BRITISH COLUMBIA ENERGY REGULATOR

Wildlife Act Guideline

DRAFT VERSION 1.0: June 2026

About the Regulator

The British Columbia Energy Regulator (Regulator) oversees the full life cycle of energy resource activities in B.C., from site planning to restoration. The Regulator ensures activities are undertaken in a manner that protects public safety and the environment, supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, conserves energy resources and fosters a sound economy and social well-being. We work collaboratively across government and industry sharing policy and technical expertise in support of B.C.'s transition to low-carbon energy and helping meet future global energy needs.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

A resilient energy future where B.C.'s energy resource activities are safe, environmentally leading and socially responsible.

Mission

We regulate the life cycle of energy resource activities in B.C., from site planning to restoration, ensuring activities are undertaken in a manner that:

Protects public safety and the environment

Supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the transition to low-carbon energy

Conserves energy resources

Fosters a sound economy and social well-being

Values

Respect is our commitment to listen, accept and value diverse perspectives.

Integrity is our commitment to the principles of fairness, trust and accountability.

Transparency is our commitment to be open and provide clear information on decisions, operations and actions.

Innovation is our commitment to learn, adapt, act and grow.

Responsiveness is our commitment to listening and timely and meaningful action.

Additional Guidance

As with all Regulator documents, this document does not take the place of applicable legislation. Readers are encouraged to become familiar with the acts and regulations and seek direction from Regulator staff for clarification.

The Regulator publishes both application and operations manuals and guides. The application manual provides guidance to applicants in preparing and applying for permits and the regulatory requirements in the planning and application stages. The operation manual details the reporting, compliance and regulatory obligations of the permit holder. Regulator manuals focus on requirements and processes associated with the Regulator's legislative authorities. Some activities may require additional requirements and approvals from other regulators or create obligations under other statutes. It is the applicant and permit holder's responsibility to know and uphold all legal obligations and responsibilities. For example, Federal Fisheries Act, Transportation Act, Highway Act, Workers Compensation Act and Wildlife Act.

Throughout the document there are references to guides, forms, tables and definitions to assist in creating and submitting all required information. Additional resources include:

- Glossary and acronym listing on the Regulator website.
- Documentation and guidelines on the Regulator website.
- Frequently asked questions on the Regulator website.
- Advisories, bulletins, reports and directives on the Regulator website.
- Regulations and Acts listed on the Regulator website.

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Manual Revisions

The Regulator is committed to the continuous improvement of its documentation. Revisions to the documentation are highlighted in this section and are posted to the Energy Professionals section of the Regulator's website. Stakeholders are invited to provide input or feedback on Regulator documentation to Systems@bc-er.ca.

Version Number	Posted Date	Effective Date	Chapter Section	Summary of Revision(s)
DRAFT 1.0	June 16, 2026	June 16, 2026	-	This interim guidance outlines the steps and information requirements for submitting Wildlife Act applications for renewable energy projects through the BCER's Application Management System (AMS). This is a draft document for engagement purposes. Written feedback can be sent to info@repspa.ca. Feedback is requested by July 16, 2026.

Chapter 1: Introduction

The BC Energy Regulator (Regulator) is the single-window regulatory agency responsible for regulating energy resource activities in British Columbia. The *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* (REPA) was passed by the BC legislature in May 2025 and came into force on July 1, 2025. It expands the authority of the Regulator to oversee renewable energy projects and natural resource authorizations for prescribed transmission lines. Through REPA, the Regulator authorizes activities under *Energy Resource Activities Act* (ERAA) specified enactments for land, water, forests and heritage conservation, and through delegations of authority for wildlife and aggregate mining authorizations.

This guideline is intended to support energy resource proponents in understanding the Regulator's requirements and processes for *Wildlife Act* permits.

1.1 Delegated Authorities for Wildlife Act

The *Wildlife Act* is the foundation for conserving and managing wildlife in British Columbia. Wildlife is an integral part of First Nations' heritage and culture and provides enjoyment and economic benefits for British Columbians. The Deputy Minister of Forests has exercised authority under Section 18(1) of the REPA to delegate specific *Wildlife Act* authorities to the Regulator, including the issuance of permits.

The delegated authorities apply only to a 'streamlined project' defined by Section 2 of the REPA, including selected wind energy projects, the North Coast Transmission Line project, and prescribed renewable energy projects. The Regulator must consider proposed activities and project plan, including fish and wildlife and habitat values of the relevant Wildlife Management Area when exercising a delegated power under Section 4(4) of the *Wildlife Act*. The Regulator's application requirements and review for permits under the *Wildlife Act* align with Provincial Policy where appropriate.

Chapter 2: Pre-Application Considerations

Before applying for a *Wildlife Act* permit, proponents must engage with First Nations. Any requests for deviation from this guidance must be discussed with the BCER in advance of making an application.

2.1 Pre-Engagement with First Nations

Applicants contemplating *Wildlife Act* permits are expected to engage potentially affected First Nations early in the planning process. Proponents should follow Guidance for Pre-engaging with Indigenous First Nations when undertaking pre-engagement.

2.2 Requests for Deviation from Guidance

Requests for deviation from this guidance must be discussed with the BCER in advance of making an application. Deviations will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances; applications without identified locations and/or methods will not be considered. Please reach out to Wildlife.Act@bc-er.ca to set up a meeting.

Chapter 3: Application Requirements

An application for a *Wildlife Act* Permit is made in the Application Management System (AMS) and consists of four parts:

(1) spatial data,
(2) records of pre-engagement with First Nations,
(3) a completed application form, and
(4) a technical report signed and stamped by a Qualified Professional (QP).

A separate application is required for each *Wildlife Act* permit requested. *Wildlife Act* permits are specific to the REPA project location and have a maximum duration of one year. The BCER accepts applications for Scientific Fish Collection; Amphibian Salvage; Possess, Take or Destroy Bird Nest or Egg; and Beaver Dam Removal permits. Proponents should follow the guidance in the AMS User Manual when using AMS.

Spatial data must conform to the requirements outlined in the AMS Spatial Data Submission Standards manual. Features to be identified vary by permit type and are described in the sections of this Chapter for each.

A summary of pre-engagement activities undertaken by the applicant with affected First Nations, as described in Section 2.1, must be uploaded as an attachment.

Applicants must complete and sign a "Fish Collection and Salvage Application Form" for Scientific Fish Collection permit applications or a "General Wildlife Permit Application Form" for all others. The completed form is uploaded into AMS as an attachment.

A technical report, prepared and signed by a Registered Qualified Professional (i.e., RPBio), must support the application. The contents of the report vary by permit type and are described in the sections of this Chapter specific to each permit type. The technical report is uploaded into AMS as an attachment.

The BCER does not require a separate Animal Care Application for amphibian, reptile and small mammal salvage or other applications deemed high risk provided that the application includes an Animal Care Plan in the technical report that adheres to the Animal Care Requirements listed in Appendix A. Applicants that cannot comply with Animal Care Requirements must submit rationale for the deviation along with detailed alternate methods that are developed and signed off by an appropriate Registered Qualified Professional. Applications for proposed alternatives to the Animal Care Requirements may be subject to further review and approval by the provincial Animal Care Committee.

