



SPORT FISHING INSTITUTE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S TIDAL / SALTWATER FISHING APP

World Recreational Fisheries Conference
February 20, 2023
14:50 Room F

TIDAL WATERS RECREATIONAL FISHERY

British Columbia, Canada

- Coastline over 25,000 km
- 300,000 tidal water licences/year
- Approximately 2 million angler days/year in tidal and freshwater combined
- BC tidal sport fishing comprised of independent anglers and service providers: lodges and charter guides
- Approximately \$1 billion annually to British Columbia economy

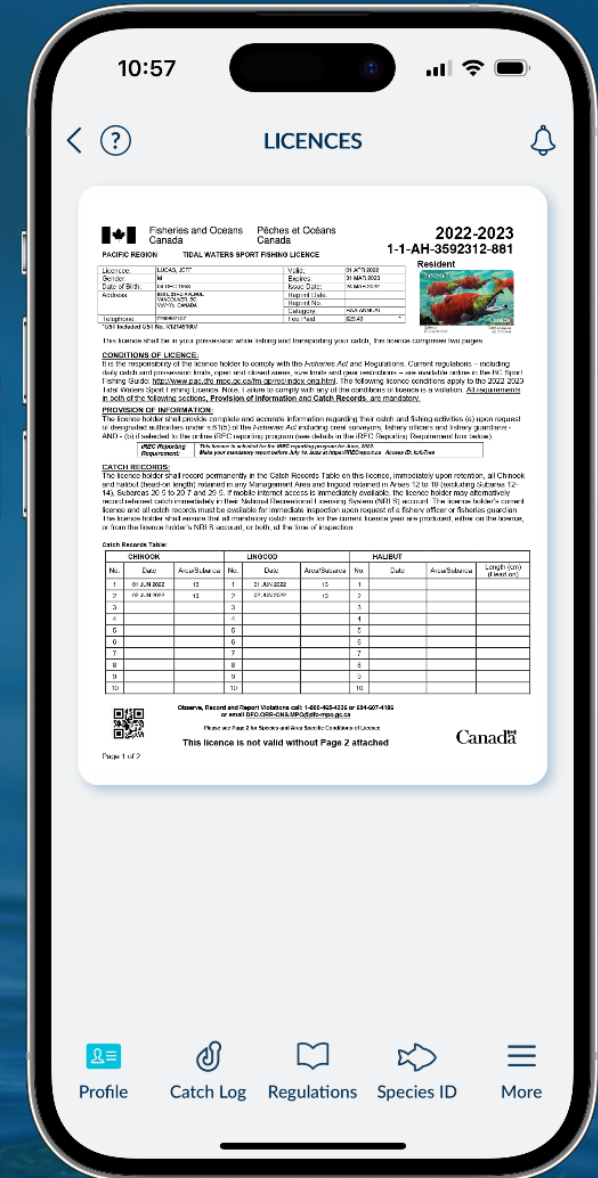


BC's Tidal Water Recreational Fishery

- A long coastline, varied fisheries and participants. Mixed stocks and year-round access.
- Traditionally monitored by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

Fishing BC app development from 2014

- Corresponding with digital licencing in Canada.
- Partnership and collaboration between Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Pacific Salmon Foundation.
- A recognized need for other sources of catch data. Creel in a specific area and for fin fish fisheries.
- Communication gaps – government mandate to cease printing.



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FISHING BC APP Communication and Catch Monitoring



