



FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT BRANCH PUBLIC SECURITY DIVISION



Superintendent Trevor Miller - Southern Region
Inspector Ron Wiebe – Calgary Unit, Southern Region

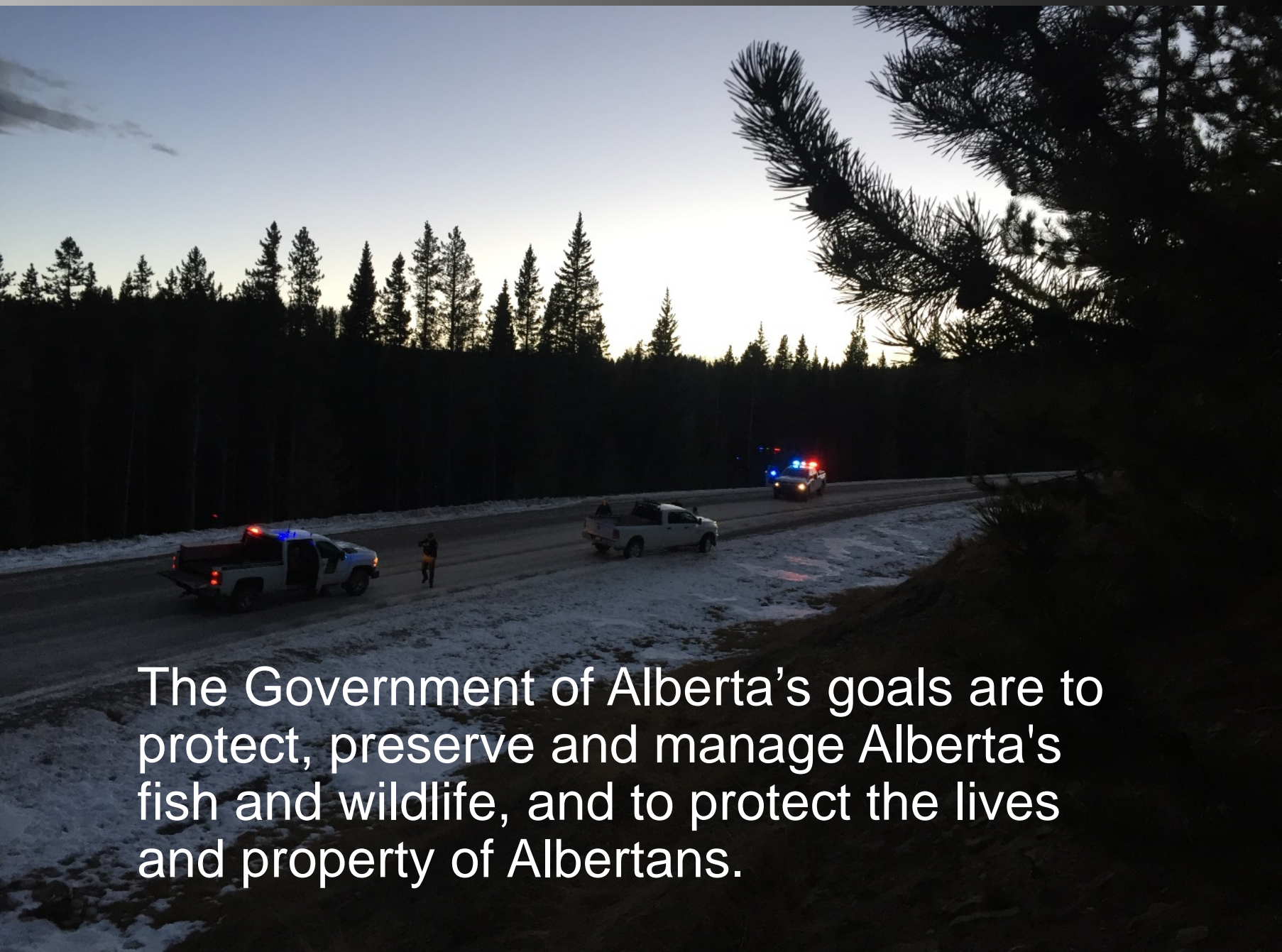
JSG Organization Structure



- 112 field Officers
- 38 other Enforcement officers : Senior Officers, Operations, SIFS and Forensic Unit
- 57 Districts, in 4 Regions
- 1-4 Officers per district

Fish and Wildlife Officer's in the Community



A photograph of a snowy road at dusk. In the foreground, a white pickup truck with its rear door open and emergency lights flashing is parked on the left. A person in dark clothing stands near the back of the truck. Further down the road, another white pickup truck is parked. In the distance, a third vehicle with flashing blue and red lights is visible. The road is covered in snow and slush. The background consists of a dense forest of evergreen trees silhouetted against a pale, twilight sky. A large pine branch hangs down from the top right corner of the frame.

The Government of Alberta's goals are to protect, preserve and manage Alberta's fish and wildlife, and to protect the lives and property of Albertans.

To help meet these goals, Alberta's Fish and Wildlife officers:

- Ensure Albertans understand and follow legislation that protects fish and wildlife through **education, prevention and enforcement.**
- Administer programs and operations for human / wildlife conflict management.
- Provide support for public safety programs.

Legal Authorities

- ❑ Fish and Wildlife officers have the authority to enforce a number of Provincial and Federal Regulations



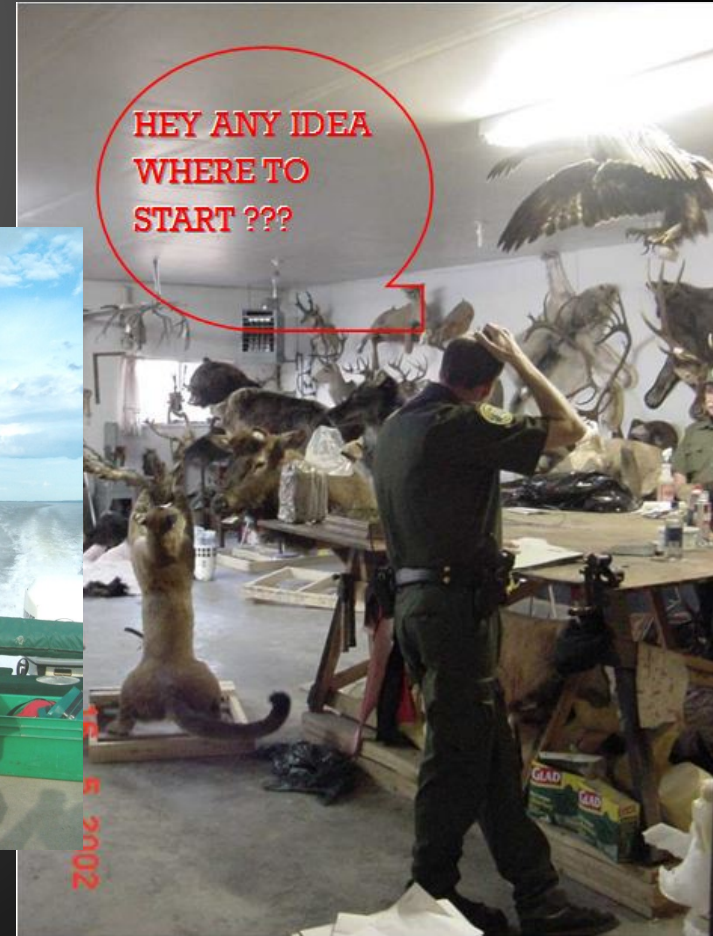
Provincial Acts and Regulations

- ▣ Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulation
- ▣ Fisheries (Alberta) Act and Regulations
- ▣ Forests Act and Regulations
- ▣ Gaming and Liquor Act and Regulation
- ▣ Petty Trespass Act
- ▣ Provincial Offences Procedure Act and Regulation
- ▣ Provincial Parks Act and Regulation
- ▣ Public Lands Act (limited)
- ▣ Traffic Safety Act and Regulations
- ▣ Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act
- ▣ Wildlife Act and Regulation
- ▣ Peace Officer Act

Federal Acts and Regulations

- Fisheries Act (Canada)
- Freshwater Fish Marketing Act
- Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 and Regulations
- Canada Shipping Act, 2001
- Small Vessel Regulations
- Competency of Operator of Pleasure Craft Regulations
- Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations
- Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act and Regulations pursuant to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
- Criminal Code of Canada
- Controlled Drugs and Substances Act
- Alberta Fishery Regulations, 1998