3.1 Application Form

The following information requirements are common to both the "Fish Collection and Salvage Application Form" and the "General Wildlife Permit Application Form":

Table 1 Application Form Fields Common to All Permit Types

Form Field	Expectation
Administration	Provide the name and contact information for the Permit Applicant. This person is considered the permit holder and will serve as the primary contact for the Regulator. The Permit Applicant is accountable for ensuring all conditions of the permit are met. The signature on the form is expected to be the Permit Applicant.
Application Information	Indicate whether the application is for a new permit, extension of an existing permit or an amendment to an existing permit. A declaration is required confirming the Permit Applicant and Co-Applicants meet the eligibility criteria of being 19 years of age or older.
Project/Activity Description	Provide a detailed description of the project/activity for which this permit is required.

3.2 Fish Collection Permit Application Requirements

This section outlines the unique application requirements for fish collection permits.

3.2.1 Spatial Data for Fish Collection and Salvage

The AMS spatial data submission must identify the fish sampling locations proposed for the permit. Point data will not be accepted; small polygons must be created and used to identify specific sampling locations. Identified sampling sites should be ground-truthed locations and at a minimum, reflect a desktop exercise that identifies the possible fish sample locations based on intersection with project footprint.

3.2.2 Fish Collection and Salvage Application Form Requirements

The following information requirements are unique to the Fish Collection and Salvage Application Form. This section outlines the information expectations for Fish Collection and Salvage. Information on the form should be high level and brief; detailed information to support the form can be included in the Technical Report.

Table 2 Unique Application Form Requirements for Scientific Fish Collection Permits

Form Field	Expectation
Technical Information	Identify the type of fish sampling program from the provided list: Fish Salvage, Fish Habitat Assessment, Riparian Classification.
Sampling Program Objectives	A brief overview of the fish sampling program should be provided on the form. Further details must be included in the technical report.
Sampling Period and Locations	Identify a permit start and end date. A list of all sampling locations must be provided, including Ministry of Environment Region, Waterbody Name (if available), Watershed Code and UTM Coordinates.
Sampling Techniques	The application must identify which sampling techniques will be used under the permit. Appropriate sampling techniques should be determined by a QP. Multiple sampling techniques may be selected from the list provided.
Species to be Sampled	The application must include a list of species to be targeted or possible species that could be encountered under this permit as determined by a QP. A *Wildlife Act* permit **does not** authorize the sampling of Federal salmon species, other than Kokanee. A separate permit, obtained from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, is required if there is any potential for Federal salmon species to be sampled. A *Wildlife Act* permit **does not** authorize the sampling of *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)-listed species; a separate SARA permit must be obtained. If fish sampling will target or may incidentally include Species at Risk, a list of all anticipated Species at Risk must be provided.
Permit Authorities	Provide the name, contact information, College of Applied Biology qualified registrant and registration number for the designated Qualified Professional (QP) who will be responsible for implementing all the conditions of the permit. Provide list of additional persons authorized to conduct fish sampling work under the permit.

3.2.3 Fish Collection and Salvage Technical Report

Additional information to support the application should be compiled into Technical Report and uploaded as an attachment in AMS. This Technical Report must be prepared and signed off by the R.P.Bio listed on the application form. The content of the Technical Report for Fish Collection should include:

Location Information and Map
The location of the sampling, including a description of the habitat and a map identifying proposed sampling locations. Including photographs is recommended.

Sampling Program
The technical report should include a detailed description of the fish sampling program, including an explanation of proposed fish sampling, rationale, methodologies, and potential risks associated with the program. Rationale for the program should describe the data available for the project and how it was used to inform the proposed program. Any measures that will be implemented to reduce impacts of potential risks should be included. Appropriate fish sampling standards (i.e., Resource Inventory Standards Committee) should be followed and acknowledged in the application form and QP technical memo. Applicable Reduced Risk Timing Windows for the region in which the sampling will occur should be followed.

If the sampling program will include tagging, marking or lethal sampling of fish, the applicant must include a detailed description of the proposed program in the technical report, including (but not limited to) objectives, rationale, specific waterbodies where sampling will occur, target species, age classes, and number of individuals.

Any variances to the permit conditions listed in Appendix B of this document must be requested at the time of application. Variance requests must include rationale for the proposed variance and potential impacts it may have on fish populations, habitat, etc.

Introduction and Transfer Committee Permit (fish live transport)
A copy of the approved, valid permit issued by the Introduction and Transfer Committee must be included if a sampling program involves the live transport of fish.

3.3 Amphibian Salvage Permit Application Requirements

This section outlines the unique application requirements for amphibian salvage permit applications. Requirements may be dependent on the program proposed.

3.3.1 Amphibian Salvage Spatial Data Requirements

The spatial data submission must identify the amphibian salvage locations proposed for the permit. Point data will not be accepted; small polygons must be created and used to identify specific sampling locations. If areas are overlapping (such as a wetland complex), applicants must merge the polygons.

3.3.2 Amphibian Salvage Application Form Requirements

The following sections of the General Wildlife Act Application Form must be completed for activities related to amphibian salvage.

Table 3 Unique Application Form Requirements for Scientific Fish Collection Permits

Form Field	Expectation
Proposed Activity – Wildlife	Species expected to be captured should be listed here.
Wildlife Act Authorization Request: Name of College of Applied Biologists qualified registrant on project	The principal Qualified Professional(s) overseeing the salvage must have herpetofauna experience. The name, contact information, College of Applied Biologists qualified registrant, registration number, and a summary of herpetofauna experience for the designated Qualified Professional (QP) responsible for implementing conditions of the permit must be provided.

3.3.3 Amphibian Salvage Technical Report

Additional information to support the application should be compiled into a Technical Report. The technical report must be prepared and signed off by an R.P. Bio. The Technical Report for Amphibian Salvage should include the following:

Project Background

Outline the rationale for amphibian salvage including:

- Why the salvage(s) is necessary and cannot be avoided.
- The status of the application for the BCER regulated activity and the application number (if available).
- How the timing of the proposed activities will impact or mitigate potential adverse effects to amphibians.

Location Information and Map

The location the animals are being salvaged from, including a description of the habitat and a map identifying proposed salvage and release locations. Including photographs of the location is recommended.

Species Information

A list of species that are expected to be captured, the expected numbers (or an estimate, if not known), and status (i.e. note if species are provincially red or blue listed, SARA listed, or otherwise at risk). Applicants should refer to Table 4 to identify which species are likely to be found within their project area.

