

**Alberta Conservation Association
2021/22 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: Fish Stocking

Fisheries Program Manager: Peter Aku

Project Leader: Diana Rung

Primary ACA staff on project: Diana Rung

Partnerships

Alberta Environment and Parks	Lethbridge County
Aquality Environmental Consulting	Nutrien
Canadian Tire – Cochrane	Saddle Hills County
CCI Inc.	Shell Canada Energy
City of Beaumont	SysGen Solutions Group Ltd.
City of Fort Saskatchewan	Town of Cochrane
County of Grande Prairie	Town of High River
City of Lacombe	Town of Morinville
City of Medicine Hat	

Key Findings

- The Fish Stocking Project provides anglers with opportunities to catch and harvest trout in regions of Alberta where few angling prospects exist.
- We stocked 65 waterbodies with 111,993 rainbow trout, 2,300 brown trout, 6,640 brook trout, and 1,870 tiger trout—totaling 122,803 trout.
- Approximately 64% of the stockings were completed before the May long weekend, 17% were completed in June, 18% in September, and 1% in October.
- We stocked one waterbody, Boulder Lake, for the first time.
- We acquired three new corporate partners.

Abstract

The Fish Stocking Project provides anglers with increased opportunities to catch and harvest rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout and, for the first time, tiger trout in regions of Alberta where angling opportunities are limited. Recipient waterbodies are prone to winterkill and require annual stocking of fish to maintain angling opportunities. We stocked 65 waterbodies with 111,993 rainbow trout, 2,300 brown trout, 6,640 brook trout, and 1,870 tiger trout for a total of 122,803 trout. We stocked 64 waterbodies with rainbow trout and supplemented eight with brown trout, ten with brook trout, and 11 with tiger trout. We stocked one waterbody with brook trout and tiger trout. Overall, we stocked 39 ponds with single species and 26 ponds with multiple species. We stocked one waterbody, Boulder Lake, for the first time. We acquired three new corporate partners.

Introduction

Stocked trout ponds are an integral part of Alberta anglers' sport fishing experience. The primary objective of ACA's Fish Stocking (FS) Project is to provide Albertans with sport fishing opportunities in areas of the province where fishing opportunities are limited. ACA-stocked ponds are prone to winterkill and require annual stocking of fish to maintain angling opportunities. We stock sterile, catchable-sized (20 cm total length) rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, and tiger trout into ponds to create put-and-take fisheries where anglers can harvest up to five trout per day. To prevent interaction with native salmonids, trout stocking occurs only in the White Zone of Alberta (settled area of the province) and in waterbodies that frequently winterkill. Most stocked ponds are near or in urban centres, making them accessible and popular for families and anglers of all ages.

Methods

We contracted two trout suppliers to grow and stock trout: Smoky Trout Farm Limited, a private grower, provided rainbow trout only, while the Government of Alberta (GOA) fish hatchery provided four species: rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout and, for the first time, tiger trout. We negotiated the stocking contracts more than one year prior to stocking. Spring stockings occurred between mid-April and the May long weekend, and early summer stockings occurred

by the third week in June. Fall stockings occurred in September and October. Both Smoky Trout Farm and GoA ensured that the appropriate number and size (20 cm total length) of triploid trout were stocked into designated ponds. Fish were measured, weighed, and loaded into transport containers by hatchery staff. At the receiving waterbody, a volunteer lake contact monitored the stocking process to determine if there were stocking- or transport-related mortalities; ACA staff monitored approximately half of the Smoky Trout Farm trout deliveries. Each stocking event was verified with appropriate documentation.

We negotiated with and confirmed three new corporate partners that will contribute funding to the FS project annually for a three- to five-year period.

Results

In 2021/22 we stocked a total of 65 waterbodies with 111,993 rainbow trout, 2,300 brown trout, 6,640 brook trout and 1,870 tiger trout for a total of 122,803 trout. We stocked 64 waterbodies with rainbow trout and supplemented eight with brown trout, ten with brook trout, and 11 with tiger trout. We stocked one waterbody with brook trout and tiger trout. Overall, we stocked 39 ponds with single species and 26 ponds with multiple species. We stocked one waterbody, Boulder Lake, for the first time. We acquired three new corporate partners: County of Grande Prairie, Lethbridge County, and Town of Morinville.

Conclusions

The FS Project provided anglers with increased opportunity to catch and harvest rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, and tiger trout in regions of Alberta where angling opportunities do not otherwise exist.

Communications

A complete list of rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, and tiger trout stockings was posted on our website and updated frequently during trout stocking season.

Literature Cited

Not applicable

Photos



Photo 1. Fall stocking of rainbow trout by Smoky Trout Farm. Photo: Diana Rung



Photo 2. Tiger trout in net prior to stocking. Photo: Diana Rung



Photo 3. Alberta Environment and Parks staff stocking tiger trout at Boulder Lake.
Photo: Diana Rung