Fish and Wildlife is Responsible for Conservation Law Enforcement



Compliance Patrols

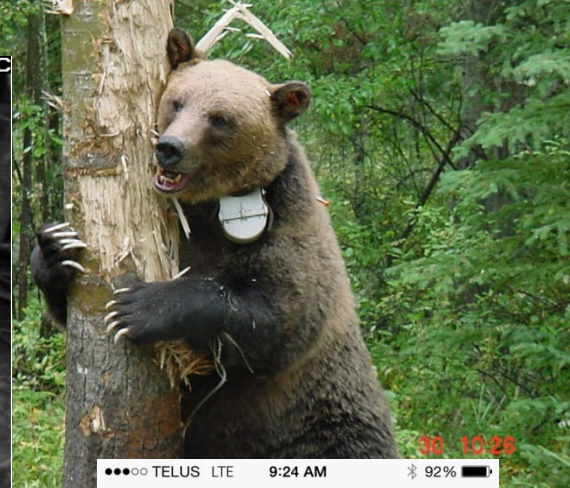


Investigations

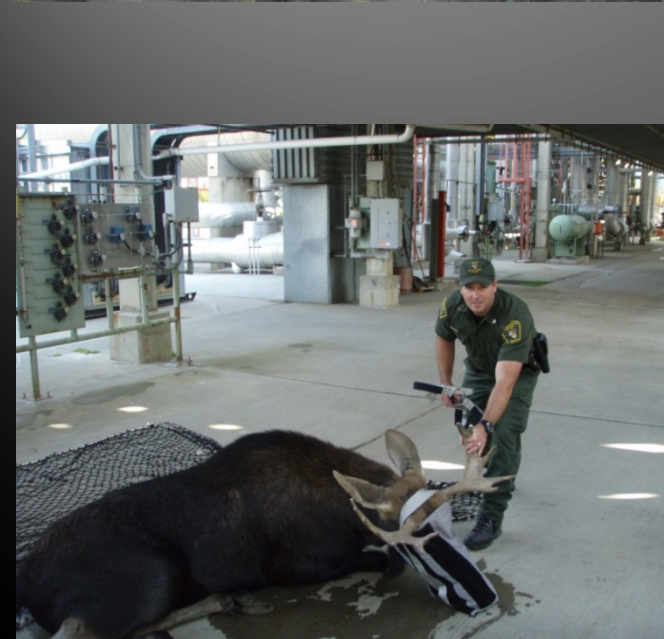


- ▣ Investigations of public complaints/tips
- ▣ Officer initiated investigations
- ▣ Interviews/ interrogations
- ▣ Arrests
- ▣ Human source (informant management)
- ▣ Warrants and Authorizations
- ▣ Evidence collection and analysis
- ▣ Court documents
- ▣ Trials and hearings

Problem Wildlife



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www.newstalk770.com/files/2014/07...



Problem Wildlife/Public Safety and Property Protection

A close-up photograph of a bear's paw, likely a black bear, resting on a dark, textured surface. The paw is covered in dark fur and has several large, dark, rounded pads. A white tracking collar is visible, with a metal bolt and nut securing it to the paw. A pink ribbon is tied around the collar. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a piece of fabric or a log.

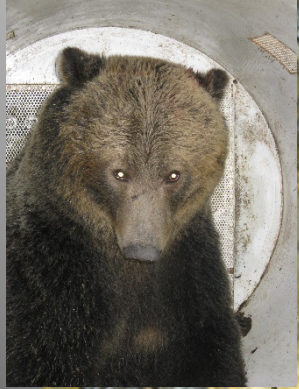
- ▣ Dangerous wildlife response
- ▣ Human/wildlife conflict investigations – Mauling fatalities, injuries, near miss
- ▣ Compensation programs
- ▣ Predation on livestock
- ▣ Ungulate damage to agricultural products
- ▣ Bear Response Team program

Minutes from Calgary!!



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Predator Response Teams



Grizzly Bear release




Emergency Response Support



Invested in Community / Public Education



Public Education



Scents-ible about Bears!

Bears live to eat, consuming up to 25,000 calories a day (10 times more than the average person). While they prefer natural vegetation, they will eat almost anything and will do almost anything to obtain food. That's why it's so important to eliminate access to food and other attractants when you picnic, camp, fish or enjoy other outdoor activities. Bears will eat everything from juice boxes and pop cans to fish parts and canisters.

Bears have a keen sense of smell and are drawn to investigate. They are attracted by scents as diverse as toothpaste and insect repellent.

Bears have been known to repeat actions. If a bear figures out how to open your picnic cooler or food storage area, it may try again. Carefully stored food, an unclean campsite or table scraps

What You Do Really Matters!

Contribute to your safety and enjoyment of the outdoors in bear country by doing the following:

- Cook, eat and dispose of food and dishwasher properly. Do not cook or eat in or near your tent. Dispose of garbage and fish remains in proper garbage containers.
- Store food properly. If you are camping away from facilities, the best solution is to hang supplies between two trees with a rope, 3-4 metres off the ground. Try to store food at least 100 metres away from your camp.
- Pick your campsite with care. Pitch tents away from dense bushes or trees, lakeshores, stream-banks and animal trails, and natural food sources such as berry bushes. At night, move around with caution and always use a flashlight.
- When on the move, be constantly aware of the road to avoid bears and to alert bears of your presence. Make noise before venturing around blind corners and dense shrubs, and along streams and rivers.

