



FLYCASTER

May 1, 2025 Edition

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

April 29th - the last of the fly-tying/swapping nights will be held at the Armouries at 7pm.

May 13th – 7:00pm: a **Zoom meeting** with special guest Shane Petry, director, Allocation and Use, Alberta Forestry and Parks, Hunting and Fishing branch. His presentation will provide an overview of the fisheries management program, the sustainable adaptive fishing strategy, recent sport fishing regulation changes, special harvest license, yellow perch management and the Provincial stocking programs. Join at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85214800090?pwd=Zd0qtrNWcNnaxgy0AOcFp979eyrXpj.1>

June 8th – A club barbeque at the Spring Lake property starts at 2:00 PM with food served from 3-5. More details to come but hold the date!

REPORT FROM Chuck Harvey, ETFC Program Manager

The ETFC members dinner was a great night with 35 members/guests in attendance. The meal was applauded, and the comradeship was apparent throughout the evening. Many thanks to those that assisted in the set up and tear down.



On the 8th April at the Armouries, the club was given a special presentation by member Phil Rowley on the topic “Inducing a take, stillwater presentation techniques that Catch Fish”. This was attended by more than 25 members and was an incredible evening of education by one of the most revered experts on the topic.

ETFC Membership - is currently about 70. If you're planning to renew, please do so soon - [2025 membership application](#)

2025 CONSERVATION RAFFLE - got your tickets yet? We're close to being sold out!

Still some available to win a: **Quicksilver 365 HD PVC boat with aluminum frame and flooring**, capable of holding 1598 lbs and support a 25hp motor (not included). Value \$2,373 Also comes with a carry bag, repair kit and paddles. Generously donated to us by **Europa Canopy and Marine (15915-116 St., Edmonton)**. Tickets \$10 each by Interac e-transfer to ETFC.finance@outlook.com. (In the comment box please provide first and last name, address, phone, and number of tickets).



AERATION – SPRING LAKE – as open water was appearing around the lake shoreline the aerators were turned off on Apr 17th. No evidence of winter kill reported.

[Kids Can Catch in Fort Saskatchewan](#)

Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

ACA would like to invite ETFC members to join them at the Fort Lions Pond and contribute to the event's success by being fishing mentors to help teach new anglers how to fish - tie on hooks, help with casting, adjusting bobbers etc, or just providing encouragement and praise. Kids who go fishing tend to be our future conservationists and some, hopefully, members of ETFC.



FISH AND FISHING:

Well-known angler and internationally acclaimed bamboo rod builder, Don Andersen, who's honoured on the Muir Lake Walk of Fame, gave permission for us to pass on some friendly advice:

'You Stink! Well, you do. Your dog knows it, occasionally your family knows it and nearly every animal that lives in the bush knows it. Why should you care? Well, maybe the fish care. There is evidence that salmon can detect their natal streams from thousands of miles away. There are anglers that won't allow certain things on the boat like oranges. Bass anglers use scents on their lures and locally Powerbait is sold because it has scents attractive to fish. Some of us have experienced the guy who catches fish wherever he goes with the greatest examples when he ice fishes. He'll switch holes with your unproductive one and commence pulling out fish after fish from the hole you just abandoned even though both of you are using the same technique. Big game hunters pay attention to scents often wearing activated carbon underwear or, like one guy who switches to a vegetable diet believing prey can smell carnivores. So, maybe your crappy success is related to your odour. So, how is that changed. Here are some ideas that might increase your success:

- Diet - add more vegetables
- Cleanliness may help, however using scents may make things worse
- Using soaps designed for hiding your scent
- Don't use freshly tied flies as glues, hand oils or preservative on the materials may be evident.
- Gasoline odours linger
- Some fishermen keep a tub of lake mud and rub their flies in it prior to use



Or lastly, fish with someone equally effected, then envy disappears! And believe it or not, here are some samples of soap. Halfords Supplies in Edmonton sell a whole selection of lures and scents.'

<https://www.halfordsmailorder.com/lures-and-attractants>

The Mayfly of the 120+ species of mayfly in

Alberta, the Callibaetis is the most common. Unlike most of its cousins, it prefers still waters – Spring Lake included! The Callibaetis nymph is a slow swimmer, stays in or near the lake's vegetation, and can adopt the colour of the plants. In spring, gas builds up under the exoskeleton making it difficult for the nymph to stay near the bottom and eventually, it will slowly swim to the surface to 'hatch'. A Pheasant Tail fly on a floating or slow sinking line along the edges or over the top of weed beds is a good bet, especially in early morning or late evening. A hand-twist retrieve with occasional short strips will mimic the darting nymphs. The nymph holds in the surface film as its thorax splits and the adult slowly emerges from the nymphal shuck; easy pickings for trout as the emerger can't swim or fly away.



