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| Application Guidelines for  Scientific Fish Collection Permits |

Due to the wide variety of activities that take place under the authorization of this permit, the Ministry has provided the following guidelines to help applicants describe the details and scope that suit their particular sampling program. *For all activities, you are required to familiarize yourself with the provincial and region-specific conditions of your permit, listed in Appendix ‘A’ of the permit application.*

Questions regarding data report standards can be made to: [fishdatasub@gov.bc.ca](mailto:fishdatasub@gov.bc.ca).

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|  | **Activity** | **Sampling Program Description** | **Permit Limitations** |
| **1.**  **Example** | **Fish Salvage** | Regional Level -  Indicate areas within a regional district such as GVRD  - Include detailed project objectives and methods including isolation methods, capture techniques and relocation coordinates | **Maximum 1 year** |
| Fish collection associated with in-stream works etc. |
| **2.** | **Forestry**  **Stream Classification** | Using the TRIM scale, identify the 4th or 5th order stream  - Include detailed project objectives |
| **3.**  **Example** | **Environmental Impact Assessment** | Project Level  - Include detailed project objectives |
| Pre and / or post development project monitoring (industrial, linear etc.) | - indicate the project/proponent under which the fish collection activity will take place and the water bodies involved  - Include detailed project objectives |
| **4.**  **Example** | **Inventory** | Project Level  - indicate the project/proponent  under which the fish collection activity will take place and the water bodies involved  - Include detailed project objectives | **Maximum 1 year** |
| (1) Species abundance and distribution  (2) Presence / Absence study |

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| **5.**  **Example** | **Research**  (fish collection as part of experimental procedure) | Project Level  - indicate the project/proponent under which the fish collection activity will take place and the water bodies involved  - Include detailed project objectives |  |
| Research to determine how fish populations respond to habitat manipulations |

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| **ACTIVITY** | **MOE REGION(S)** | **WATERBODY OR WATERSHED NAME** | **WATERSHED CODE** |
| **Fish Salvage** | Required | Indicate area within region (GVRD, Municipality, etc) | Required |
| **Forestry Stream Classification** | Required | TRIM scale 4th order stream or larger | Required |
| **Environmental Impact Assessment** | Required | Required | Required |
| **Inventory** | Required | Required | Required |
| **Research** | Required | Required | Required |

**Appendix A: Fish Collection Permit Terms**

*Any Variation of the following terms will require explicit authorization by the appropriate regional Fish & Wildlife Section Head.*

**Provincial Terms**

1. This collecting permit is **only** valid for species listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) **in conjunction with a permit issued under Section 73 of SARA from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.**

NOTE: Contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for fish collecting permits for salmon, eulachon or SARA listed species (see Appendix B).

1. Any specimen’s surplus to scientific requirements and any species not authorized for collection in this permit must be immediately and carefully released at the point of capture.
2. Fish collected under authority of this permit must not be used for food or any purpose other than the objectives set out in this permit. Dead fish must be disposed of in a manner that will not constitute a health hazard, nuisance or a threat to wildlife.
3. No fish collected under authority of this permit must be transplanted unless separately authorized by the Federal/Provincial Introductions and Transfers Committee.
4. The permit holder must, within 90 days (120 Days for the Kootenay/Boundary region and Peace Region) of the expiry of this permit, submit a report of fish collection activities. Interim reports may also be required and must be submitted as required by the permit issuer. All submissions must be filed electronically to: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/fish-data-submission-process.

Reporting specifications, information and templates are available from this website and outline the mandatory information requirements. Prior notification of submission or questions regarding data report standards can be made to: [fishdatasub@gov.bc.ca](mailto:fishdatasub@gov.bc.ca)

1. The permit holder must comply with all Workers’ Compensation Board requirements and other regulatory requirements. The permit holder is responsible for ensuring authorized persons listed on the permit are properly certified for specific sampling methods or activities (e.g. electroshocking).
2. Any workers not listed on the permit must be supervised by the permit holder or one of the authorized persons named on the permit.
3. All sampling equipment that has been previously used outside of B.C. must be cleaned of mud and dirt and disinfected with 100mg/L chlorine bleach before using in any water course to prevent the spread of fish pathogens (e.g. whirling disease) and/or invasive plant species. Any washed off dirt or mud must be disposed of in a manner such that it cannot enter a watercourse untreated.
4. No electrofishing is to take place in waters having a temperature less than five degrees C.
5. No sampling of fish in waters having a temperature greater than twenty degrees C.
6. Electrofishing must not be conducted in the vicinity of spawning gravel, redds, or spawning fish, or around gravels which are capable of supporting eggs or developing embryos of any species of salmonid at a time of year when such eggs or embryos may be present.