Table 4 Amphibian species occurrence per Region in British Columbia

	Region								
Amphibians	Vancouver Island	Lower Mainland	Thompson Nicola	Kootenay	Cariboo	Skeena	Omineca	Okanagan	Peace
Northwestern Salamander	X	X			X	X			
Long-toed Salamander	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blotched Tiger Salamander[1]								X	
Roughskin Newt	X	X	X		X	X			
Coastal Giant Salamander[1]		X							
Wandering Salamander[1]	X								
Ensatina	X	X			X	X			
Coeur D'Alene Salamander[1]				X					
Western Red-backed Salamander	X	X							
Coastal tailed Frog[1]		X	X		X	X		X	
Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog*				X					
Great Basin Spadefoot[1]			X		X			X	
Western Toad[1]	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Pacific Treefrog	X	X	X	X	X	X[2]	X	X	
Boreal Chorus Frog							X		X
Northern Red-legged Frog[1]	X	X				X[2]			
Columbia Spotted Frog		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oregon Spotted Frog[1]		X							
Wood Frog			X	X	X	X	X		X
Northern Leopard Frog[1]	X			X				X	
American Bullfrog	X	X						X	
Green Frog	X	X							

[1]Listed species [2] Red-legged Frogs and Pacific Chorus Frogs are not native to Haida Gwaii

Methodology

Describe the methods proposed for salvage. The Regulator expects that methods will reflect the best available science and established protocols where they exist. Methodology must outline the following:

- Capture and release methodology: describe methods that will be used, including:
    - Techniques and equipment (i.e. what kind of traps or surveys)
    - Intensity of effort (e.g. number of surveys and/or traplines, duration and frequency of trap checks and surveys, duration of entire salvage, number of people involved, etc.)
    - Proposed locations of traps and surveys
    - Timing of trapping and surveys (time of day, time of year, etc)
    - Precautions to protect wildlife from harm during capture, handling and relocation.
    - How the salvage area will be isolated prior to salvage, during salvage and post-salvage during construction.
    - Description of activities to occur once animals are captured:

  Release Location: describe the release location and provide justification for the release location site.
  https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/HHWG Decontamination Protocol 2017-05-30.pdf
  https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Add_PDFs/Wildlife_Amphibians_Reptiles.pdf.
  Applicants must refer to the provincial guidance for decontamination protocol: Interim hygiene protocol for Amphibian field staff and researchers.

Animal Care Plan

An Animal Care Plan outlining and confirming adherence to the Animal Care Requirements listed in Appendix A. When the Animal Care Requirements cannot be followed, a rationale and proposed alternatives, developed by a QP, should be included. Note: Proposed alternatives to Appendix A may be subject to additional review and approval by the Provincial Animal Care Committee.

3.4 Possess, Take or Destroy Bird Nest and/or Egg under Wildlife Act Application Requirements

In situations where bird nests must be removed to allow for access and or construction, the timing of the removal is key to minimizing impact to wildlife. Generally, removal of nest between April 1st and September 30th is not permitted. Table 5 provides a summary of the nesting timing windows per species and occurrence by region.

The *Wildlife Act* establishes that:

> **Definition**: "nest" means a structure, or part of a structure, prepared by or used by an animal of the class *Aves* to hold its eggs or offspring;
>
> **Birds, nests and eggs**
> **34** A person commits an offence if the person, except as provided by regulation, possesses, takes, injures, molests or destroys
> (a)a bird or its egg,
> (b)the nest of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron or burrowing owl, or
> (c)the nest of a bird not referred to in paragraph (b) when the nest is occupied by a bird or its egg.

To emphasize section **34(b)**, a nest prepared or used by an eagle, a peregrine falcon, an osprey, a heron or a burrowing owl is protected year-round, whether or not it is occupied by a bird.

Habitat protection

Proponents are expected to align with the mitigation hierarchy and avoid areas that present high value habitat for wildlife. The following habitat features are known to be selected by raptors and should be avoided as much as possible while designing a project (adapted from Best Management Practices for Raptor Conservation during Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia):

1. Large, wind firm trees (living or dead) and veteran trees
2. Large trees within 500 metres of waterbodies
3. Dead and dying trees suitable for woodpeckers
4. Stands of coniferous or deciduous forest cover, preferably with inter-locking canopy
5. Woodlots, shelterbelts, shrubby areas, hedgerows, and natural forest openings
6. Riparian and valley bottom areas with trees and dense thickets
7. Undisturbed grasslands and scrubland, particularly bunchgrass native grasslands
8. Agricultural land and pastures, particularly fields that have been long established
9. Natural forested and open habitats adjacent to fish bearing water bodies, including ocean shorelines, estuaries, lakes, reservoirs and rivers
10. Cliffs, steep terrain and rocky areas
11. Marshes, swamps, wet meadows and other wetlands
12. Barns and buildings with permanent openings in agricultural areas

Buffers around documented nest sites must be maintained to limit sensory (e.g. noise, light, traffic) disturbances that could negatively impact breeding birds. The guidelines below for buffer by species are minimum recommended distances as per the Environmental Protection and Management Guideline. Proponents and Qualified Professionals (QPs) should be mindful that raptors have different levels of tolerance for disturbance which can vary according to species and environment.

1. In urban areas, maintain undisturbed natural vegetation within a minimum distance of one and half tree lengths from the nest site for all tree-nesting raptor species;
2. During the critical timing window (Table 5), maintain a 250 metres setback from nests.
3. Outside of the critical timing window (Table 5), maintain a 100 metres setback from nests

Nest removal should be done only after confirmation that the nest is unoccupied. The nest should then be moved to another location (for species that re-use nests or show site fidelity). It is not acceptable to destroy a bird's nest if relocation is a viable option. Table 5 below provides guidance on critical timing window by species and Region. Nest removal and/or relocation should be planned during the non-nesting period.

Table 5 Nesting timing by raptors, by region

	Region								
Species	Vancouver Island and lower Mainland	Thompson Okanagan	Kootenay	Cariboo	Omineca	Peace	Skeena and Haida Gwaii	Critical Timing window: Eggs or fledglings present	Timing when nest removal is acceptable. (From one year to the following calendar year)
Turkey Vulture	x	x	x	x				Apr10 – Aug 31	Sep 1 – Apr 9
Osprey	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Apr 21 – Sep 5	Sep 6 – Apr 20
Bald Eagle	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Feb 5 – Aug 31	Sep 1 – Feb 4
Golden Eagle	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Apr 1 – Aug 31	Sep 1 – Mar 31
Northern Harrier	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Apr 15 -Aug 7	Aug 8 -Apr 14
Sharp-shinned Hawk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	May 30 – Aug 15	Aug 16- May 29
Cooper's Hawk	x	x	x	x	x			May 1 – Aug 31	Sep 1 – Apr 30
Northern Goshawk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Apr 7 – Aug 21	Aug 22 – Apr 6
Swainson's Hawk	*	x	*	*	*		x	May 2 – Aug 15	Aug 16 -May 1
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Feb 26 – Aug 10	Aug 11 -Feb 25
Ferruginous Hawk		x						May 1 -July 31	Aug 1 – Apr 30
Rough-legged Hawk	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA	Will be referred to SME
American Kestrel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Apr 5 -Aug 27	Aug 28 – Apr 4
Merlin	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Apr 17 – Aug 12	Aug 13 – Apr 16
Peregrine Falcon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Mar 30 – Jul 20	Jul 21 – Mar 29
Gyrfalcon	*	*		*			x	Apr 1 – Jul 18	Jul 19 – Mar 31
Prairie Falcon	*	x	*	x		*		Mar 30 – Aug 4	Aug 5 – Mar 29
Barn Owl	x	*	*			*		Year round	Will be referred to SME
Flammulated Owl		x	*	x				Apr 25 -Aug 17	Aug 18 -Apr 24
Western Screech Owl	x	x	*	x			x	Apr 17 -Aug 25	Aug 26 – Apr 16

