



PERMIT ISSUED UNDER SECTION 73 OF THE *SPECIES AT RISK ACT*

21-PPAC-00009

Subject to the conditions described in this permit, the holder of this permit ("Permit Holder"), or any qualified person acting under the authority of the Permit Holder, is authorized under the authority of subsection 73(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002. c.29 (SARA) to engage in activities (as described in this permit) that kill, harm, harass, capture, take, or possess individuals of the following threatened or endangered aquatic species listed on Schedule 1 of SARA:

Stickleback, Paxton Lake Benthic Threespine (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), Endangered
Stickleback, Paxton Lake Limnetic Threespine (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), Endangered
Stickleback, Vananda Creek Benthic Threespine (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), Endangered
Stickleback, Vananda Creek Limnetic Threespine (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), Endangered

Permit issued to:

University of British Columbia (UBC; "Permit Holder"):
Attention to: Dolph Schluter
Zoology Department, University of British Columbia
6270 University Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6K 4G4
604-822-2387
schluter@zoology.ubc.ca

Location of Proposed Activity

This permit is only valid at the following location(s):

- 1) Nearest community (city, town, village): Van Anda, Texada Island
Province: British Columbia
Name of watercourse(s), waterbody(ies) : Paxton and Priest lakes, Texada Island.
- 2) Nearest community (city, town, village): Vancouver
Province: British Columbia
Specific location: Laboratory and experimental pond facilities of the University of British Columbia
Department of Zoology

Valid Permit Period

This permit is valid from 2021-April-01 until 2021-December-31.

If the Permit Holder cannot complete the activity during this period, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) must be notified in advance of the expiration of the time period. DFO may, where appropriate, provide written notice that the valid permit period to complete the permitted activity has been extended.

The period during which other conditions of this permit must be complied with are provided in their respective sections below. DFO may, where appropriate, provide written notice that these periods have been extended.

Description of the Activity

The activities authorized by this permit consist of:

- a) Capture of Paxton Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback, Paxton Lake Limnetic Threespine Stickleback, Vananda Creek Benthic Threespine Stickleback and Vananda Creek Limnetic Threespine Stickleback from Paxton Lake and Priest Lake using seine nets, dip nets, and/or minnow traps;
- b) Collection and transportation of up to 30 Paxton Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback adult females, 30 Paxton Lake Limnetic Threespine Stickleback adult males and 30 Vananda Creek Limnetic Threespine Stickleback adult males to the University of British Columbia for use in laboratory and controlled field studies;
- c) Release of any live captured individuals in excess of the numbers specified in activity b to the wild.

Terms and Conditions of Permit

The activity must be carried on in accordance with the following conditions:

1. General Conditions

- 1.1. A copy of this permit shall be kept on site at all times in the possession of the Permit Holder or a person acting under the Permit Holder's authority.
- 1.2. All persons undertaking the activity under the authority of the Permit Holder shall do so under the direction and oversight of the Permit Holder and shall be made familiar with the conditions of this permit.
- 1.3. Activities shall comply with the conditions identified within this permit. Activities that affect individuals of species at risk other than those specifically identified within this permit are not authorized under this permit.
- 1.4. Adverse effects on the habitat of the species at risk identified in this permit or other fish, and activities that adversely affect fish habitat, are not authorized under this permit.

2. Conditions to avoid or minimize the impact of the activity on individuals of the species:

- 2.1. Activities shall be undertaken by or under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified environmental professional.
- 2.2. To the extent possible, activities shall be conducted in a manner whereby any individuals of the species shall be handled only in the circumstances authorized under this permit and with the least amount of harm.
- 2.3. The following measures shall be implemented to minimize the impact of the activity on individuals of the species:
 - 2.3.1. All nets/traps, gear, and equipment shall be cleaned, inspected and disinfected prior to and/or after sampling to prevent the spread of invasive species and disease. Any of the following disinfectants are permitted: chlorine bleach (diluted concentration of 5000 ppm; exposure time of 15 minutes), Virkon Aquatic (diluted concentration 2:100; exposure time of 20 minutes), or QUAT Plus (diluted concentration of 1500 ppm for soaking or 3000 ppm for wiping/spraying; exposure time of 10 minutes).
 - 2.3.2. Proposed works shall be conducted using the techniques outlined in the "Guidelines for the Collection and In Situ Scientific Study of Stickleback Species Pairs (*Gasterosteus* spp.)" (Recovery Team for Non-Game Freshwater Fish Species in BC, 2008).
 - 2.3.3. Minnow traps shall not be set for more than 2 hours at a time.
 - 2.3.4. Known nesting sites shall not be targeted for trapping.
 - 2.3.5. Males expressing a high degree of nuptial coloration shall not be retained and shall be released at the earliest opportunity.