**Region Specific Terms**

**West Coast Region**

* Within the boundaries of Management Units 1-1 through 1-13, there is no electrofishing in: (1) streams above 630 meters elevation, (2) in anadromous rivers from January 1 to June 30, (3) or any lake tributaries from January 1 to June 30.
* All sampling gear follow Association of Professional Biologists’ advisory practice bulletin #5. Practice Advisory – Dydimo, see: <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/viewDocumentDetail.do?fromStatic=true&repository=BDP&documentId=9469>
* The permit holder must advise the West Coast Region of sampling activities 24 hrs. prior to field operations. Please complete the following notification form: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/reports/fish/permit_notify1.html>

**South Coast Region**

* The permit holder must notify Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at [SCFishandAquaticWildlife@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SCFishandAquaticWildlife@gov.bc.ca) with the following information at least 24 hours prior to undertaking work:
  + approved SFC permit number
  + company
  + contact
  + address
  + phone
  + water body
  + purpose of collection
  + start date
  + end date
* All streams sampled, for which a watershed code does not presently exist, will require a map showing the location of the stream and sampling location with the map scale identified at time of reporting.
* Electrofishing and minnow trapping can harm or kill non-target species of management concern such as the endangered Coastal Giant Salamander (within the Chilliwack River drainage system), Oregon Spotted Frog, and Pacific Water Shrew (within the lower Fraser River Valley).  Any incidental captures (alive or dead) of any red-listed or blue-listed wildlife species must be reported to the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development, South Coast Region. For further information on these species or to report incidental captures, please contact the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch by e-mail at [SCFishandAquaticWildlife@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SCFishandAquaticWildlife@gov.bc.ca).
* All non-native fish species captured under this permit are to be humanely euthanized and disposed of appropriately. Within 48 hours of capture, a record of the species, capture location, date, waterbody, number, size range (mm) and digital imagery must be submitted to the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch by email at [SCFishandAquaticWildlife@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SCFishandAquaticWildlife@gov.bc.ca). Non-native fish species include but are not limited to: American Shad; Black Catfish; Black Crappie; Brown Catfish; Carp; Goldfish; Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass; Pumpkinseed Sunfish; and Weather-fish.
* Please refer to the following website for the least risk in-stream work windows:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-licensing-rights/working-around-water/regional-terms-conditions-timing-windows>. Where possible, collection should be conducted during the least risk work windows identified. The exception is seasonal or ephemeral streams where sampling may not be possible during the prescribed window due to flow conditions.

* The permit holder must refer to the following when sampling Salish Sucker, Nooksack Dace and Stickleback species.

Salish sucker sampling guidelines - <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/pdf/SalishSuckerCollectionGuidelines2015.pdf>

Nooksack dace sampling guidelines – <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/pdf/NooksackDaceCollectionGuidelines2015.pdf>

Stickleback species pairs sampling guidelines - <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/publications/sara-lep/stickleback-epinoches/index-eng.html>

**Thompson/Okanagan Region**

* Please refer to information at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-licensing-rights/working-around-water/regional-terms-conditions-timing-windows> for the appropriate in stream work windows.

**Kootenay/Boundary Region**

* No electrofishing is permitted between September 15 and June 15 in streams containing bull trout.
* The permit holder must contact the local zone Conservation Officer Service prior to initiating the field collections.
* All burbot traps must have a section in the top or sidewall that has been secured by a length of untreated, 100% cotton twine no greater than No. 30 (e.g. 30 thread count) or 3 mm diameter. When twine deteriorates, this must produce a square opening with a minimum size of 20 cm x 20 cm. This is intended to ensure that if the trap is lost, the section secured by the twine will rot, allowing captive fish to escape, and preventing the trap from continuing to fish.
* All sampling gear follow Association of Professional Biologist’s advisory practice bulletin #5. Practice Advisory Dydimo, see: <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/viewDocumentDetail.do?fromStatic=true&repository=BDP&documentId=9469>
* All fishing gear (e.g. gill nets, minnow traps, etc.) that are left unattended must have the permit holders contact information (name and phone number).
* Within 120 days of expiry of this permit, the permit holder must submit a report that summarizes all field and any laboratory analysis data related to the sampling program (typically location of catch, species, individual fish tissue metals analysis, moisture content, fish length and weight, etc., and as applicable) and all associated raw laboratory data.