	Region								
Species	Vancouver Island and lower Mainland	Thompson Okanagan	Kootenay	Cariboo	Omineca	Peace	Skeena and Haida Gwaii	Critical Timing window: Eggs or fledglings present	Timing when nest removal is acceptable. (From one year to the following calendar year)
Great Horned Owl	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Feb 10 – Sep 6	Sep 7 -Feb 9
Snowy Owl	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA	Will be referred to SME
Northern Hawk Owl	*	x	x	x	X?	x	x	Apr 21 – Aug 8	Aug 9 – Apr 20
Northern Pygmy Owl	x	x	x	X?	*	*	*	Apr 15 – Aug 27	Aug 28 – Apr 14
Burrowing Owl	**	x	*	*				Mar 25 – Sep 30	Oct 1 – Mar 24
Spotted Owl	x							Mar 18 – July 27	July 28 – Mar 17
Barred Owl	x	x	x	x	x	*	x	Mar 21 – Aug 14	Aug 15 – Mar 20
Great Gray Owl	*	x	x	x	x	x	x	Mar 27 – Aug 14	Aug 15 -Mar 26
Long-eared Owl	x	x	*	x	x	*	*	Mar 11 – Aug 1	Aug 2 – Mar 10
Short-eared Owl	x	x	x	x	*	*	*	Mar 28 – Sep 15	Sep 16 -Mar 27
Boreal Owl	*	x	X?	*	*	x	x	Apr 1 – July 15	July 16 – Mar 31
Northern Saw-whet Owl	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Mar 1 – Aug 14	Aug 15 – Feb 28/29

* indicates non-breeding, migratory or over-wintering records only.

? indicates possible breeding record or breeding recorded immediately adjacent to region boundary

**indicates old records from Fraser River Delta

3.4.1 Take, Possess or Destroy a Nest or Egg Spatial Data Requirements

The spatial data submission for an application to take, possess or destroy a nest or egg must identify the nest locations proposed for the permit. Point data will not be accepted; small polygons should be created and used to identify specific sampling locations. If areas are overlapping, applicants must merge the polygons.

3.4.2 Take, Possess or Destroy a Nest or Egg Application Form Requirements

The following sections of the General Wildlife Act Application Form must be completed for activities related to nest removal.

Table 6 Unique Application Form Requirements for Take, Possess, or Destroy Bird Nest or Egg Application Permits

Form Field	Expectation
Proposed Activity – Wildlife	Species expected to be captured should be listed here.
Wildlife Act Authorization Request: Name of College of Applied Biologists qualified registrant on project	The principal Qualified Professional(s) overseeing the salvage must have herpetofauna experience. The name, contact information, College of Applied Biologists qualified registrant, registration number, and a summary of avian fauna experience for the designated Qualified Professional (QP) responsible for implementing conditions of the permit must be provided.

3.4.3 Take, Possess or Destroy a Nest or Egg Technical Report

Additional information to support an application to take, possess or destroy a nest should be compiled into a Technical Report. The technical report should be prepared and signed off by an R.P. Bio. The content of the Technical Report should include the following:

- Location of the nest(s): please use street address or legal description of the property.
- Species of bird(s) whose nest is to be removed or destroyed.
- Common Name and Scientific Name (see BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer to search for common and scientific names of wildlife species in BC).
- Whether or not the wildlife species is considered provincial wildlife, as per Schedule A of the Designation and Exemption Regulation of the Wildlife Act.
    - **Please note:** that Geese/ducks are considered migratory birds and a permit from the Canadian Wildlife Service is required.
- An assessment of activity in the nest, including rationale and documentation of how species were identified. Including photographs of the nest and/or tree are strongly recommended.
- Proposed timing for removing or relocating the nest.
- Number of nests to be removed or destroyed.
- Rationale for the nest removal or destruction, including why avoidance could not occur and an explanation of why the proposed activity is in the public interest. Applications for destruction must include a rationale for why the nest could not be relocated.

- An arborist report (or qualified professional), if the request relates to tree health.
- If applicable, mitigation measures that will be used, such as artificial nesting platforms.

3.5 Beaver Dam Removal Application Requirements

Beaver dams can modify stream flow and pose significant impacts to projects including the inability to access or maintain infrastructure and damage to roads. Proponents at risk of or experiencing such issues can apply for an exemption under the *Wildlife Act* to dismantle a dam.

Proponents are expected to account for beaver dams during project planning and avoid them. Permits for beaver dam removal are issued to address unforeseen circumstances when beavers have modified a stream channel unexpectedly.

The dismantling of a beaver dam in which live beavers reside will not be permitted. In general, proponents should use registered trappers to remove the beavers prior to applying to dismantle a dam or a series of dams. In certain circumstances, trapping or killing beavers outside of the trapping season may be necessary. In such cases, a strong rationale explaining why options supported by trapping regulations are not practicable must be provided with the application to remove a dam.

In addition, for a *Wildlife Act* permit to remove a beaver dam, proponents must obtain permission under the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) to undertake the removal. The removal can be authorized under Section 11 of the WSA (Changes in and About a Stream) or under Section 39 of the Water Sustainability Regulation (WSR) (Authorized changes). It is the responsibility of the proponent, and their QP, to determine whether a removal can be undertaken in accordance with the conditions of WSR s 39(1)(u) which include that “the removal is carried out in such a manner that downstream flooding and erosion do not occur.” When conditions cannot be met, proponents should submit an application for Section 11 Changes in and About a Stream.

3.5.1 Beaver Dam Spatial Data Requirements

The spatial data submission must identify the dam location(s) proposed for the permit as polygons. If the application is for multiple beaver dams to be removed on the same stream, the applicant must identify in the attribute table of the shapefile the order of the dams along a stream with the most downstream dam identified as 1 etc... the polygon should reflect the estimated size of the dam that is proposed to be removed.

3.5.2 Beaver Dam Removal Application Form Requirements

The following sections of the General *Wildlife Act* Application Form must be completed for activities related to beaver dam removal

Table 7 Unique Application Form Requirements for Beaver Dam Removal Permits

Form Field	Expectation
Wildlife Act Authorization Request: Name of College of Applied Biologists qualified registrant on project	The principal Qualified Professional(s) overseeing the salvage must have herpetofauna experience. The name, contact information, College of Applied Biologists qualified registrant, registration number, and a summary of relevant experience for the designated Qualified Professional (QP) responsible for implementing conditions of the permit must be provided.

