

Fisheries Program Agreement

Between:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
(SRD)

-and-

Alberta Conservation Association
(ACA)

This agreement is made pursuant to the Wildlife Regulation, AR 143/97 and the Memorandum of Understanding between SRD and ACA dated December 8, 2006.

Program Description

The Fisheries Program supports and enhances conservation activities that retain the diversity and abundance of fish populations and communities, and the biological communities and habitats that support them. The Program supports fishing as a recreational use in the interest of Alberta anglers.

The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), in its function as a Delegated Administrative Organization (DAO), is bound by the conditions of this Program Agreement. This Agreement sets down the Fisheries Program scope, roles and responsibilities that guide the Association in its activities as a DAO for the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. Both parties ensure that ACA is fulfilling its role in supporting and enhancing SRD's strategic objectives through a process of strategic planning and ongoing communication. Through an annual integrated strategic planning process ACA and SRD identify a suite of provincial scale priorities that guide ACA's operational plans for a rolling three-year period as identified in the ACA Strategic Business Plan. ACA and SRD may, through mutual consent, change agreed upon within-year priorities to respond to emergent issues. In addition to agreed upon priorities, ACA may elect to participate in activities around emergent within-year opportunities identified through consultation with its stakeholders, SRD, and the conservation community. ACA may participate in an SRD-led Fisheries Science Committee.

The ACA Fisheries Program supports SRD in the determination of stocks and populations status; the development, and implementation of management plans; and management of consumptive and non-consumptive use and users. The Fisheries Program includes the inventory and monitoring of priority species and their habitats to determine distribution, abundance, status and trends. An essential element for all program components will be the monitoring, evaluation, and

adaptation of Fisheries Program activities. Activities in this program support and inform an adaptive fisheries management program in Alberta. Through ongoing communication, ACA provides science-based information and advice to SRD.

Outcomes

The following outcomes from the Fisheries Program Agreement have been identified. These outcomes arise from the activities identified as occurring under the Fisheries Program Agreement and provide a basis for tracking the success of these activities.

- Timely and credible monitoring and inventory data and information is available on priority fish populations, fish communities and their habitats to enable adaptive fisheries management. Uses may include:
 - Land use planning
 - Status assessment
 - Species management
 - Habitat management
 - Education and outreach
 - Research
- Identification of potential population and/or habitat risks and/or enhancement opportunities.
- Identification of priority habitats for stewardship or securement. Fisheries habitat for priority species is conserved and enhanced.
- Quality and quantity of angling opportunities are maintained, enhanced and communicated for select priority water bodies. This is accomplished by:
 - Fish stocking
 - Habitat enhancement
 - Access site development
 - Communication
- ACA has contributed to the development of priority management, landscape, stocking and recovery plans.
- Other ACA delegated Programs are provided with strategic direction and guidance to ensure effective linkages (e.g., Land Management, Shared Services, Communications and Outreach Programs).
- ACA and SRD staff understand priorities and plans through effective communication of annual and 3-year plans.

Specific Program Activities

The following broad categories of activities have been identified as taking place within the framework of this Program Agreement. For each category of activities roles and responsibilities have been identified for ACA and SRD. The roles for SRD have been provided only to the extent that SRD provides a critical input to an ACA activity.

Activity: Plan Development and Implementation	
<p>Description - Support SRD’s development of priority fish species plans that will assist in species recovery and management (e.g. Recovery plans, Management plans, Landscape plans, Stocking plans). Implement select components of plans.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">ACA Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>* Roles and Responsibilities around resourcing and protocols occur as defined in Schedule 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As determined through the strategic planning process, a member of ACA may sit on the planning team • Will provide professional input to the planning process, as requested • Provides advice and data to support the development of the plan • Implements select components of the plan • Tracks implementation and identifies opportunities for plan refinement 	<p style="text-align: center;">SRD Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads the plan process • Initiates the formation of the plan development team • Coordinates the development of the plan • Responsible for building the plan • Approves the final plan (minister) • Coordinates implementation of the plan • Monitors overall plan and, in consultation with involved partners, identifies opportunities for plan refinement