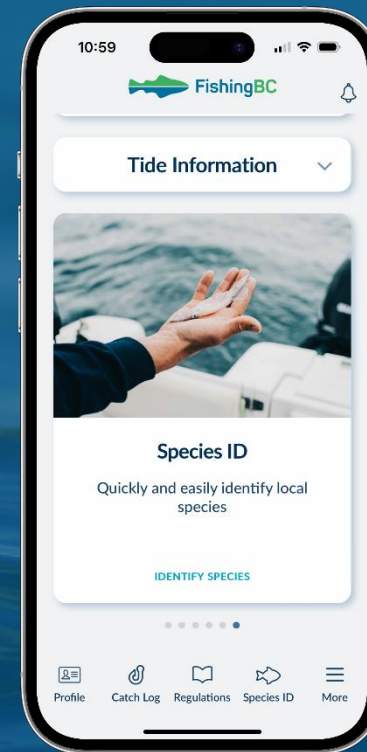
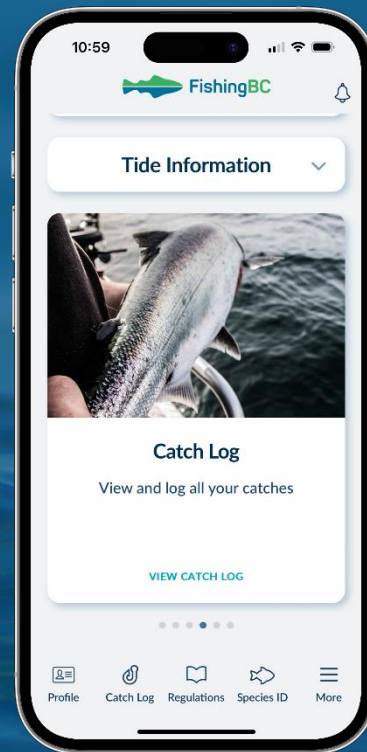
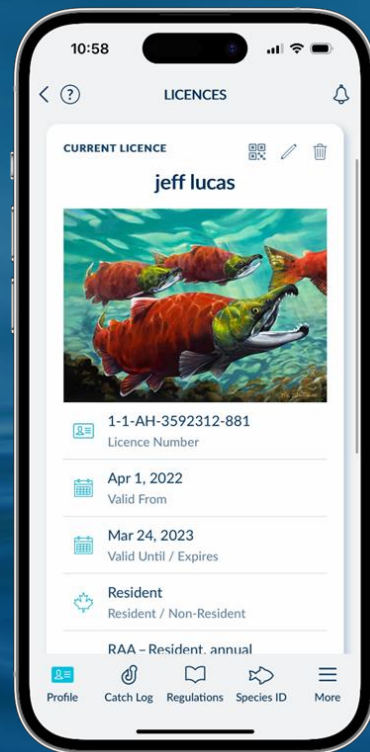
OBJECTIVES

- Build awareness and improve communication.
- Generate reliable estimates of catch from all recreational fisheries.
- Protect and enhance sustainable practices, opportunities and harvest.
- Provide a reliable source of regulations previously displayed at wharfs or tackle shops but now can change by the day.
- Provide opportunities for evolving fisheries by real time in season reporting capabilities.
- Evolving and mix stock fisheries make it important to develop a coastwide and standardized approach.
- Boat based vs. licence-based assessment.

