

# Stakeholder Newsletter

## Lake Koocanusa Monitoring and Research Working Group

### The First Issue of the LKMRWG Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the LKMRWG Stakeholder Newsletter. Each month we will be highlighting different research and activities occurring on and around Lake Koocanusa (LK). This season many different groups will be working on LK and the Kootenai R., including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks, Ministry of Environment, MT Dept. of Environmental Quality, Teck, ID Fish & Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and many more!

The International Kootenai Ecosystem Restoration Team (IKERT) held its annual meeting in Bonners Ferry May 14-15 to discuss the exciting nutrient projects and associated work going on in the River and Reservoir. Jason Gildea (EPA) and Terri Mavencamp (DEQ) were lucky enough to attend this great seminar. This is an exceptional group of researchers doing world-class work! For more information on the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and their restoration program please see <http://www.restoringthekootenai.org/>

### Check out what FWP is doing on LK

Jim Dunnigan (FWP fisheries biologist) and his Libby team is at it again this year, working hard to track long term trends (size, age, species, abundance, etc.) of fish populations in LK. FWP had some help from Mr. Benson's Ecology Class removing fish from the nets set in the Rexford area. Trevor Selch and Lindsey Gilstrap (FWP, Helena) and Terri Mavencamp (DEQ, Helena) joined the crew and collected tissue samples for selenium analysis and stomachs for diet information. What a great team, thank you for your many years of hard work! Check out the story online here <https://www.facebook.com/pg/>

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<http://lakekoocanusaconservation.pbworks.com>

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The All Star FWP Libby  
Fisheries Crew



### ASK FWP

**Hey Jim, Why are Kokanee getting smaller in LK?**

Kokanee length and weight have decreased since they were introduced in the 1980s. If I had to guess, I would say that small kokanee size in recent years is attributable to a combination of intra and interspecific competition for food and lower available nutrients that drive primary productivity. The even bigger question is if we increased available nutrients how large a bump in kokanee size would we see given the current kokanee non-game populations existing in the reservoir?