentioned is that the cubs have a much higher survival rate than the young of most other large mammals.

This is partly due to the simple fact that the big bears are at the top of the food chain and have few predatory threats as well as the extreme protective nature of the female grizzly toward her cubs. The key to the reproductive success of grizzly bears populations is that is that grizzly bear females are excellent mothers.

## **Grizzly Bear Hunting Statistics:**

One of the arguments from groups and individuals whose goal is to completely ban all hunting of grizzly bears in British Columbia is that the bears are at risk because they are being over-hunted.

To understand this issue, you must first be familiar with British Columbia's hunting regulations and the fact that all grizzly bear hunting in B.C. is conducted through a Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) system where the number of hunters in any specific area is limited through a lottery system. In this manner wildlife managers can control the number of bears taken by licensed hunters in specifically defined geographic areas through the number of permits that are issued.

These mortality limits range from a maximum of 5% of the total estimated population in the very best habitat to a low of 3% in the lowest habitat class. Further adjustments are made based on the number of mortalities of female grizzlies in any given Wildlife Management Unit (MU).

Check the full report at this link in our website:

<http://www.bcwf.bc.ca/documents/s=95/bcw1226364702024/>

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## 2009 Club Dues Incentive Draw Winners



This year's winner is the Marpole Richmond Sportmans' Association. They won a framed print of our 2006 Artist of the Year print, "Caribou Migration", a BCWF Buck knife and 10 t-shirts or equivalent merchandise from the BCWG Store.

Congratulations!

## And, More Winners! Contest for New Members Who Joined Before October 31, 2008



The lucky winners of GPS units are:

Rachelle Krazanowski  
from Surrey, BC

And

Kevin So  
from Vancouver, BC

Congratulations to them both!

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## We want to Hear from You!

### Contact Us

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If you have any comments, questions or an article for future newsletters please contact Jorge at [development@bcwf.bc.ca](mailto:development@bcwf.bc.ca) or 604-291-9990 Ext. 223 or feel free to contact any BCWF staff member.