



BCLSS LOONIE NEWS


A monthly e-newsletter from the BC Lake Stewardship Society


February 2006


Okanagan Kokanee on the Rise

Kokanee escapement numbers for the Okanagan region lakes are among the highest recorded in recent years, according to Ministry of Environment's 2005 survey.

The survey found nearly 10 million kokanee (all age classes) in Okanagan Lake. These positive numbers are due in part to efforts to protect and restore flow and habitat in the lake's tributaries, improvement of lake level management, and removal of the exotic *Mysis* shrimp that competes with kokanee for food. Spawner results for some of the region's lakes are as follows:

 The Okanagan Lake kokanee spawning population doubled from last year to 227,000, the highest level since 1988 and a significant increase from the all-time low of 8,700 in 1998.

 Skaha Lake had a total kokanee spawning population of 98,400, a slight increase over 2004 numbers and the fourth consecutive year of strong spawner returns in the system.

 In Kalamalka Lake, kokanee spawner numbers rebounded from 8,000 fish in 2004 to 31,000 – the highest level observed in five years.

Despite strong 2005 numbers for the kokanee in the Okanagan lakes, these stocks remain highly susceptible to habitat impacts and low flows.

The ministry and its partners will continue efforts to restore spawning and rearing habitat and ensure the long term health of kokanee populations.

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Photo courtesy of Ministry of Environment

Announcements

The Central Okanagan Lake Foreshore Inventory & Mapping Final Report is now available. The BCLSS is pleased to have the report in the Kelowna office library. To view the report on-line visit: http://www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/planning/env/env_planning_foreshore.aspx

Water Conservation on the Island - Practical Strategies for Water Stewardship. This event is presented by the BC Water and Waste Association and will be held on March 10th, 2006 at the Ambrosia Catering and Event Centre in Victoria, BC. For more information visit: <http://www.bcwwa.org/WaterConservationontheIsland.php>

Waterbucket

The waterbucket website is a partnership initiative led by the Water Sustainability Committee of the BC Water & Waste Association.

The website is key to the communication strategy for the Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC. It is designed to provide the complete story on integrated water management.

Some topics provided on the website include: water use & conservation, rainwater management, agriculture & water and green infrastructure.

To access this resource, visit: www.waterbucket.ca

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