



Okanagan Drought Angling Closure: All streams in MU 8-1 through 8-15 and MU 8-21 through 8-23

Update: Due to continuing drought conditions, this closure has been extended to September 30

All streams in Management Units 8-1 through 8-15 and Management Units 8-21 through 8-23 are closed to recreational freshwater fishing July 19, 2021 to September 30, 2021.

Lakes in these management units are excluded from this closure order and remain available to recreational anglers unless specifically identified in the regulation synopsis or in-season regulation changes.

Low water conditions combined with higher than normal water temperatures are creating difficult conditions for fish, particularly those which must be released after being caught (example; Bull trout).

The Southern Interior has experienced drier than normal conditions in 2021, with early snowmelt and low flow rates. Several streams are already assessed at Drought level 2-3, approximately 2 weeks ahead of schedule. The River Forecast Centre is projecting continuing conditions across the short-range outlook.

Water temperature is highly correlated to ambient air temperatures; many water bodies are currently recording water temperatures of 25C to 30C. Temperatures in this range are stressful for fish and any released after being caught will have difficulty recovering.

The Thompson-Okanagan Fish and Wildlife Branch recommends anglers avoid rivers and streams where surface temperatures exceed 20 degrees Celsius.

Anglers are encouraged to report fish kills to their local Fish and Wildlife office or RAPP line (1.877.952.7277) and refer to the online version of the Freshwater Fishing Regulation Synopsis (www.gov.bc.ca/fishingregulations) for potential in-season fishery closures.