DID YOU KNOW?
Watching or photographing bears at close range (under 200 m) is harmful to bears and people. It encourages bears to become conditioned or "habituated" to people.

Your Children

Encourage your children to enjoy the outdoors, but keep a close eye on their activities when bears are most active (evening, night and dawn).

When to be BearSmart

Make your presence known to bears as you go about your outdoor activities. Moving quickly and quietly, such as on a mountain bike, can be hazardous if you startle a bear. Be aware your behaviour can have an impact.

Seasons/Weather: The prime time for bear activity is from May until October. Black and grizzly bears look for different early summer food sources. Avoid berry patches in summer and fall. Be aware of weather conditions. In wet weather, bears are most active from dusk until the early morning. In dry weather, bears are most active from dawn until the early morning.

Checklist

In Campgrounds

- Stom your food and toilet articles (toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc.) safely. Never take these items into your tent or tent trailer.
- Don't burn or bury scrap food. Seal garbage in plastic bags for disposal in bear-proof bins, or pack it out.
- Always keep pens on a leash.

Day Trips

- Watch for signs of recent bear activity (tracks, scat, rolled logs and rocks, torn stumps, claw-marked trees, diggings, anthills torn open). If you see these signs, leave the area and return to your vehicle/campsite.
- Make plenty of noise when going into the wild, in dense shrubbery and along streams and rivers. A loud shout every few minutes is more effective than wearing bear bells.
- Pack out all of your garbage in sealed bags.

Overnight Trips

- Before you depart, leave information about your destination and estimated return time.
- Use dried foods and a portable camp stove.
- Be sure bear spray is accessible at all times, even when you lie down to sleep.
- Ensure that the cooking area is well separated from your sleeping area. Avoid sleeping in the clothes you wore while cooking.

Fishing

- Clean fish at fish-cleaning stands or well away from camp.
- Seal the fish in plastic bags and wash your hands.



Alberta

BearSmart

You can
make a
difference!

Operations Section

- ▣ Professional Standards Unit:

- Recruitment, training, equipment, uniform, internal investigations

- ▣ Compliance Unit:

- Aboriginal files, Constitutional File Management, Policy, Directives, Standards, Judicial Orders, Regulations

Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA)



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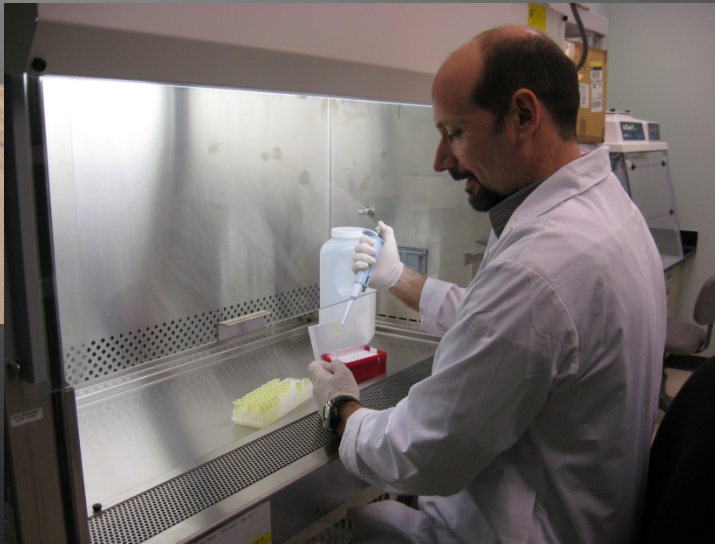
Special Investigations and Forensic Services Section

- Undercover Unit (UCU)
- Major Investigations and Intelligence Unit (MIU)
- Forensic Services –Wildlife Forensics Lab



FORENSIC UNIT

- The most requested service that is provided is DNA matching
- Species Identification of evidence can occur via DNA sequencing, protein analysis and physical examination.



FUNCTIONS OF THE FORENSIC UNIT

- ❑ DNA analysis also used to link suspect predators to human mauling victim.

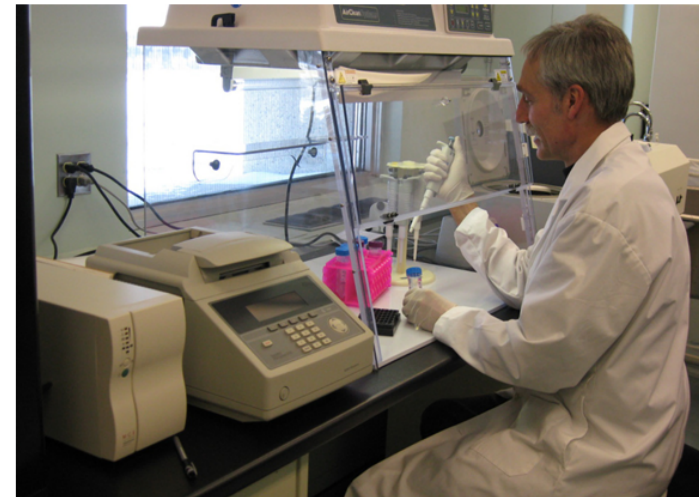


Fish and wildlife forensic unit helped convict murderer Pickton

Posted on October 2, 2014 by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