- 2.3.6. Individuals retained to be transported to the University of British Columbia research facility shall be temporarily placed in holding containers with fresh lake water, changed frequently to maintain temperature and oxygen close to ambient levels for the duration of transport to the research facility.
- 2.3.7. All sticklebacks not required for planned removals (maximum number of individuals of each species and sex to be retained for experiments is described in activity b) shall be temporarily placed in holding containers with fresh lake water and released to the wild following recovery from handling.
- 2.3.8. If the maximum number of incidental mortalities specified in this permit (4 Paxton Lake Benthic or Limnetic Threespine Stickleback and 2 Vananda Creek Benthic or Limnetic Threespine Stickleback) is exceeded, work must be discontinued immediately and the Species at Risk Program must be contacted at sara.xpac@dfo-mpo.gc.ca to report the occurrence and to determine the potential for any further works that may affect Paxton Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback, Paxton Lake Limnetic Threespine Stickleback, Vananda Creek Benthic Threespine Stickleback and Vananda Creek Limnetic Threespine Stickleback.

3. Conditions that relate to monitoring and reporting:

- 3.1. By December 31, 2021 the Permit Holder shall provide a report to Fisheries and Oceans Canada at o sara.xpac@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the report shall contain the following information, to the satisfaction of DFO in its sole discretion:
 - 3.1.1. Fish sampling data in an Excel file, including sampling dates/times, sampling methods, geographic coordinates of net/trap locations, number of captured individuals by species, sex, and other notable comments including genetic deformities or males expressing a high degree of nuptial coloration;
 - 3.1.2. An assessment of whether the measures and standards in Conditions 2.1-2.3.8 of the permit were successful at avoiding and mitigating the impacts of the permitted activities on the species or its critical habitat;
 - 3.1.3. Details of any contingency measures that were followed to prevent impacts greater than those authorized by this permit; and
 - 3.2. Any observed harm, injuries or mortalities, including the final total of individuals by species and sex removed from the lakes, and total number of individuals affected and the nature of the effect (death, sub-lethal harm, damage, destruction, etc.).
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Authorization Limitations and Application Conditions

This permit cannot be transferred or assigned to another party. If the activity authorized under this permit is sold or transferred to another party, or if other circumstances arise that result in another party taking over the activity, the Permit Holder shall advise DFO in advance if the ownership or responsibility for the activity is expected to change.

The failure to comply with any condition of this permit may result in an offence under section 97 of SARA and may result in charges being laid under the *Species at Risk Act*.

This permit may be revoked or amended to ensure the survival or recovery of Paxton Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback, Paxton Lake Limnetic Threespine Stickleback, Vananda Creek Benthic Threespine Stickleback and Vananda Creek Limnetic Threespine Stickleback. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, DFO may:

- suspend any permitted activities to avoid or mitigate additional adverse direct or indirect effects to the Paxton Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback, Paxton Lake Limnetic Threespine Stickleback, Vananda Creek Benthic Threespine Stickleback and/or Vananda Creek Limnetic Threespine Stickleback;
- amend or revoke this permit; and
- direct the Permit Holder to carry out at the Permit Holder’s expense any modifications or actions deemed necessary by DFO to avoid or mitigate existing impacts or to avoid further adverse direct and indirect impacts to Paxton Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback, Paxton Lake Limnetic Threespine Stickleback, Vananda Creek Benthic Threespine Stickleback and/or Vananda Creek Limnetic Threespine Stickleback.

This permit is valid only with activities and species listed herein and for no other purposes. It does not authorize the Permit Holder to collect, buy, sell, trade, damage the residence of, destroy the residence of, destroy part of the critical habitat of an individual of a wildlife species that is listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened, or any part or derivative of such an individual. This permit does not purport to release the Permit Holder from any obligation to obtain permission from or to comply with the requirements of any other regulatory agencies.

Date of Issue: March 31, 2021

Approved by: _____
Erin Gertzen
A/Regional Manager, Species at Risk
Fisheries and Oceans Canada