3.5.3 Beaver Dam Technical Report

Additional information to support an application for Beaver Dam Removal should be provided in a Technical Report. The Technical Report should be prepared and signed off by an R.P. Bio. The content of the Technical Report for Beaver Dam Removal should include the following:

- Description of the problems being caused by the dams or lodges: Indicate if there is imminent threat to property or infrastructure and include pictures as justification.
- Removal method to be used:
  - Will the beavers be trapped during the open season or is the proponent requesting a variance to trap outside the season.
  - For the dam, indicate if the works will be manual or if machinery will be used. Removal by hand is preferred, and should proceed gradually, so water is released slowly.
  - Table 8 lists allowable traps:

Table 8 Models of traps allowed for beaver capture.

Traps allowed for killing beavers:	Traps allowed to restrain beavers:
Bélisle Classique 330 Bélisle Super X 280 Bélisle Super X 330 B.M.I. 280 Bodygripper B.M.I. 330 Bodygripper B.M.I. BT 300 Bridger 330 Duke 280	Breath Easy Live Beaver Trap Dam Beaver Live Beaver Trap Comstock 12 X 18 X 39 Swim Through Beaver Cage Ezee Set Live Beaver Trap Hancock Live Beaver Trap Koro “Clam” Live Beaver Trap

Traps allowed for killing beavers:	Traps allowed to restrain beavers:
Duke 330 LDL C280 LDL C280 Magnum LDL C330 LDL C330 Magnum Rudy 280 Rudy 330 Sauvageau 1000-11F Sauvageau 2001-8 Sauvageau 2001-11 Sauvageau 2001-12 Sauvageau 2001-14 Species-Specific 330 Dislocator Half Magnum Species-Specific 440 Dislocator Half Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330	

- If multiple dams are to be dismantled in the same stream, the order and location of the dams
- Proposed timing of activities: Beaver dam removal should typically be planned in the summer months when water levels are expected to be at their lowest. This reduces the risk of young beaver mortality, overwintering fish mortality or impacts to water quality when fish are spawning. Special circumstances (e.g., ice-free conditions later in the Fall, increased risk to the public or critical infrastructure) may warrant dam removal during non-preferred periods. Applications to remove a beaver dam during a non-preferred time of year must provide additional supporting information, including justification for an exception from the least risk timing window and known resident fish species.
- Number and Location of dam(s) (civic location) and a map identifying the dams.
- Approximate dimensions of the dam to be dismantled
- Previous permit number (authorization number), if applicable.
- Measures in place to limit erosion and prevent sediments from entering the stream.

3.5.4 Water Sustainability Act

Proponents are responsible for ensuring they have the appropriate permissions under the WSA in addition to the WLA permit for removing a beaver dam. Removals that cannot be carried out in accordance with WSR s 39(1)(u) require an authorization for Changes in and About a Stream (WSA s 11).

When the removal is to occur in accordance with WSR s 39(1)(u) the permit holder is required to notify a Habitat Officer by WSR s 38. The notification must be submitted to the BCER a minimum of 45 days in advance of the removal and meet the information requirements of WSR s 4. Notifications are to be submitted through AMS; please refer to Section 4.8 of the Energy Resource Activities Application Manual for further information.

The Habitat Officer may issue standard terms and conditions for a removal following receipt of a notification. Permit holders are expected to implement the following BMPs during removal to protect water quality and meet the requirements of the *Water Sustainability Act.* Applications for beaver dam removal should outline the applicable BMPs and how they will be implemented. The applicant will notify all licensed water users that may be affected by the dam removal at least 30 days prior to the dam removal taking place

- Where more than one dam is to be dismantled, the proponent will need to start with the one furthest downstream and give sufficient time for the pond to drain before moving to the other dam(s).
- The proponent must install sediment and erosion control measures to prevent sediments from entering the stream.
- The proponent must avoid disturbing riparian vegetation: use existing trails, roads, or cut lines to access the dam.
- If machinery is used:
    - it should be in good repair and free of grease and oil leaks.
    - it must work from the stream bank or naturally dry channel; only the bucket from machinery should enter the stream.
- In removing the dam, gradually increase the size of the opening as water drops to the desired level in the upstream pond. The width of the breach opening should not exceed the width of the original stream channel, to prevent bank erosion and flooding of adjacent properties. The breach area should not normally exceed 0.2 square metres (i.e., a typical breach could measure 1 metre by 20 centimetres).
- Draw down of beaver ponds should not lead to the stranding of fish.
- Material(s) removed from the dam must be side-cast so that it cannot re-enter the stream.
- After removal is complete, if disturbed areas are likely to pose an erosion risk, re-vegetate them by planting and seeding, preferably with native trees, shrubs, or grasses; cover these areas with mulch to prevent erosion and help seeds germinate.

Chapter 4: Post-Permit Reporting Requirements

Wildlife Act Permits may include conditions for operational notification and/or data reporting including permit activity notification, capture or injury of invasive or at-risk species notification, species inventory reporting or end of permit notification. Table 9 outlines the potential reporting requirements by permit type.

Table 9 Summary of Wildlife Act Permit Reporting

Report Type	Scientific Fish Collection	Amphibian Salvage	Possess, Take or Destroy Bird Nest or Egg	Beaver Dam Removal
Permit Activity Notification	Notify BCER	Notify BCER	Notify BCER	Notify BCER
Capture or Injury of Invasive or At-Risk Species Notification	Notify BCER of at-risk species Report Non-Native Species to Fish and Wildlife Branch or Invasive Species Working Group	Notify BCER of at-risk species Report non-native species to the Invasive Species Working Group	Notify BCER of at-risk species	Notify BCER of at-risk species
Species Inventory Reporting	Provincial Fish Data Submission System	Provincial Species Inventory Database		
End of Permit Notification	Notify BCER	Notify BCER	Notify BCER	Notify BCER

Permit holders are expected to maintain records of activities and make them available upon request. The *Wildlife Act* permit will define certain data that must be collected for each animal, such as capture location date, and age class and sex.

For Scientific Fish Collection and Amphibian Salvage, permit holders are expected to keep records that document how many animals were handled per site salvaged and where they were moved to. Records are expected to be a living document that is updated throughout the inventory or salvage(s). Mortalities must be documented with date, location, pictures and any observations that the QP considers relevant to establish cause of mortality.

For permits to possess, take or destroy a bird nest or egg or to remove a beaver dam, records are expected to include:

- Common name of the wildlife
- Location where the wildlife was taken
- The date the wildlife was hunted, trapped or killed
- Removal method used
- The sex and age class of the wildlife taken
- The bands or tags on the wildlife, if present
- A description of all nests, dams or other structures destroyed or removed, including photographs

- Previous permit number (authorization number) if applicable.