Activity: Fish Stocking	
<p>Description – Carry out activities to support maintenance of select stocked rainbow trout ponds for angling. This includes contracting stocking of waterbodies and may include assessment and monitoring.</p>	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<p>* Roles and Responsibilities around resourcing and protocols occur as defined in Schedule 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides input into the plan development process that includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterbodies for stocking • Suggested stocking rates • Stocking times • Communicates to SRD any variations where plans are revised • Leads the contracting process for stocked ponds and oversees implementation • Assessment and monitoring of selected stocked populations and waterbodies • Captures data and provides data to SRD • Identify opportunities for habitat enhancement (e.g. aeration) • Leads an annual review of the ACA stocking programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops stocking plans that identify waterbodies, stocking rates, and times • Maintains Fish Culture Information System and FMIS • Leads Standards Committee and in case of dispute, have final authority to approve protocols for ACA completed stocking programs

Activity: Fish Stock and Angler Assessments and Monitoring	
<p>Description – Assessment of priority fish populations and communities, with a focus on species that provide angling opportunities. Describe and monitor levels of angler use, harvest and demographics on waterbodies. This may include the development and testing of assessment tools.</p>	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<p>* Roles and Responsibilities around resourcing and protocols occur as defined in Schedule 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct fish population and community assessments • Complete surveys to quantify angler use, harvest and demographics • Captures data and provides data to Fish Management Information System (FMIS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Fish Management Information System (FMIS) • Leads Standards Committee and in case of dispute, have final authority to approve protocols for ACA completed stocking programs

Activity: Fish Habitat Enhancement and Monitoring	
<p>Description – Assessment, identification and monitoring of habitats for priority fish species and populations. Implement activities and/or land securement for the development, enhancement, and restoration of identified habitats. (e.g. aeration, riparian protection, and spawning beds)</p>	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<p>* Roles and Responsibilities around resourcing and protocols occur as defined in Schedule 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess, implement and maintain priority habitat development, enhancement, and restoration activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRD’s responsibility for fish habitat, enhancement, development and restoration will be reflected in the description of SRD’s priority activities under the habitat enhancement activity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain permits and approvals from regulators other than SRD • Report results of assessments relating to habitat enhancement to SRD and the public • Identify the need and participate in the development and assessment of monitoring tools to assess the effectiveness of habitat enhancements • Identifies priorities for securement to provide direction to activities identified within the Land Management Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate acquisition of and/or issue permits where required • In case of dispute, have final authority to approve monitoring tools • Leads Standards Committee and in case of dispute, have final authority to approve protocols for ACA completed stocking programs
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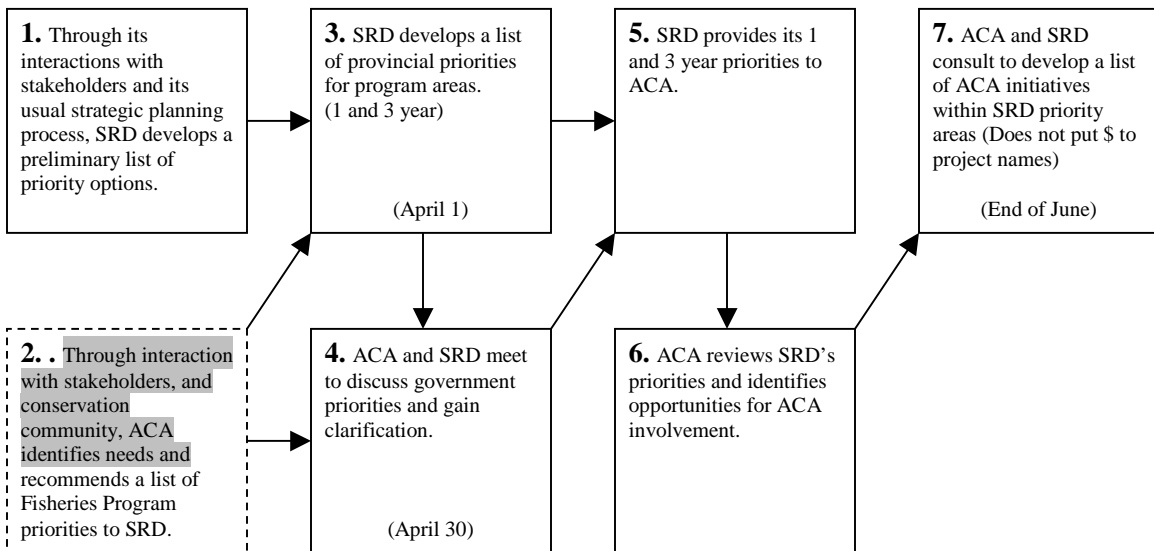
Activity: Recreational Access Opportunities	
Description - Develop and promote recreational access that enables current and future generations to value and enjoy fish related recreational opportunities.	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * Roles and Responsibilities around resourcing and protocols occur as defined in Schedule 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding • Assess, implement and maintain priority recreational access sites • Promoted in accordance with the terms and condition identified in the Information and Communication Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will take a leadership role in facilitating the involvement of Ministry and Government of Alberta departments and resources • Will take a leadership role in facilitating any required government partnerships