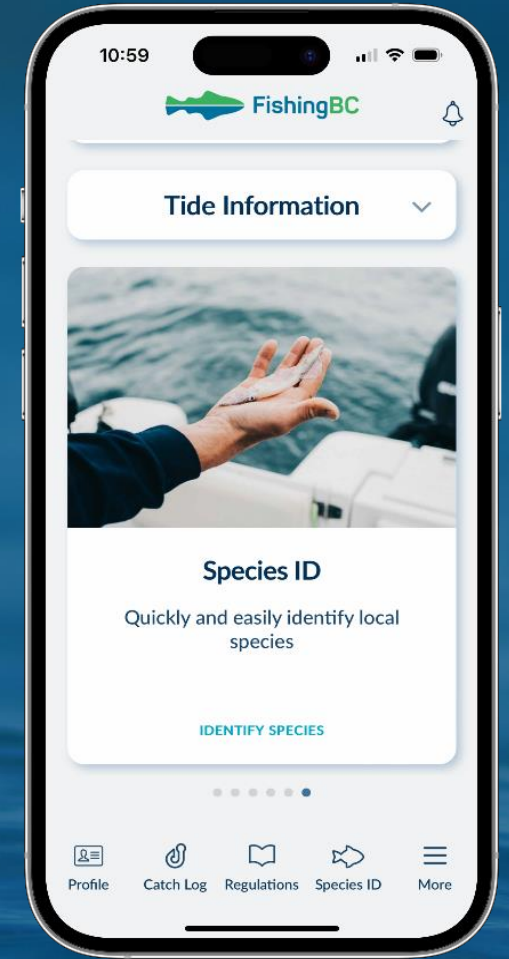
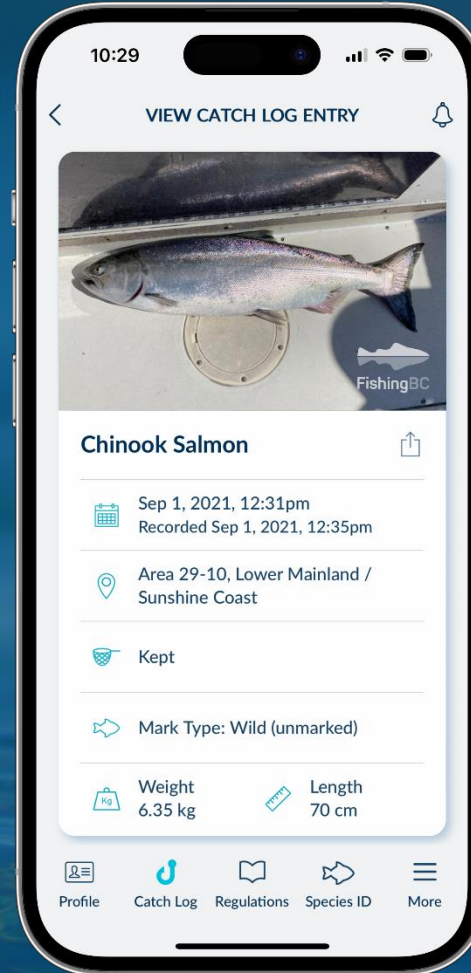
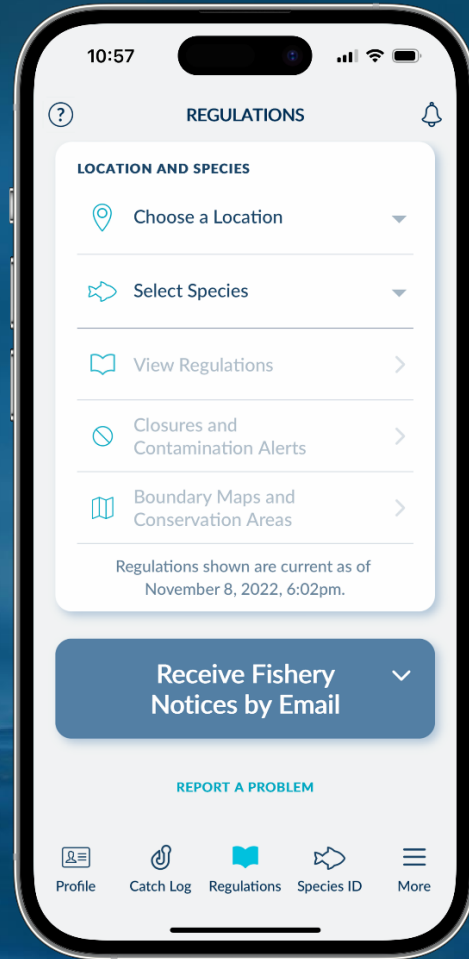
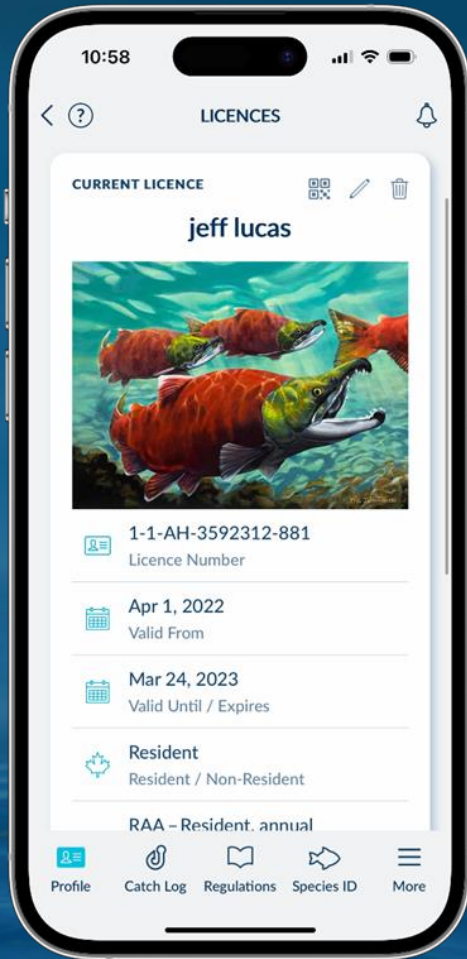