4.1 Permit Activity Notification

Permits that include approval for multiple-areas or extended duration will be required to notify the BCER a minimum of 48 hours before activity is to take place. Notification must include the following:

- Permit Number and Type
- Activity Description
- Activity Start Date
- Activity End Date
- Watershed
- Activity Location (UTM format)
- Name and Registration Number of the R.P. Bio who is responsible for overseeing the activity

Permit holders can submit notifications for multiple activities and are encouraged to provide the information above in tabular format. For example, all activities for a single month can be provided in a single notification. Notifications can be emailed to Wildlife.Act@bc-er.ca.

4.2 Capture or Injury of Invasive or At-Risk Species

If a permit holder captures, injures red-or blue-listed species during permitted activities, the capture or injury must be reported to the BCER as soon as practicable or as specified by the permit. Mortality of red- or blue-listed species must be reported to the BCER as soon as practicable. The BCER expects that reporting will occur within 24 to 48 hours. Notification must include:

- Permit Number and Type
- Activity
- Date of Capture, Injury or Mortality
- Interaction Type
- Species Common Name
- Species Scientific Name
- Confirmation that reporting to additional authorities has been completed

Invasive, non-native species must be reported to the Provincial authorities:

- Fish and Wildlife Branch (Scientific Fish Collection Permits only)
- Invasive Species Working Group

- If Chytrid fungus is documented, refer to and follow Invasive Species Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for British Columbia.

For species at risk, photographs showing size and other identifying characteristics are very useful and may be required to confirm identification.

4.3 Provincial Species Inventory Reporting

Scientific Fish Collection and Amphibian Salvage permit holders are required to report data to the provincial Wildlife Species Inventory database via the provincial fish data submission or Wildlife Submissions SharePoint Online site. Reports must be made within 90 days of permit expiry for Fish Collection and Amphibian Salvage. Permits will include a link to the template that must be used to report data.

Interim reporting may be required for permits approved for multiple areas or extended durations. Questions regarding the fish data submission process can be made to: fishdatasub@gov.bc.ca.

Note that the permit holder is required to submit a report and data whether individuals are captured/handled/salvaged, etc. or not.

4.4 Permit Conclusion Notification

Wildlife Act Permit holders must report summary data to the BCER within 30 days of permit expiry. This reporting should be done after any required Provincial Species Inventory Reporting. Table 10 outlines the standard summary reporting requirements for each permit type.

Table 10 Summary Reporting Requirements by Wildlife Act Permit Type

Following permit expiry a summary of the permit activities must be submitted to the BCER. Data Requirement	**Scientific Fish Collection**	**Amphibian Salvage**	**Take, Possess or Destroy Bird Nest or Egg**	**Beaver Dam Removal**
Multi-Area or Extended Duration	X	X	X	X
Confirmation of Activity Taking Place	X	X	X	X
Activity Start Date	X	X	X	X
Activity End Date	X	X	X	X
At-Risk Species Detection	X	X	X	
Provincial Reporting Confirmation	X	X		
Number of Species Collected	X	X		
Number of features (dams, streams, nests)			X	X
Location(s)	X		X	X
Status (occupied, not occupied)			X	X
Relocation (Y/N)			X	
Morality or injury of red- or blue-listed species	X	X	X	

Permit holders are expected to maintain accurate and up to date records of the wildlife hunted, trapped or killed under *Wildlife Act* permits and make the records available upon request.

References

- Best Management Practices for Beaver Dam Removal in the Omineca Region
- Best Management Practices for Raptor Conservation during Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia
- https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/guidance-resources/prov_edrr_is_plan.pdf
- https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/laws-policies-standards-guidance/inventory-standards/terrestrial-ecosystems-biodiversity
- https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/wildlife-wildlife-habitat/wildlife-health/wildlife-health-documents/bc_protocol-amphibian_field_researchers.pdf
- https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/guidance-resources/prov_edrr_is_plan.pdf
- https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/wildlife-wildlife-habitat/wildlife-health/wildlife-health-documents/sampling_protocol_for_chytridiomycosis.pdf
- Best Management Practices for Amphibian and Reptile Salvages in BC

Appendix A: Animal Care Requirements

This section details the BCER's Animal Care Requirements and must accompany a General *Wildlife Act* application for any projects involving amphibian, reptile and small mammal salvages. These Animal Care Requirements can be applied to additional project types as well.

Timing

Salvage of herpetofauna or small mammals must not occur during overwintering periods when animals are mostly inactive. Overwintering periods vary by region and must be determined in advance by a QP and be specified in the application with reference to published standards (e.g. salvage BMPs) or supported by local data.

Salvage permits are typically valid for one year. For multi-year projects, the applicant must confirm that salvage of herpetofauna or small mammals will not occur during overwintering periods when animals are inactive. These periods vary by region and must be determined in advance.

Failure to specify salvage timing is a common cause of application being rejected due to insufficient information.

Qualified Environmental Professional Requirements

- Applicants must identify at least one Principal Investigator (PI).
    - PIs must be Registered Professional Biologists in good standing with the College of Applied Biologists and have the appropriate knowledge and expertise in salvage.
    - Provide a detailed summary of training and relevant experience.
    - To support the knowledge and expertise requirement, include at least three recent projects with: Project name, year, project or permit number, role in project, target species and life stage, estimated number of individuals handled.
- Clearly state that the PI is responsible for project oversight, staff training, and minimizing animal stress or harm.
    - The PI must sign off as the Qualified Professional on the project since they carry the legal responsibility for ensuring project oversight, staff training and supervision, and ensuring animal care is maintained during all survey and salvage activities.
- Additional staff who will work under the direct guidance of the PI(s) must be listed.
    - List all investigators with relevant experience and roles. Clearly describe the roles of each investigator in the project.
    - If any AI(s) lack required skills, indicate they will be trained or supervised by qualified personnel.

Project Proposal

- State rationale for survey/salvage.
    - Rationale should include the steps taken to avoid salvage in the context of the mitigation hierarchy. Examples may include: timing of the project, exclusion fencing, etc.
- Provide the BCER application number for which the salvage or survey is associated.
- Provide: Project start and end dates, assessment of timing relative to sensitive life stages (breeding, dispersal), location details including maps, habitat descriptions.

CCAC Invasiveness Category

- All salvage operations fall under Category C.

Species and Numbers

- List all amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals potentially present, based on current data.
    - Reference to pre-salvage surveys, BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer, Naturalist, CDC iMap and other relevant sources should be included.
- Include all species likely encountered, not only at-risk species.
- When relevant, different species and life stages should be identified separately for specific salvage sites within the project footprint if habitats are unique (e.g., species and salvage techniques will likely be different for terrestrial, standing water, and flowing water habitats).
- Expected number of individuals per species and life stage expected to be captured or salvaged along with supporting rationale (e.g., surveys, inventories).
    - Use published literature, grey literature, local knowledge and past experience of QPs working in similar regions and habitats to inform the estimated number of individuals. The BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer and BMP guidelines for reptiles and amphibians may be useful references.