- Identifies priorities for securement to provide direction to activities identified within the Land Management Agreement

Strategic Planning

SRD and ACA agree to participate in cooperative planning of the activities identified within the Fisheries Program and establish program priorities annually. The process provided in the flow diagram provided will be followed in each year to support the planning cycle. The following principles are represented within this process:

- ACA has the opportunity to provide input into SRD’s process for priority development. This input is non-binding.
- SRD will provide to ACA a set of priorities for activities contained within this agreement prior to ACA’s strategic planning cycle annually.
- ACA will select those priorities identified by SRD that Association has the resources and capacity to complete. These priorities will direct ACA activities in their role as a delegated authority under this Program Agreement.



Fisheries Performance Measures

As a mechanism to track and report on activities delegated to ACA under this program agreement both parties have agreed to adopt the following performance measures. ACA assumes responsibility for tracking and reporting on these performance measures to SRD at the conclusion of each operating year. Both parties may report on these measures to stakeholder groups as they deem appropriate.

- Percentage of projects agreed to through the strategic planning process completed on time and on quality as defined in the objectives set out in the operating plan. Percentages will be divided by program activity area.
- Percentage of water bodies stocked at the agreed upon rate and by the agreed upon date.
- All data captured and reports generated through Fisheries Program initiatives are provided to SRD in the appropriate format annually.
- Amount of third party dollars collected for fisheries programs annually

General Program Conditions

- ACA will prepare a consolidated Annual Operational Plan for presentation to the ACA Board as part of its normal budget approval process
- ACA agrees to allocate funds for program execution, subject to annual Board budget approval, by December 31 of each year
- ACA will administer the funds allocated to the program and will disburse funds as required for completion of approved priority activities within the program
- The parties agree to exchange, upon reasonable request, all information on activities relating to the delivery and/or administration of the Program
- Program and project files created prior to ACA's formation in 1997 and still relevant to this program agreement will be retained, consistent with the Government of Alberta's record retention policies. In cooperation with SRD, ACA will have the opportunity to review all program/project files held by SRD that may be relevant to this program and extract pertinent information subject to the FOIPP Act.
- ACA and SRD staff will acknowledge each others contribution/role in both joint and independent projects, when presenting information or talking to the public or media as set out in the Information and Communications Program Agreement.

- ACA and SRD may engage in education outreach through both joint and independent projects, as set out in the Information and Communications Program Agreement.

Specific Program Conditions

- ACA will participate on an SRD chaired Fisheries Science and Protocol committee.
- While the normal range of fisheries management activities are open for ACA involvement, the following activity areas will not normally be identified to ACA as priority areas by SRD:
 - Database architecture enhancement
 - Studies on fish diseases
 - Providing operating funds for non-ACA activities
 - Chemical rehabilitation of water bodies
- It is understood by both parties that it is not the intent of this program agreement for ACA to take on responsibility for restoration of habitat damaged by identifiable third parties (i.e. mitigation of habitat damaged caused by a pipeline across a river, hanging culvert mitigation, etc.).

Program Term

- This Agreement shall commence upon the date of signature and remain in effect until December 8, 2011.
- This Agreement is subject to annual review and may be amended from time to time as outlined in the MOU signed December 8, 2006 between ACA and SRD.