Forensic unit assisted RCMP in one of the largest criminal investigations in Canada

Back in 2003, the RCMP forensic service was working on the Robert William Pickton murder case. Pickton was eventually convicted of six counts of second-degree murder and given multiple life sentences in relation to the disappearance of women in the lower mainland of BC.



The RCMP asked the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch's forensic unit to help identify some biological samples obtained from a search warrant executed at the Pickton farm in British Columbia. The forensic unit has extensive experience and expertise in identifying what species even the smallest tissue samples came from. The samples were analyzed using the same kind of test regularly used in wildlife crime



Undercover Unit

- ▣ Alberta Fish and Wildlife has maintained a capacity to deliver an undercover program for over 40 years
- ▣ The use of undercover techniques to investigate and respond to fish and wildlife crime is common in most natural resource law enforcement agencies throughout North America and it is considered an integral part of the overall enforcement program and an appropriate response to serious fish and wildlife crime.
- ▣ Undercover techniques have proven to be a valuable investigative tool when responding to serious fish and wildlife crime and continues to be supported through various legislation/statutes as well as by the Provincial Courts; Supreme Court; Justice; Public and fisheries and wildlife managers.



UNDERCOVER UNIT



Trafficking Investigations – Operation Rollercoaster



Major Investigations and Intelligence Unit

The prime purpose of the MIU is to provide leadership and direction in major case file management to ensure that investigations are conducted in a comprehensive manner.

- ▣ Specialized enforcement techniques
- ▣ Provincial Surveillance Team
- ▣ Interprovincial and International Communication/Investigations
- ▣ Human Source Handling
- ▣ Report A Poacher
- ▣ Intelligence collection and dissemination



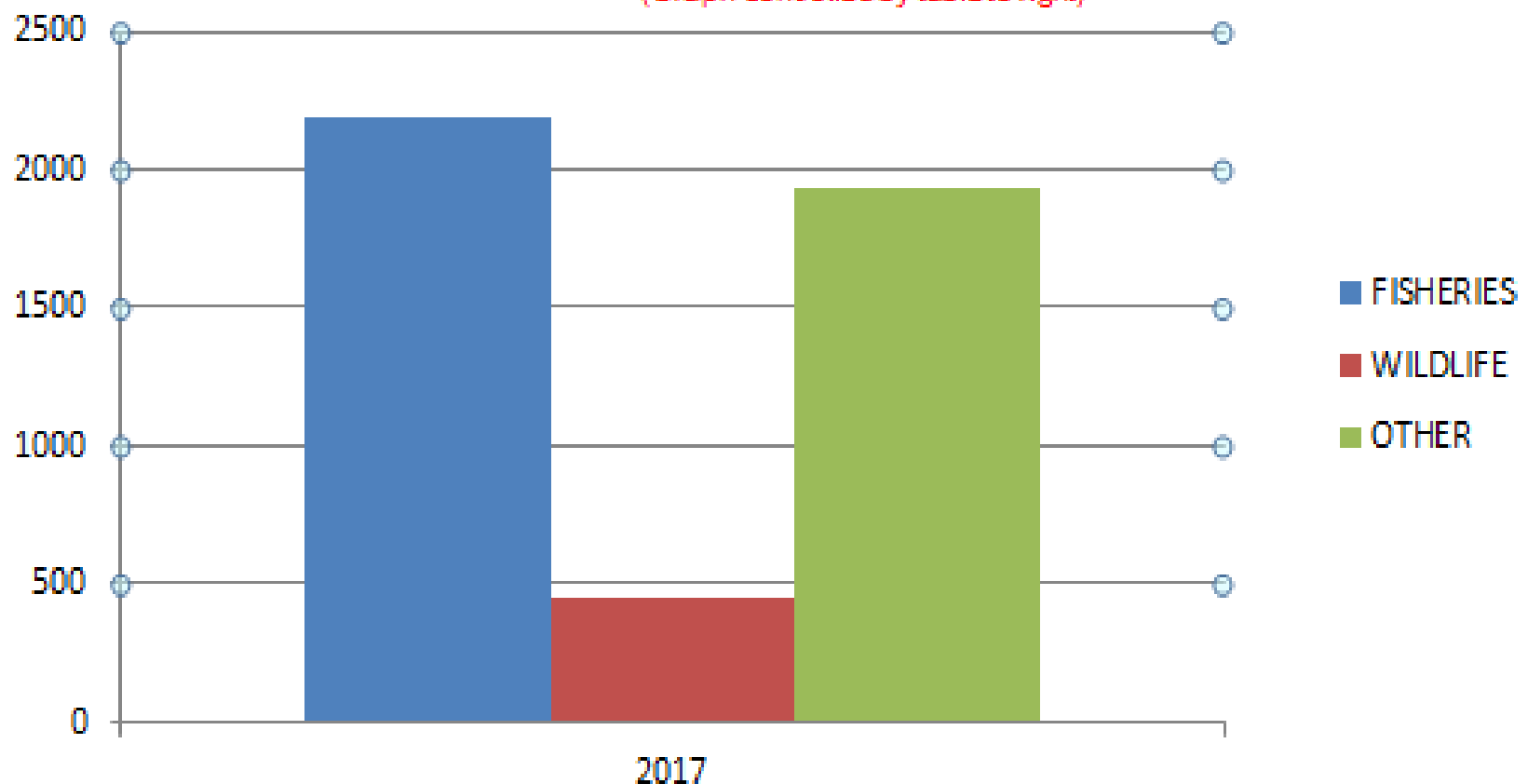
Fisheries and Wildlife Enforcement

- ▣ It is a constant challenge to adapt to changing priorities for Fish & Wildlife Officers
- ▣ Wildlife, Fisheries, Public Lands, Aquatic Invasive Species place unique and varying demands on Officers
- ▣ Districts are spread from Fort Vermilion to Blairmore with 1 to 4 Officers per District
- ▣ Most violations are not called into the RAP Line
- ▣ Less than 3% of violations are detected
- ▣ Alberta's diverse and increasing population continues to place new pressures on officers

2017 Enforcement Actions

Enforcement Actions by Type

(Graph controlled by table to right)