Capture, Handling, and Disposition

- Capture Techniques:
    - Describe survey, capture, and/or temporary holding techniques, and maximum holding times by species and life stage.
    - Specify survey conditions (time of day, season, temperature, precipitation) and target survey effort.
    - Provide rationale for the target survey effort and describe the evidence or criteria that will be used to determine when the salvage or survey will be completed
    - Incorporate BMP details; justify any deviations from the literature.
    - Outline stress-reduction measures.
    - Reference decontamination protocols for preventing pathogen spread between sites and among individuals.
    - If using exclusion fencing, detail design, installation, monitoring, expecting duration and animal monitoring.
- Handling:

- Describe handling, transport, and marking methods (if used) for each taxonomic group.
- Include stress mitigation measures and maximum holding times before release.
- Amphibians, reptiles and small mammals must be kept within their preferred optimal temperature and humidity zone.
- Food, cover and insulative bedding material must be provided for small mammals in traps or holding containers.

Relocation Sites

- Provide rationale and coordinates for relocation sites, supported by maps.
- Sites must offer equal or better habitat quality and meet species requirements (breeding, foraging, overwintering).
- Effort must be made to select sites within 500 m of capture site; greater distances proposed must include rationale and justification.
- If relocation sites are on private land, the permit holder is responsible for obtaining landowner permission and documenting it.
- Relocation sites will need to be monitored for 24-48 hours following translocation to ensure that there are no mortalities noted on site. Permit holders must keep a record of the dates, times, and observations of the monitoring checks.

Contingency Plan

- Outline contingency plan if sick and/or injured animals are encountered in the project and during salvage operations.
- Provide contact details for rehabilitation centers or veterinarians who will be consulted if needed.
- Confirm listed rehabilitation facilities have the capacity and relevant expertise in amphibian, reptile and small mammal care.

Euthanasia and Disposal

- Refer to the approved Standard Operating Protocols for herpetofauna euthanasia. Provide details on the method to be used for euthanasia as well as carcass and chemical disposal.
- Ensure there is method-specific euthanasia experience among listed investigators and ensure euthanasia experience is detailed in the permit application.
- In the case of accidental mortality where the specimen is in good condition, the permit holder is to coordinate with the Royal BC Museum to archive the specimen.

Regions and Work Areas

- Identify BC permitting regions
- For multi-region projects, delineate boundaries and follow regional timing windows and detail environmental conditions.

QP Signoff

The Animal Care plan must be signed and sealed by the Registered Professional Biologist overseeing the permit as the Principal Investigator. Principal Investigators must be in good standing with the College of Applied Biologists.

References

- Include all relevant guidance documents (e.g. BC RISC standards, BMPs, CCAC guidelines, SOPS for euthanasia of reptiles and amphibians).

Provincial Reporting Requirements

- For reporting purposes, survey activities may include, but are not limited to, standardized survey and inventory of herpetofauna, identification and assessment of key habitats, and mitigative translocation of herpetofauna, otherwise known as salvage.
- General Wildlife Permits require the submission of reports following the completion of projects. The reports must provide all the information needed to evaluate the project, including:
    - Types of activities conducted during the permitted period
    - Personnel involved
    - Techniques used
    - The number of individuals of each species and life stage surveyed or captured.
- Report scenarios and requirements for each are listed in the following section.

Reporting Scenarios

1. A permit was issued but no salvage or survey work occurred:
   A summary report must still be submitted that includes the permit number, the nature of the project (i.e., planned construction activities), the types of potential disturbance of harm to wildlife (habitats and populations), originally planned scope of wildlife surveys or salvage, and an explanation of why salvage or surveys did not occur.

2. Permit was issued and a salvage or survey was performed.
   A summary report must include:
    - Project background: the nature of the project (i.e. construction, development, etc.) and the reason for the wildlife surveys and/or salvages described.
    - Survey-level detail
    - Date of all survey/salvage events.
    - Include the start and end time of each survey event. Calculate and provide the survey effort expended for the survey/salvage event.
    - Include location(s) of each survey/salvage event. This must include maps and precise GPS coordinates for each site.

- For each survey/salvage event, include weather and survey conditions. These conditions influence activities levels (and detectability) of reptiles and amphibians and therefore inform the effectiveness of the survey.
- Survey weather conditions collected a minimum of twice (start and end of survey event or every 2-4 hours for surveys of longer duration) must include:
    - Air temperature
    - Precipitation
    - Cloud cover
    - Wind
- An estimate of visibility in the water column (when working in aquatic environments)
- Include the type of survey or salvage performed and the techniques used (e.g., Visual Encounter Survey [VES], minnow trapping, dipnetting).
- If performing a salvage, the location and a detailed description of the relocation sites must be included for each survey. Like the ACA application, a rationale must be provided as to why that site was selected for relocation.
- Specify the personnel who were involved in each survey/salvage event. If a salvage event extends for multiple days, it must be clear who was working each day and who the Principal Investigator was overseeing the work.
- Voucher photographs for each species and life stage encountered should be included in the report. This is especially important for species-at-risk and/or rare species and life stages (i.e., coastal tailed frog eggs are very rarely found). This helps verify species were correctly identified. Only 1-2 photos are needed per species and life stage, and they must be taken to clearly show the animal and its diagnostic features. For adult and juvenile amphibians, a photo taken of an individual resting in place in a holding container or a natural environment is usually sufficient. For amphibian larvae, 1-2 individuals should be photographed from a dorsal perspective and laterally to clearly show size and diagnostic features. A transparent fish holder/viewer works well for this purpose. Including something in the photo for scale (ruler or standard sized object) is also recommended.
- Detail the number of individuals of each species, age class (adult, juvenile, young-of-the-year/neonate) and/or life stage (adults, larvae, eggs) that were encountered. This information is not be limited to the number of individuals captured or handled. For example, if visual encounter surveys were performed, the number of individuals observed must be included.
- Detail mortalities or injuries to wildlife encountered, trapped or handled. This information must include the number of mortalities/injuries and the nature of any injuries (if relevant). This information can identify to the reviewer the potential cause of the injuries and/or mortalities, and potentially inform better wildlife capture, handling and holding practices in the future.

Reporting to BCER

- Permit holders are expected to keep records of confirmation that data has been submitted to the provincial data repository and provide confirmation of submission to the BCER as outlined in permit conditions.
- Permit holders are expected to keep detailed records of salvage operations including number of animals handled per species and life stages, where they were relocated, and any post-salvage monitoring.
- Salvage reports must be made available to the Regulator upon request and are considered auditable documents.

Appendix B: Fish Collection Permit Standard Conditions

STANDARD PROVINICAL CONDITIONS

Any variation of the following standard permit conditions will require explicit authorization by the appropriate BC Energy Regulator (BCER) personnel. Note that additional region specific conditions may be added to the permit where deemed appropriate by BCER.

1. This collecting permit is **only** valid for species listed as threatened, endangered, or extirpated under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) **in conjunction with a permit issued under Section 73 of SARA from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.**

   NOTE: Contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for fish collecting permits for salmon or eulachon Application for a licence to fish for scientific, experimental, or educational purposes | Pacific Region | Fisheries and Oceans Canada or SARA listed species (see Appendix B) Permitting under the Species at Risk Act.