FUNCTIONALITY

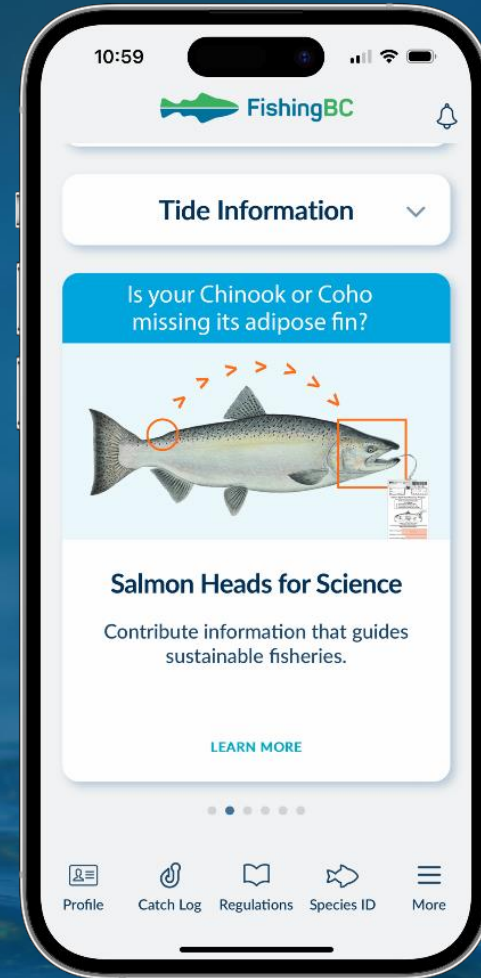
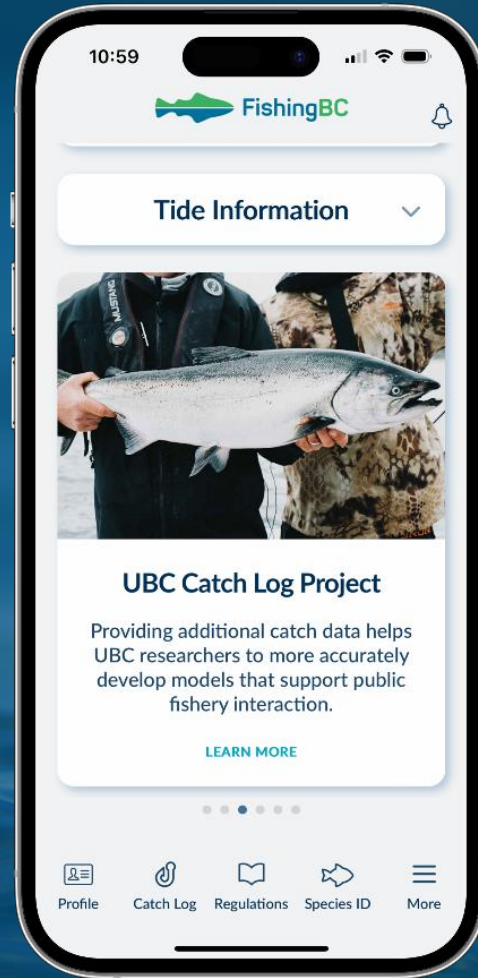
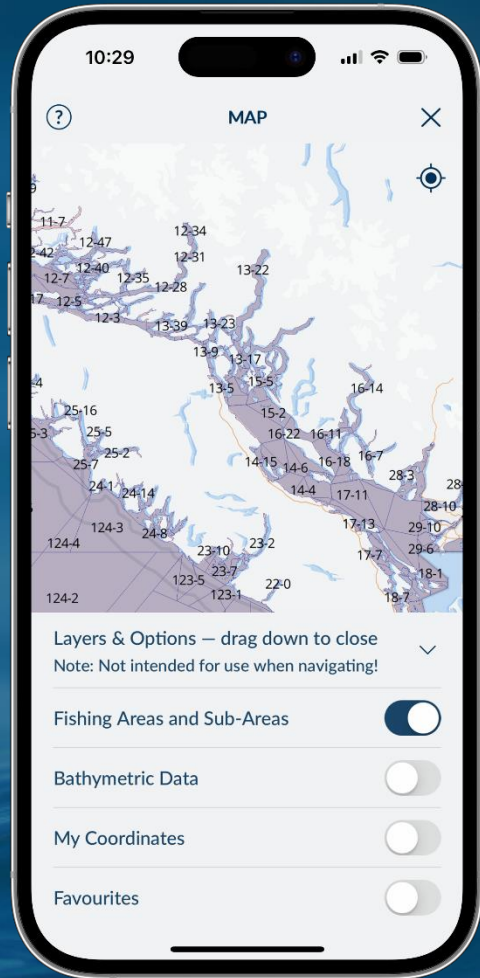
- Free and easy to use
- Integrated with DFO – conservation stamps and mandatory catch reporting
- Connectivity considered for areas without data access.



