



**News Release: College of Applied Biology Responds to BC Forest Practices Board's
Special Report on Conserving Fish Habitat**
For immediate release

July 26, 2018

Victoria, BC—The College of Applied Biology (the College) is pleased to see the Special Report issued by BC's Forest Practices Board *Conserving Fish Habitats under the Forest and Range Practices Act – Part 1: A Review of the BC Government Approach*. These findings are very timely in light of the recent Professional Reliance Review.

Based on interviews with fish experts, habitat managers and forest professionals, as well as reviews of legislation and policy, BC's Forest Practices Board identified several concerns relevant to applied biology professionals working in the forestry sector. These issues include: 1) lack of clear objectives, 2) weak requirements to retain riparian vegetation for small streams, 3) issues with sedimentation, 4) delays in designating sensitive sites and watersheds, and 5) gaps in effectiveness monitoring. The report concludes that an update to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) framework, and possibly the legislation, is needed to incorporate new knowledge regarding impacts to fish habitats. Read the full report here <https://www.bcfpb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SR56-Fish-Habitat-Conservation.pdf>

The conclusions reached by the Forest Practices Board, in particular the regulatory deficiencies in protecting fish habitat, reinforce the College's position that an effective professional reliance model requires that all parties are involved and accountable: professionals, industry, as well as government.

"This special report clearly points out that for responsible resource management that protects the public interest, we must have all sectors working collaboratively to improve the system," says Christine Houghton, Executive Director with the College of Applied Biology. "Focusing on one component of the model will not adequately address the underlying issues."

As the College has continued to articulate, making sure the professional reliance model works in British Columbia requires that all participants ensure their legislation, policies and procedures are designed to meet this objective. This means that employers must support professionals in their work and respect their professional advice, governments must ensure that they are setting clear and achievable objectives and they have the capacity to monitor and address poor practices, and finally, that regulatory associations continue to hold their members accountable and make improvements when needed.

The College (www.cab-bc.org) was established in 2003 through the *College of Applied Biology Act* and regulates over 2,300 applied biology professionals. The mandate is to protect the public interest by ensuring high standards of entrance along with ongoing competency requirements and accountability of



COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY

Professional Accountability

its members. Applied biology professionals provide science-based advice and expertise in resource management decisions, policies, and assessments.

-30-

Contact:

Christine Houghton, Executive Director

College of Applied Biology

(250) 383-3306

Email: ExecutiveDirector@cab-bc.org