2. Any specimen's surplus to scientific requirements and any species not authorized for collection in this permit must be immediately and carefully released at the point of capture.

3. Fish collected under authority of this permit must not be used for food or any purpose other than the objectives set out in this permit. Dead fish must be disposed of in a manner that will not constitute a health hazard, nuisance, or a threat to wildlife.

4. No fish collected under authority of this permit must be transplanted unless separately authorized by the Federal/Provincial Introductions and Transfers Committee.

5. The permit holder must, within 90 days of the expiry of this permit, submit a report of fish collection activities. Interim reports may also be required and must be submitted as required by the permit issuer. All submissions must be filed electronically to: Submit Fish Data - Province of British Columbia.

   NOTE: Permit holders are required to keep detailed records/reports of all fish collection activities that can be made available to the BCER upon request.

   Reporting specifications, information and templates are available from this website and outline the mandatory information requirements. Prior notification of submission or questions regarding data report standards can be made to: fishdatasub@gov.bc.ca

6. The permit holder must comply with all Workers' Compensation Board requirements and other regulatory requirements. The permit holder is responsible for ensuring authorized persons listed on the permit are properly certified for specific sampling methods or activities (e.g., electroshocking).

7. Any workers not listed on the permit must be directly supervised by one of the authorized persons named on the permit.

8. All sampling equipment that has been previously used outside of B.C. or in B.C. regions known to contain aquatic invasive species must be cleaned of mud and dirt and disinfected with 100mg/L chlorine bleach before

using in any water course to prevent the spread of fish pathogens and/or invasive plant species. Any washed off dirt or mud must be disposed of in a manner such that it cannot enter a watercourse untreated.
Any gear previously used in the Columbia River basin must comply with the following:

whirling_disease_decontamination_protocol_june_2024.pdf

9. No electrofishing is to take place in waters having a temperature less than 5 degrees C.

10. No sampling of fish in waters having a temperature greater than 20 degrees C.

11. Electrofishing must not be conducted in the vicinity of spawning gravel, redds, or spawning fish, or around gravels which are capable of supporting eggs or developing embryos of any species of salmonid at a time of year when such eggs or embryos may be present.

12. All non-native fish species captured under this permit are to be humanely euthanized and disposed of appropriately. Within 48 hours of capture, a record of the species, capture location, date, waterbody, number, size range (mm), and digital imagery must be submitted to Fish and Wildlife Branch by email at SCFishandAquaticWildlife@gov.bc.ca.

13. Accidental mortality of any red or blue listed species or significant mortalities of native species (as determined by a QP) must be reported to BCER within 48 hours of occurrence.

14. When work requires de-watering or isolation of the worksite in the stream, a permit for the salvage of fish and wildlife (Scientific Fish Collection permit) must be obtained prior to commencing work. All required salvage permits must be obtained from BCER through the Application Management System: Application Management System | BC Energy Regulator (BCER)

15. Any fish or wildlife salvage must be carried out by a qualified environmental professional registered with a professional association (such as an R.P.Bio). The qualified professional conducting salvage work must adhere to the conditions below in addition to those required in the Scientific Fish Collection permit.

- Salvage activities must be conducted to the Provincial Resource Information Standards Committee (RISC) standards for capture, data collection, handling, and release:

  STREAM ISOLATION
  - The QP must follow the standards and practices outlined in Appendix 14.2 - Work Area Isolation of the Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works and In-water Site Isolation Standard published by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
  - A QP must ensure that the worksite has be substantively isolated to prevent any fishes from entering the work area and efforts must be made to exclude fish from entrapment during installation of isolation works. (See section 14.2 of the Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works (MWLAP 2004).
  - Dewatering must not result in Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction (HADD) to fish habitat or the death of fish unless authorized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
  - While dewatering the work site and dewatering during fish capture, all pump intakes are required to meet DFO's Interim code of practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater

FISH CAPTURE

- Qualified professionals must determine appropriate sampling methods from the RISC standards based on water body type and habitat conditions: Fish Collection Methods and Standards
- Qualified professionals must use a risk hierarchy of passive to active and low risk to higher risk in collection methods (e.g., minnow traps, fyke nets, beach pole seines, electroshocking, angling).
- Qualified professional must conduct a **minimum of three** non-lethal collection methods in all fish salvages.
- For active collection methods a minimum of two consecutive passes of each method that produces a zero catch must be completed as per total population removal methodology (at a minimum 95% fish removal must be achieved). (Field Protocols / Best Monitoring Practices - Wild Salmon Center).
- Where work site isolation cannot be fully achieved (e.g., fast flowing streams, imperfect seal due to substrate) additional efforts are needed to prevent harm to fish. At the end of each workday, a passive form of fish capture (e.g., baited minnow traps) are to be placed in the isolation site. If fish are captured overnight, you must restart isolation procedures at the start of the workday.
- If species at risk are captured, work must stop until proper permits are obtained.

DATA COLLECTION

- Sampling/data collection is a requirement of the Scientific Collection Permit. Sample size requirements are listed in the table below.
- Scientific Fish Collection Permits require a Fish Data Submission Template to be completed. Step 4 (Stream Site Data) of the Fish Data Submission Template must be filled out for the location where fish are salvaged from. Submit Fish Data - Province of British Columbia.

FISH RELEASE

- Fish must be released following RISC standards.
- All species are to be released in the same watercourse downstream of the work areas or a sufficient distance upstream (5 channel widths to a maximum of 100 metres) into waters of equivalent baseline quality and habitat type (pool, riffle, run).

Minimum Standards During Salvage for Fish Collection Sampling Effort*

Fish Species	Age Class	Size Range	Minimum Sampling Size for Lengths	Sample Column (from Individual Fish Data form)	Notes
Salmonids, including RB, CT (CCT), DV, BT, GR, LT, KO	Fry Juvenile Adult	20 to 80 mm 81 to 250 mm >250 mm	Up to 30 after 30 count All All	J (if possible), K J, K, L J, K, L, M, N	
Coarse Fish (cyprinids, stickleback, dace, shiner, carp, pikeminnow)	 Adult	<200 mm >200 mm	Up to 30 after 30 count All	J, K J, K, L, M	
Sport other (bass, perch, sunfish, walleye, northern pike)		All	Up to 30 after 30 count	J, K, L	
Sculpin spp.		<150 mm (total length) >150 mm	Up to 30 after 30 count All	J, K J, K, L	
Burbot, Lamprey		0 to 150 mm (total length)	All	J, K, L, N	
Listed Species (Salish sucker, white sturgeon, etc)		All	All		Refer to SAR permit for conditions
All fishes not listed above		All	Minimum 10 of each then count only	J, K, L	

Abbreviations for salmonids: RB – Rainbow Trout; CT(CCT) – Cutthroat Trout; DV – Dolly Varden; BT – Bull Trout; GR – Arctic Grayling; LT – Lake Trout; KO - Kokanee