The first task in **the dun's** one-to-two-day lifespan is easy but dangerous - drift across the surface holding its patterned wings upright to harden. Those that avoid rising trout fly off to nearby vegetation where they go through a second molt overnight to become sexually mature spinners.

How well do you know Alberta's fish?

Many of us fish all over the province for a wide variety of fish. The fishing regulations require that we know one species from another if we want to harvest any as limits vary for different species. The province, ACA and various conservation groups spend many dollars and countless volunteer hours in protecting Alberta's native fish. Are you sure you can identify and name them all? Do you know an Athabasca rainbow from a Bull Trout? You probably do but take the 20 question [Fish ID Quiz](#) and find out for sure! You may be surprised. No one will know your score unless you tell them!

Alberta Wildlife Federation March 2025 Position Statement – Fisheries: Management

1. Management of Alberta's fisheries resources must include a public consultation and endorsement process aimed at increasing consumptive harvest and/or recreational use of the overall fisheries resource.
2. Cool water fisheries (walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, lake whitefish) have as their default fisheries management objective (priority) sustainable harvest.
3. Management of piscivorous birds, such as double-crested cormorants, must be a tool available and used by managers to ensure sustainability of fisheries and overall ecosystem balance.
4. Habitat protection, enhancement, restoration, and development with the objective of optimizing overall aquatic ecosystem function should be the driver of fisheries management rather than current focus on regulating the harvest of individual fish species.

Species

1. Rainbow Trout - the harvest of rainbow trout (naturalized species) in all flowing waters of the current Watershed Management Unit ES1 be allowed through appropriate angling regulations.
2. Bull Trout - limited harvest of bull trout in watersheds that can sustain harvest be initiated in Alberta

through the development of appropriate angling regulations.

3. Northern Pike - most waterbodies that contain northern pike populations should be managed with a three (3) fish harvest limit and no size limit angling regulations (current provincial standard).

- waterbodies that contain northern pike populations that would benefit by the development of special regulations for a variety of reasons including social, economic, or environmental must be based on specific biological criteria supported by a public consultation process.

4. Yellow Perch - most waterbodies that contain yellow perch populations should be managed with a fifteen (15) fish harvest limit and no size limit angling regulations (current provincial standard).

- waterbodies that contain yellow perch populations that would benefit by the development of special regulations for a variety of reasons including social, economic, or environmental must be based on specific biological criteria supported by a public consultation process.

5. Lake Sturgeon - any change to lake sturgeon angling regulations in Alberta must be supported by a rigorous public consultation process.

- in the event of the need for additional angling regulations aimed at ensuring the sustainability of lake sturgeon populations in Alberta, such regulations must be developed in a manner that will not impact angling opportunity for other species co-habiting the ecosystem.

Stocking

1. As a high priority, walleye stocking in Alberta needs to be reinstated in lakes and reservoirs subject to habitat limitations (supplemental stocking) and/or for recovery purposes and/or establishment of put and take fisheries (depletion fisheries management objective).

2. Yellow perch stocking should occur in Alberta to reintroduce and recover populations related to low oxygen or water levels in lakes and reservoirs.

3. Yellow perch should be introduced and stocked into waterbodies such as small ponds, dugout and borrow pits that have suitable habitat to support the species.

4. Greater percentage of Alberta's stocked trout fisheries should be with multiple species of trout or other salmonids to provide diversity of angling experience and increased opportunity. (bench line 2018 stocking reports)

5. Provincial fish hatcheries and facilities need to be expanded, modernized and enhanced to ensure the highest species diversity and capacity for both coolwater and coldwater fish species whether for recreational angling or restorative stocking.

Aquaculture

1. Tiger trout and splake should be added to the list of fish species permitted for aquaculture to raise and provide to recreational and commercial fish culture license holders for stocking in private waterbodies.

Environment / Habitat / Fisheries

1. No net loss of fish habitat principles must be incorporated into government policy and regulation.

2. Fisheries program priorities by government and/or supporting agencies must emphasize protection, enhancement, and development of fish habitat.

3. Waterbodies at risk of winterkill should have aeration systems installed by government and/or supporting agencies.

4. Habitat programs that improve the health of aquatic ecosystem must be initiated by government and/or supporting agencies on waterbodies prone to summer or winterkill of fish.

Next Newsletter – Sept. 1st – Let us know what you'd like to see included, fishing questions (we'll do our best to research answers from reputable sources), fishing reports, discussion topics, the ETFC property, boat storage, membership et al. Email us at etfcnews@gmail.com - we won't share any identifying data unless you indicate otherwise.