



FLYCASTER

February, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Welcome to a new year of the ETFC. The AGM brought changes to the club executive. I will be leading the club as VP. I want to thank all of those members who have volunteered to serve the club this year and those members of last year's executive. The year ahead will see changes to the club. As we wait to see water levels at Spring lake this spring , the club will try to get the club members out fishing together.

The new membership season is here. The membership fees are unchanged from last year. The gate code will change Feb 13, 3 days after our February meeting.

Spring Lake :The lake level will determine what if any changes to the dock can be made.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Feb 10 Ross Chow

Care and maintenance of fishing gear before and after open water season.

Location: Edmonton Public Library 3210 118 ave

Mar 11 Paul Hvenegaard

Fisheries biologist from ACA Peace River

Fish stocking, aeration and lake access for the fisheries in the region.

Zoom

Apr 14 Nicole Kimmel

Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist

Talking about are least favourite fish and the challenges of Prussian carp

May 12. TBA

ETFC MEMBERSHIP: [2026 membership application](#)

FISHING DESTINATION OF THE MONTH

Hogarth Lakes

This set of 2 small lakes is situated in Spray lakes area of Kananaskis country. The lower lake is approximately 0.8 ha while the upper lake is 2.9 ha. The lakes are clear and shallow providing site fishing opportunities. The aquatic life runs the gamut from dragonflies to chironomids although not in numbers you would expect in a valley lake. It is stocked with 1200 Cutthroat trout every 2 years

Unlike many lakes in K country, Hogarth lakes are open to fishing year around. A bait ban applies as does a 1 trout over 40cm limit. As fishing from shore is limited, a belly boat is recommended. I have site fished cutts on dries up to 30cm on the upper lake, my best is a 40cm, roughly 4lb, cutt on a chironomid on the lower lake. Fishing pressure is fairly light with a really good chance you will have the lake to yourself. The lakes are pretty sheltered from the wind.

Getting there is along Smith Dorrien road. Access to Smith Dorrien road is via Canmore or Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. The parking lot is the one south side of the road beside Mud lake.. The parking lot on the north side is for Chester lake. There is an outhouse in the parking area. The closest campgrounds are at Spray lake. Unlike most mountain lakes ,this is an easy walk with no elevation gain. The Alberta Fishing Guide has it as a 2km walk.From the parking lot, you walk along the small dam . From there ,a marked snowshoe trail breaks off to the right. I walk a little further and follow another track to the right . If you don't turn off the path you find yourself walking uphill to Burstall lakes (also stocked with cutts) . After a small stream crossing (Burstall creek) , then the lakes will appear shortly after.

Remember this is grizzly bear country , so bear spray is recommended

Maybe a member can answer the following:

I am using a Garmin 4?, and get a screen showing the depth at 7.0 feet but also a line across the screen at 4.0 feet? What is this line? It will vary depending on the depth. Sometimes I also get a continuous stream of fish symbols just above this intermediate line which can't be fish?

Email your answer to: fisher.man@tic.ab.ca!

Lastly, Updated Fishing Regulations.

Attached please find on the following pages proposed updates Alberta Fishery Regulations as received from the Alberta Provincial Government.





Frequently Asked Questions

Proposed Updates to the *Alberta Fishery Regulations*

What are the *Alberta Fishery Regulations* and who controls them?

- The *Alberta Fishery Regulations, 1998* (ABFR) are federal regulations used to establish recreational fishing rules in Alberta.
- The ABFR regulates recreational fishing rules such as opening and closing fishing seasons, identifies which fish are considered game and bait fish as well as allows for the setting of size and bag limits for recreational anglers.
- Currently, Alberta can make some changes to recreational fishing rules as mentioned above but cannot make other simple changes like requiring barbless hooks, without federal Cabinet approval which can take years working with the federal government.
- Alberta is proposing changes to the federal ABFR to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), so that Alberta can make changes to regulate stocked recreational fisheries, to make fishing gear changes such as barbless hooks, and to remove a threatened species from the bait fish list.
- The system of working with the federal government on fishing recreational fishing rules is not new and is the same across all provinces and territories in Canada, it is not unique to Alberta.

What are the proposed updates?

The proposed changes are to:

- 1) Add more species to the list of game fish so that Alberta can regulate bag limits.
- 2) Remove a minnow species from the list of bait fish due to its threatened status.
- 3) Update definitions of different fishing gear, add new gear types and provisions that allow Alberta to vary gear restrictions.

Will these updates affect Indigenous-specific rights to fish for food?

- No, these proposed updates only apply to recreational fishing so are not expected to impact Indigenous-specific rights to harvest fish for food, such as those that are protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- There are no specific rule changes currently proposed, the changes to the ABFR simply allow Alberta to make rule changes as described above without having to go to the federal government to amend the ABFR.
- If any future proposed changes to recreational fishing rules are considered by Alberta that could have the potential to impact Indigenous-specific rights to harvest fish for food, Alberta will undertake appropriate consultations at that time.

Why are you adding species to the list of game fish? Are new species being introduced to Alberta? Will they harm native fish?

- Stocking is a fisheries management tool to provide fishing opportunities while helping to reduce the fishing pressure on wild fish populations.
- Alberta is adding non-native species (several species of catfish or their hybrids, bass, Arctic char, tiger muskellunge, splake and kokanee) to the list of game fish that Alberta can regulate for

recreational fishing. Alberta currently stocks numerous species of trout as well as walleye for this purpose.

- Alberta considers the potential impacts of introducing any new species prior to introduction. Most stocked fisheries occur in contained ponds, unconnected to any flowing waters or natural lakes with the key exception of reservoirs in southern Alberta.

What's changing with bait fish?

- Brassy minnow is now listed as threatened in Alberta. Removing this species from ABFR's bait fish list will align with provincial legislation and support conservation of this species.

What does 'fishing gear changes' mean?

- Fishing gear definitions are currently outdated and do not reflect the variety of gear that anglers use today.
- Making changes modernizes Alberta's approach to meet current fishing gear types available.
- Change will allow the province to respond quickly when issues arise to protect fish and fisheries.
- Changes include defining common gear types like "barbed hook" and "artificial fly," and allowing Alberta to regulate the use of certain gear at certain waterbodies or locations or at certain times of year to ensure recreational fisheries are sustainable.

When will the changes to the ABFR come into effect?

- There is no specific date, however, there is potential for changes to occur within the next number of months or the next year.
- Final steps include that the amendments to the AFBR must be approved by the federal Governor in Council and published in the *Canada Gazette* (Part II).

What kind of feedback are you requesting and how will it be used?

- Alberta is sharing information with your community as part of following Canada's regulatory amendment processes.
- Alberta will respond to all inquiries and welcomes any comments or questions your community might have about recreational stocked fisheries, removing brassy minnow as a baitfish or changes to gear and equipment.
- All feedback received will be compiled into a "What We Heard" report, which will be shared with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Once submitted, all records will be managed in accordance with current information management directives in a manner that aligns with the Government of Alberta's policies and guidelines.

How do I submit my feedback?

Input can be submitted in any written format by **Friday February 20, 2026**. You may send your input or questions via email to FP.IndigenousEngagement@gov.ab.ca, or by surface mail or private courier to:

Hunting and Fishing Branch
Lands Operations Division
C/O - Shilpi Chakrabarti
7th Floor, Forestry Building
9920 – 108 Street, Edmonton, AB T5K 2M4