

**Alberta Conservation Association
2024/25 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: New Lake Aeration Development

Fisheries Program Manager: Peter Aku

Project Leader: Brad Hurkett

Primary ACA Staff on Project: Troy Furukawa and Ariel Schlereth

Partnerships

Government of Alberta

Key Findings

- Completed third year of monitoring winter dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature at Blue Ridge Pit Pond to determine if it requires winter aeration to overwinter stocked fish.

Details

Alberta Conservation Association's Lake Aeration project promotes angling opportunities in stocked waterbodies across Alberta where such fishing opportunities are otherwise limited. Waterbodies we aerate are prone to fish kills during winter and summer months due to low DO, but with aeration, we maintain DO concentrations at levels that promote year-round survival of stocked trout. Each year, we receive several requests to aerate waterbodies throughout the province. Given the substantial cost associated with aeration operations, we carefully screen candidate waterbodies to ensure that we address top Government of Alberta provincial-level priorities. After a preliminary review of the requests received, we develop a short list of lakes for further screening as potential candidates for future aeration. Key screening criteria include multi-year patterns in frequency and severity of fish kills, water quality (particularly nutrients and DO profiles), lake depth and size, and proximity to electrical power and roads. In 2024/25, we continued to screen Blue Ridge Pit Pond (year three) by measuring winter DO and temperature profiles at two monitoring stations that were established in 2022/23. We will review the data

collected over the three winters in 2025/26 to determine if the lake requires aeration to overwinter fish.

Photos

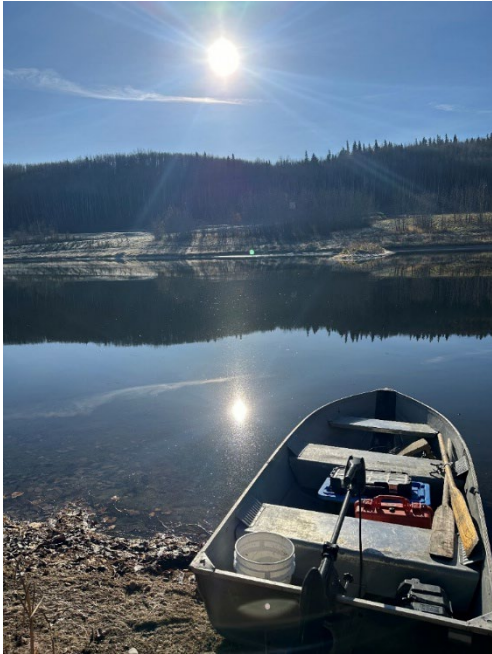


Photo 1. DO and water temperature loggers loaded in the boat and ready to be deployed by staff for winter monitoring at Blue Ridge Pit Pond. Photo: Ariel Schlereth



Photo 2. Looking west on Blue Ridge Pit Pond. Photo: Ariel Schlereth