

**Alberta Conservation Association
2023/24 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: Fish Stocking

Fisheries Program Manager: Peter Aku

Project Leader: Diana Rung

Primary ACA Staff on Project: Diana Rung

Partnerships

Government of Alberta	Lethbridge County
Canadian National Railway	NFP
Canadian Tire – Cochrane	Nutrien
CCI Inc.	Saddle Hills County
City of Airdrie	Shell Canada Energy
City of Beaumont	Southern Alberta Outdoorsmen
City of Edmonton	Special Areas Board
City of Fort Saskatchewan	SysGen Solutions Group Ltd.
City of Lacombe	Town of Cochrane
City of Medicine Hat	Town of High River
City of Red Deer	Town of Morinville
County of Grande Prairie	Town of Taber

Key Findings

- The Fish Stocking Project provides Albertans with angling opportunities in areas of the province where sport fishing opportunities are limited.
- We stocked 64 waterbodies with 100,225 rainbow trout, 6,320 brook trout, 2,500 brown trout, and 2,170 tiger trout, for a total of 111,215 trout.
- Approximately 84% of the stockings were completed in spring before the May long weekend, 13% in late May or early June, and 3% in the fall.

- We acquired two new “Corporate Partners in Conservation”.

Details

The objective of this project is to provide Albertans with angling opportunities in areas of the province where sport fishing opportunities are limited. We stocked sterile (triploid) catchable-sized (approximately 20 cm total length) trout into ponds to create put-and-take fisheries. Most stocked ponds are near or in urban centres, making them accessible and popular for families and anglers of all ages. We hired two trout suppliers to grow and stock trout for us. Smoky Trout Farm Limited, a private grower, provided rainbow trout and the Government of Alberta fish hatchery provided four species: rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, and tiger trout. Both suppliers ensured that the appropriate number and size of triploid trout were stocked into designated ponds. Spring stockings occurred between mid-April and the May long weekend, and late spring stockings occurred by the middle of June. Fall stockings occurred in September and October. At the receiving waterbody, a volunteer lake contact monitored the stocking process to determine if there were stocking mortalities. Alberta Conservation Association staff monitored approximately half of the Smoky Trout Farm trout deliveries. Each stocking event was verified with appropriate documentation.

In 2023/24, we stocked 64 waterbodies with 100,225 rainbow trout, 6,320 brook trout, 2,500 brown trout, and 2,170 tiger trout, for a total of 111,215 trout. We stocked 62 waterbodies with rainbow trout and supplemented various ponds with combinations of brook trout, brown trout, and tiger trout. We stocked one pond (Shell True North Pond) with brook trout and tiger trout. We stocked one pond (Mirror Reservoir) with brown trout only. Overall, we stocked 40 ponds with single species and 24 ponds with two or more species to increase diversity in fishing experience for anglers. Approximately 84% of the stockings were completed in spring before the May long weekend, 13% in early June, and 3% in the fall. We also stocked a small number of 30-cm rainbow trout in ponds where Kids Can Catch events occurred. We acquired two new “Corporate Partners in Conservation”.

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

Photos



Photo 1. Fish hatchery workers attach a plastic fish tube to a tank on a delivery truck in preparation for fish stocking. Photo: Diana Rung



Photo 2. Fish move into a waterbody through a plastic tube attached to a tank on a delivery truck. Photo: Diana Rung