
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

July 29, 2005

The Editor
The Daily News

Editor,

In his July 27 letter, Kevin Bonell raised a number of issues related to the Ministry of Environment that demand a response (Downsizing may be behind perch invasion).

While we have almost 1,000 dedicated Ministry staff working to protect the province's environment, over the next three years we will be hiring 50 new conservation officers and park rangers to enhance our ability to protect the environment well into the future.

The presence of yellow perch in some Kamloops-area lakes has little to do with Ministry staffing levels. Instead, it is likely the work of a few irresponsible people moving these non-native fish into lakes intentionally. The public can help stop this illegal activity by watching closely.

I urge the public to report this activity to the Conservation Officer Service Call Centre toll-free number 1-800-663-WILD (9453). By going through a centralized call centre, we are able to ensure the most appropriate and efficient response by Ministry staff – including conservation officers – to any environmental situation.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment