



ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION **POSITION STATEMENTS**

Updated April 27, 2022

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.

Fisheries / Management / Species

1. Rainbow Trout
 - a. 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
 - a. 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
 - a. 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).
 - b. 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
 - a. 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).
 - b. 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
 - a. Any change to Lake Sturgeon angling regulations in Alberta must be supported by a rigorous public consultation process.
 - b. 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.

Fisheries / Management / 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 in order to provide diversity of angling experience and increased opportunity. (bench line 2018 stocking reports)

Fisheries / 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 emphasis 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.

Environment / Water / Wetland

1. No peatland drainage will be permitted in Alberta unless an offsetting formula that mandates the replacement of such wetlands is in place.
2. Sedimentation incidents in waterbodies or wetlands must be reported and be publicly available.
3. Monitoring and enforcement by government or supporting agencies of sedimentation incidents at waterbodies and wetlands needs to be increased.

Hunting / Management / Species

1. Big Game – Cervids
 - a. Establishment of a deer & elk hunting season on the Wainwright Dunes Ecological Reserve (David Lake).
 - b. Trophy Sheep Special Licences where currently not on a priority draw, be changed where successfully drawn applicants cannot reapply in the future – create a once in a lifetime opportunity only.
2. Big Game – Birds
 - a. Development of a Wild Turkey Management Plan for Alberta.
 - b. Establish an open Sandhill Crane season province-wide in conjunction with the other migratory bird seasons.
 - c. Establish a Mourning Dove season in Alberta.
3. Big Game – Predators
 - a. Establish a limited entry hunt for grizzly bears in any portion of the province where a population exists to sustain a harvest.
 - b. Establish an archery-only cougar season without dogs prior to the existing fall general cougar season.

Hunting / Management / Methods

1. Implementation of a mandatory big game registration system for all big game harvested in Alberta that would apply to all licensed, status Indian and Métis hunters.
2. The current regulations restricting the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) be removed from Alberta's Hunting Regulations.
3. All allocations for big game to outfitters in each WMU be cancelled where residents are applying and have to wait for more than three (3) years to be drawn for a specific tag.
4. Alberta Environment and Parks to release to the public an annual summary of all big game outfitter licence allocations by WMU for all big game species.
5. Development of regulations that increase resident waterfowl hunting opportunities by restricting the number of days or the timing of the hunting seasons that an outfitter may operate, and in so doing, reduce the conflict and competition for receiving access to hunt on private lands.
6. Removal of the “no hunting with a pistol or revolver” clause from the Alberta Hunting Regulations.
7. Crossbows be included in all archery seasons.
8. Creation of a partner licence for Antlered Elk and for Antlerless Elk Special Licences that are same as that which is now available for Moose Special Licences.
9. Change current regulations restricting the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to allow hunters who are paraplegic or quadriplegic, or have permanent spinal injuries that confine them to a wheelchair, to hunt any big game throughout the non-motorized Public Land Use Zones (PLUZs) still referred to as Forest Land Use Zones (FLUZs) along the East Slopes Region of Alberta with the use of a “side by side utility vehicle” (UTV).
10. Change the current Alberta Hunting Regulations to allow the use of a leashed dog to track wounded animals.

11. That a waiting period for new residents of Alberta be instated before they are able to apply for resident hunting licenses and tags.
12. That Government of Canada amend the Criminal Code 84(1) (c) and Firearms Act prohibiting firearm suppressors so they can be used for recreational shooting and hunting. Furthermore, following such amendment, the Government of Alberta amend the Wildlife Act Schedule 1 Item 1 (8) to allow the use of firearm suppressors while hunting.