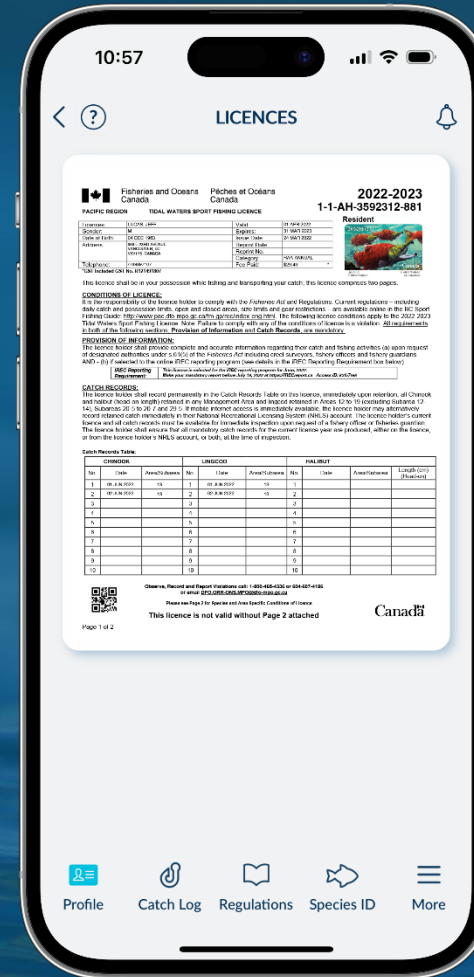
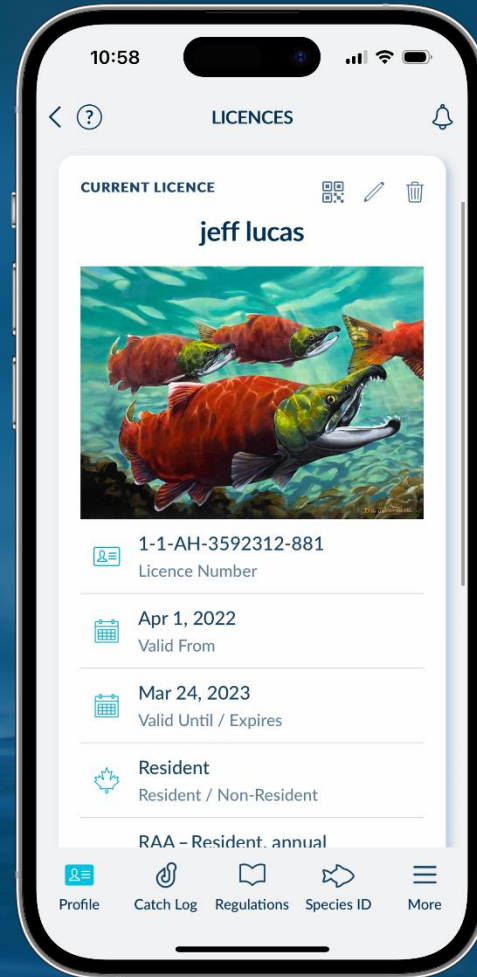
COMPONENTS