The digital final written report (e.g. report, summary, memo, letter) is required and shall be submitted along with the standard format Excel data submission template.

**Cariboo Region**

* Cariboo Region requires seven days (7) written notice, complete with waterbody and watershed codes for the proposed areas prior to sampling in the Cariboo Region. Please submit written email notice to: [Lee.Williston@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.Ramsay@gov.bc.ca) or fax to 250 398 4214.
* Until such time as the permit holder has discussed specific activities with the Regional Manager and obtains written permission, fish collection, fish sampling or fish salvage may not be undertaken within the boundaries of Management Units 5-04 or 5-05.

**Skeena Region**

* For information related to Fish Collection Permit Activities in the Skeena Region, please contact Kristin Charleton: (250) 876-7131 or [kristin.charleton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:kristin.charleton@gov.bc.ca)

**Omineca Region**

* The permit holder must advise Region 7A (Omineca) of sampling activities 48 hrs. prior to field operations by completion of the following form: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/reports/fish/permit_notify7a.html>
* No electrofishing is permitted between September 15 and June 15 in streams containing bull trout.
* Voucher specimens for all regionally significant red and blue-listed species (3 per species), with exception to SARA-listed white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*), must be submitted to the Regional Fish Information Specialist as per RISC standards.
* All sampling gear follow Association of Professional Biologist’s advisory practice bulletin #5. Practice Advisory Dydimo, see: <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/viewDocumentDetail.do?fromStatic=true&repository=BDP&documentId=9469>.When lethal sampling has occurred for the purposes of environmental effects monitoring or impact assessment, the permit holder must, within 90 days of the expiry of this permit, submit a report that summarizes all raw data related to the lethal program. This would typically include location of catch, species, fish tissue metals analysis, fish tissue moisture content, fish length and fish weight, at minimum. Interim reports may also be required and must be submitted as required by the permit issuer. All fish tissue analysis data related to the lethal program must be submitted ALONG with the standard sampling effort data submission template to https://www2.gov.bc.ca/fish-data-submission-process. Questions regarding submission requirements for lethal sampling may be directed to [Susanne.Weber@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Susanne.Weber@gov.bc.ca).

**Peace Region**

* No electrofishing is permitted between September 15 and June 15 in streams containing bull trout.
* All sampling gear follow Association of Professional Biologists’ advisory practice bulletin #5. Practice Advisory – Dydimo, see: <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/viewDocumentDetail.do?fromStatic=true&repository=BDP&documentId=9469>
* All fishing gear (e.g., gill nets, minnow traps, etc.) that are left unattended must have the permit holders contact information (name and phone number).
* Within 120 days of expiry of this permit, the permit holder must submit a report that summarizes all field and any laboratory analysis data related to the sampling program (typically location of catch, species, individual fish tissue metals analysis, moisture content, fish length and weight, etc., and as applicable) and all associated raw laboratory data.

The digital final written report (e.g., report, summary, memo, letter) is required and shall be submitted along with the standard format Excel data submission template.

**Appendix B**

**Table 1 - Species at Risk**

The following are species at risk that have been listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as either endangered, threatened or a species of special concern. Species also listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) are identified with an asterisk and are subject to additional permitting requirements through the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
| Benthic Paxton Lake Stickleback | *\*Gasterosteus sp.* |
| Benthic Vananda Creek Stickleback | *\*Gasterosteus sp.* |
| Limnetic Paxton Lake Stickleback | *\*Gasterosteus sp.* |
| Limnetic Vananda Creek Stickleback | *\*Gasterosteus sp.* |
| Nooksack Dace | *\*Rhinichthys sp.* |
| Morrison Creek Lamprey | *\*Lampetra richardsoni* |
| Vancouver Lamprey (Cowichan Lake Lamprey) | *\*Lampetra macrostoma* |
| Cultus Pygmy Sculpin | *\*Cottus sp.* |
| Shorthead Sculpin | *\*Cottus confusus* |
| Hotwater Physa | *\*Physella wrighti* |
| Limnetic Enos Lake Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp.* |
| Benthic Enos Lake Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp.* |
| Salish Sucker | *Catostomus sp.* |
| Speckled Dace | *Rhinichthys osculus* |
| Charlotte Unarmoured Stickleback | *Gasterosteus aculeatus* |
| Columbia Mottled Sculpin | *Cottus bairdi hubbsi* |
| Giant Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp.* |
| Green Sturgeon | *Acipenser medirostris* |
| Umatilla Dace | *Rhinichthys umatilla* |
| West Slope Cutthroat Trout | *\*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi* |
| White Sturgeon | *Acipenser transmontanus* |

Applications for permits to specifically collect and retain listed species must be reviewed by the appropriate provincial expert, who will screen permits to ensure that any impacts on listed species are acceptable. For white sturgeon the contact is Steve McAdam ([steve.mcadam@gov.bc.ca](mailto:steve.mcadam@gov.bc.ca)). For listed non-game freshwater fish the contact is Jordan Rosenfeld ([jordan.rosenfeld@gov.bc.ca)](mailto:jordan.rosenfeld@gov.bc.ca)),.

**Table 2 – Species Names and Codes**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Common name** | **Scientific Name** | **Code** | **Common name** | **Scientific Name** | **Code** |
| American Shad | *Alosa sapidissima* | SH | Mottled Sculpin | *Cottus bairdi* | CBA |
| Arctic Char | *Salvelinus alpinus* | AC | Mountain Whitefish | *Prosopium williamsoni* | MW |
| Arctic Cisco | *Coregonus autumnalis* | CA | Ninespine Stickleback | *Pungitius pungitius* | NSB |
| Arctic Grayling | *Thymallus arcticus* | GR | Nooksack Dace | *Rhinichthys sp* | NDC |
| Arctic Lamprey | *Lampetra* | AL | Northern Mountain Sucker | *Catostomus platyrhynchus* | MSU |
| Arctic Smelt | *Osmerus mordax dentex* | ASM | Northern Pearl Dace | *Margariscus margarita* | PDC |
| Bering Cisco | *Coregonus laurettae* | CB | Northern Pike | *Esox lucius* | NP |
| Black Catfish/Bullhead | *Ameiurus melas* | BKH | Northern Pikeminnow | *Ptychocheilus oregonensis* | NSC |
| Black Crappie | *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* | BCB | Northern Redbelly Dace | *Phoxinus eos* | RDC |
| Brassy Minnow | *Hybognathus hankinsoni* | BMC | Pacific Lamprey | *Lampetra tridentata* | PL |
| Bridgelip Sucker | *Catastomus columbianus* | BSU | Peamouth Chub | *Mylocheilus caurinus* | PCC |
| Broad Whitefish | *Coregonus nasus* | BW | Prickly Sculpin | *Cottus asper* | CAS |
| Brook Stickleback | *Culaea inconstans* | BSB | Pumpkinseed Sunfish | *Lepomis gibbosus* | PMB |
| Brook Trout | *Salvelinus fontinalis* | EB | Pygmy Longfin Smelt | *Spirinchus sp* | PLS |
| Brown Catfish (Brown Bullhead) | *Ameiurus nebulosus* | BNH | Pygmy Whitefish | *Prosopium coulteri* | PW |
| Brown Trout | *Salmo trutta* | GB | Rainbow Smelt | *Osmerus dentex* | RSM |
| Bull Trout | *Salvelinus confluentus* | BT | Rainbow Trout | *Oncorhynchus mykiss* | RB |
| Burbot | *Lota lota* | BB | Redside Shiner | *Richardsonius balteatus* | RSC |
| Carp | *Cyprinus carpio* | CP | River Lamprey | *Lampetra ayresi* | RL |
| Charlotte Unarmoured Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB3 | Round Whitefish | *Prosopium cyclindraceum* | RW |