Poaching in Alberta



**REPORT A
POACHER** 
www.reportapoacher.com 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
1-800-642-3800



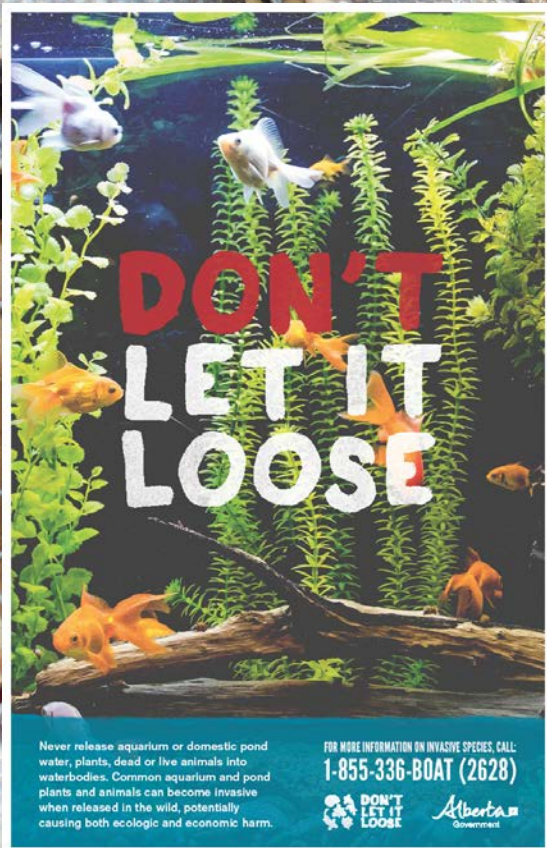
Aquatic Invasive Species



Eurasian watermilfoil



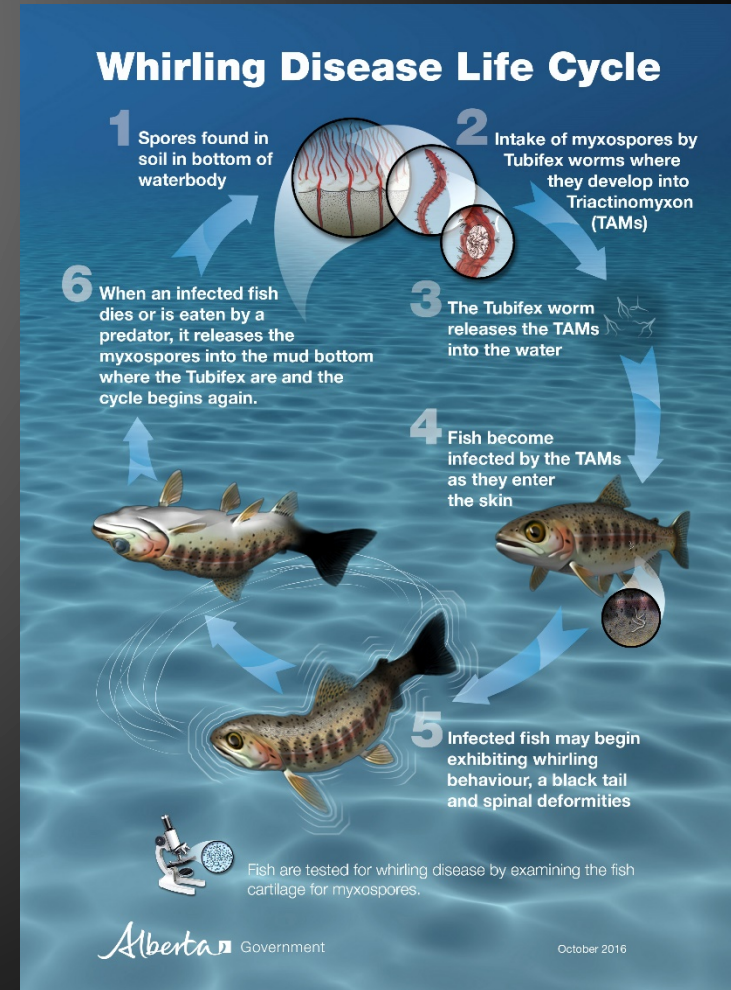
Invasive Species In Bow River



AIS and Fish & Wildlife

- ▣ Fish and Wildlife Officers are trained to conduct inspections for mussel fouled boats
- ▣ Stopping vessels at inspection stations, as well as tracking down vessels that went by stations, is a new challenge in the fisheries enforcement world
- ▣ Protecting Alberta's lakes and rivers from these invasive species is virtually impossible once they have been released into the ecosystem