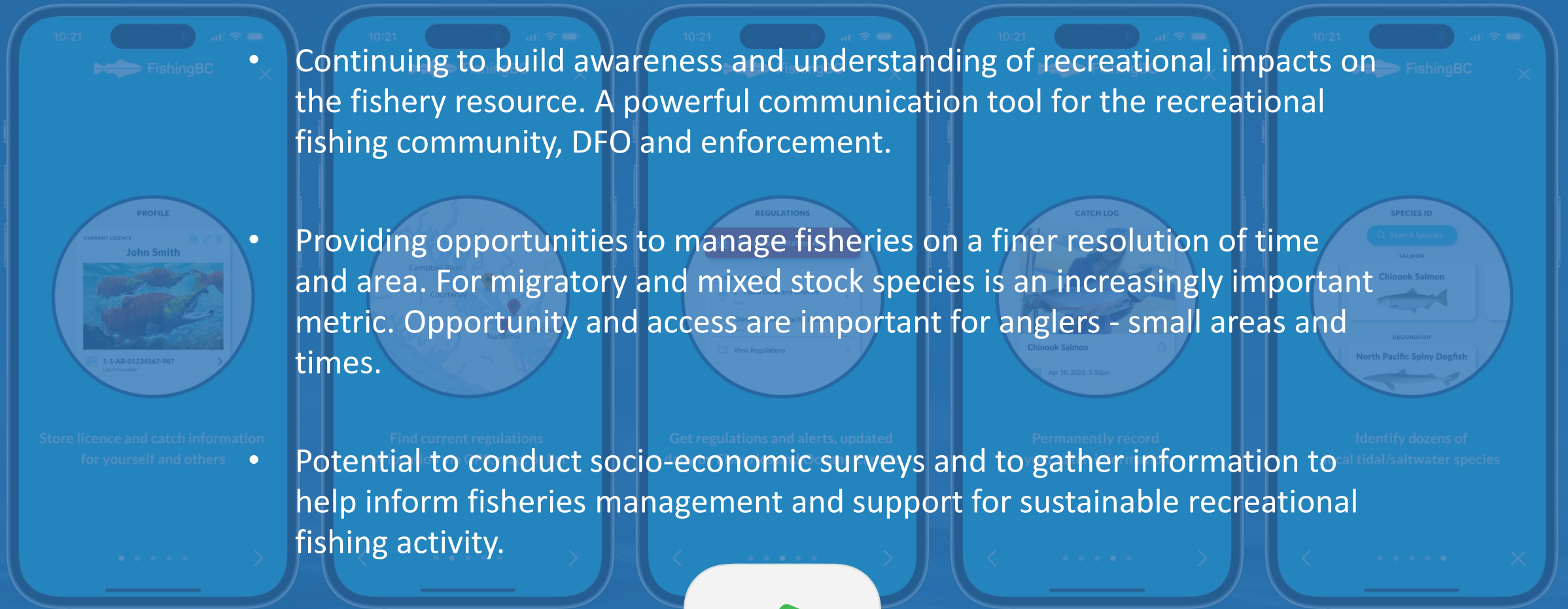
ADVANCES



CHALLENGES AND ENHANCEMENTS



THE FISHING BC APP SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



- Continuing to build awareness and understanding of recreational impacts on the fishery resource. A powerful communication tool for the recreational fishing community, DFO and enforcement.
- Providing opportunities to manage fisheries on a finer resolution of time and area. For migratory and mixed stock species is an increasingly important metric. Opportunity and access are important for anglers - small areas and times.
- Potential to conduct socio-economic surveys and to gather information to help inform fisheries management and support for sustainable recreational fishing activity.





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Thank You!