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| Chiselmouth (Chiselmouth Chub) | *Acrocheilus alutaceus* | CMC | Salish Sucker | *Catostomus sp* | SSU |
| Coastrange Sculpin | *Cottus aleuticus* | CAL | Sharpnose Sculpin | *Cinocottus acuticeps* | CCA |
| Coastal Cutthroat Trout | *Oncorhynchus clarki clarki* | CCT | Shorthead Sculpin | *Cottus confusus* | CCN |
| Cultus Lake Sculpin | *Cottus sp* | CCL | Slimy Sculpin | *Cottus cognatus* | CCG |
| Crayfish | *Pacifastacus leniusculus* | CRA |  |  |  |
| Deepwater Sculpin | *Myoxocephalus thompsoni* | CMT | Smallmouth Bass | *Micropterus dolomieui* | SMB |
| Dolly Varden | *Salvelinus malma* | DV | Speckled Dace | *Rhinichthys osculus* | SDC |
| Emerald Shiner | *Notropis atherinoides* | ESC | Spoonhead Sculpin | *Cottus ricei* | CRI |
| Eulachon | *Thaleichthys pacificus* | EU | Spottail Shiner | *Notropis hudsonius* | STC |
| Fathead Minnow | *Pimephales promelas* | FM | Squanga | *Coregonus sp* | SQ |
| Finescale Dace | *Phoxinus neogaeus* | FDC | Staghorn Sculpin | *Leptocottus armatus* | CLA |
| Flathead Chub | *Platygobio gracilis* | FHC | Starry Flounder | *Platichthys stellatus* | SFL |
| Giant Pygmy Whitefish | *Prosopium sp* | GPW | Steelhead | *Oncorhynchus mykiss* | ST |
| Giant Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB8 | Tench | *Tinca tinca* | TC |
| Golden Trout | *Oncorhynchus aguabonita* | GT | Threespine Stickleback | *Gasterosteus aculeatus* | TSB |
| Goldeye | *Hiodon alosoides* | GE | Tidepool Sculpin | *Oligocottus maculosus* | COM |
| Goldfish | *Carassius auratus* | GC | Torrent Sculpin | *Cottus rhotheus* | CRH |
| Green Sturgeon | *Acipenser medirostris* | GSG | Troutperch | *Percopsis omiscomaycus* | TP |
| Inconnu | *Stenodus leucichthys* | IN | Umatilla Dace | *Rhinichthys umatilla* | UDC |
| Kokanee | *Oncorhynchus nerka* | KO | Walleye | *Stizostedion vitreus* | WP |
| Lake Chub | *Couesius plumbeus* | LKC | Western Brook Lamprey | *Lampetra richardsoni* | BL |
| Lake Cisco | *Coregonus artedii* | CL | Westslope Cutthroat Trout | *Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi* | WCT |
| Lake Lamprey | *Lampetra macrostoma* | LL | White Sucker | *Catostomus commersoni* | WSU |
| Lake Trout | *Salvelinus namaycush* | LT | Yellow Perch | *Perca flavescens* | YP |
| Lake Whitefish | *Coregonus clupeaformis* | LW | Balkwill Lake Benthic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB1 |
| Largemouth Bass | *Micropterus salmoides* | LMB | Balkwill Lake Limnetic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB2 |
| Largescale Sucker | *Catostomus macrocheilus* | CSU | Emily Lake Benthic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB4 |
| Least Cisco | *Coregonus sardinella* | CS | Emily Lake Limnetic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB5 |
| Leopard Dace | *Rhinichthys falcatus* | LDC | Enos Lake Benthic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB6 |
| Longfin Smelt | *Spirinchus thaleichthys* | LSM | Enos Lake Limnetic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB7 |
| Longnose Dace | *Rhinichthys cataractae* | LNC | Paxton Lake Benthic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB12 |
| Longnose Sucker | *Catostomus catostomus* | LSU | Paxton Lake Limnetic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SB13 |
| Morrison Creek Lamprey | *Lampetra richardsoni marifaga* | MCL | Priest Lake Benthic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SBB |
| Mosquitofish | *Gambusia affinis* | GAM | Priest Lake Limnetic Stickleback | *Gasterosteus sp* | SBP |