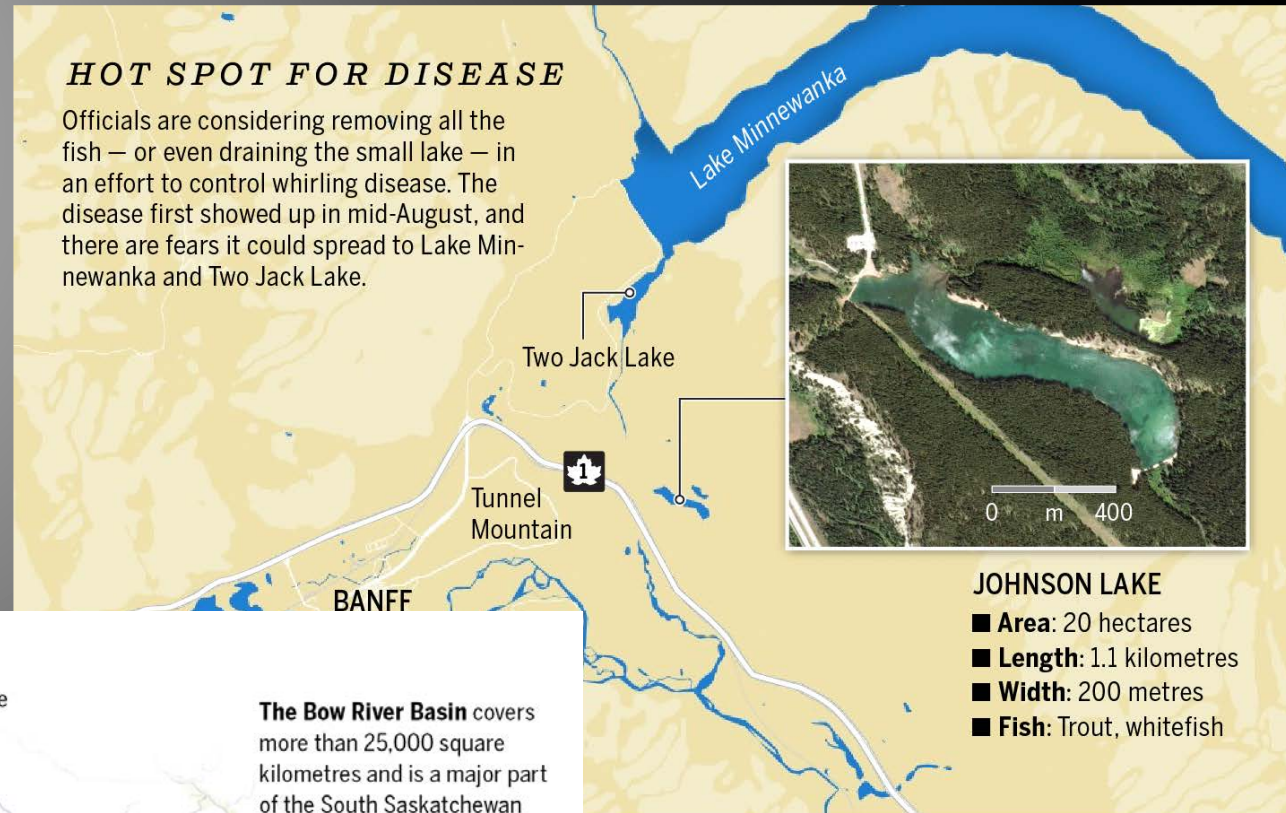
Whirling Disease



Whirling Disease

HOT SPOT FOR DISEASE

Officials are considering removing all the fish — or even draining the small lake — in an effort to control whirling disease. The disease first showed up in mid-August, and there are fears it could spread to Lake Minnewanka and Two Jack Lake.

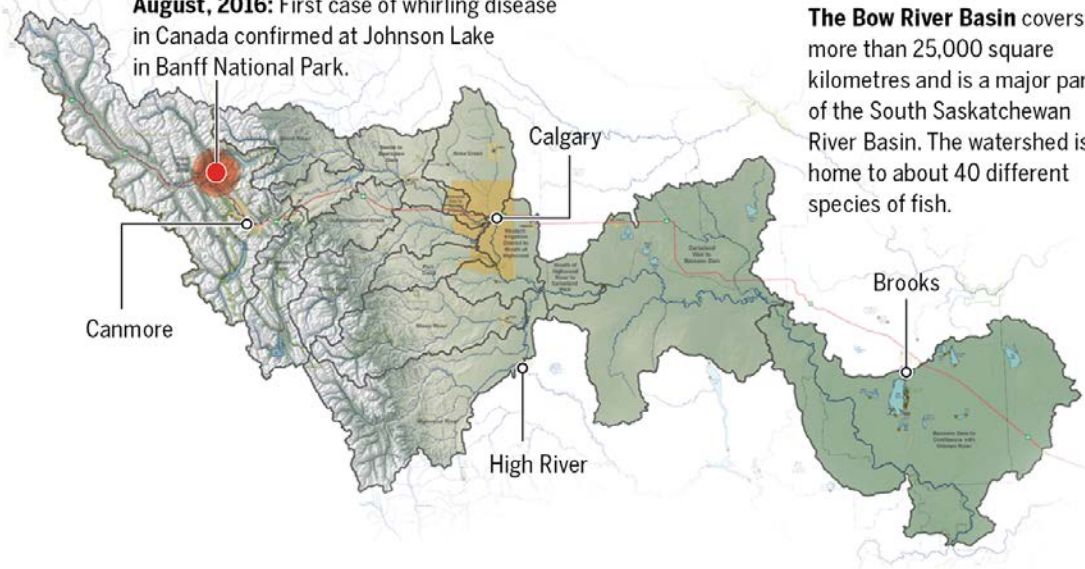


JOHNSON LAKE

- **Area:** 20 hectares
- **Length:** 1.1 kilometres
- **Width:** 200 metres
- **Fish:** Trout, whitefish

BOW RIVER BASIN

August, 2016: First case of whirling disease in Canada confirmed at Johnson Lake in Banff National Park.



The Bow River Basin covers more than 25,000 square kilometres and is a major part of the South Saskatchewan River Basin. The watershed is home to about 40 different species of fish.

DARREN FRANCEY / POSTMEDIA NEWS

Whirling Disease Facts

- ▣ **What is whirling disease?**
- ▣ Whirling disease is an infectious disease of finfish. It is caused by *Myxobolus cerebralis*. This is a protozoan in the Class *Myxosporea*.

- ▣ **What species of finfish can be infected by whirling disease?**
- ▣ Each species of finfish may have several common names, but only one common name is listed.

- ▣ **Is whirling disease a risk to human health?**
- ▣ No. The causal agent of whirling disease is not a risk to human health.

- ▣ **What are the signs of whirling disease?**
- ▣ Whirling disease is a cause of death in the younger life stages of susceptible freshwater finfish. Overall deaths of infected fry and fingerlings can reach 90 percent.
- ▣ Affected finfish may exhibit any of the following signs:
 - ▣ behaviour
 - whirling swimming pattern
 - ▣ appearance
 - skeletal deformities of the body or head, for example, shortening of the mandible and indentations on the top of the head
 - tail may appear dark or even black

- Fish & Wildlife Officers deal with containment, transport of fish and stopping transmission of the disease

Questions ?

