

Fishing Derbies

Further information on fishing derbies was requested during an in-season call between DFO and First Nations. It was requested that this information be provided at one of the 2018 FORUMs. It is important to note that DFO does not organize or receive any direct benefit from fishing derbies.

What is a fishing derby?

Fishing derbies are organized competitive fishing events. They have defined areas within a water body (ocean, lake or river) and rules that participants must adhere to in order to participate. Fishing occurs within a specific time frame and fishers compete for prizes with the heaviest fish taking top prize. Prizes can vary depending on the size of the event and can range from boasting rights and a hat to all-inclusive fishing trip packages, new vehicles or large cash prizes.

Why are fishing derbies held?

Fishing derbies are usually held as fun, interactive ways to bring fishing or outdoor enthusiasts together to raise money for a specific cause. Many derbies targeting salmon raise funds to support salmon conservation projects such as the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Community Salmon Program and the Salish Sea Marine Survival Program.

Who can organize a fishing derby?

Anyone can organize an event. Organizers do not require any special fishing permits or authorizations from DFO or the Province.

What is required to participate in a fishing derby?

All participants are required to register with the derby organizing body, pay an entry fee and follow the competition rules. To legally fish in the event, all fishers must purchase the appropriate fishing licence and salmon conservation stamps.

- DFO issues recreation fishing licence for tidal waters.
- The Province of BC issues recreational licences for non-tidal waters.

Where and when are fishing derbies held?

Fishing derbies can be held any time and place during the year. Those targeting salmon coordinate events with the timing of the salmon passing through the area.

For further information on specific derbies, please see the attached websites.

Vancouver Chinook Classic: <http://www.pier73marina.com/vancouver-chinook-classic/>

Port Sidney Marina: <https://www.psf.ca/blog/1st-annual-port-sidney-marina-salmon-tournament>

Sidney Anglers Derby: <https://www.sidneyanglers.ca/derby>

This information was requested from participants in the 2017 Forums on Conservation and Harvest Planning and was obtained through a search of the Internet.