

List of Areas of Practice

October 3, 2023

Introduction

As the regulator of applied biology professionals in British Columbia, the College of Applied Biologists is required to maintain a public registry of its registrants which include registrants' areas of practice within the practice of applied biology.

What is the practice of applied biology?

The [Applied Biologists Regulation](#) includes key definitions for the profession of applied biology, including definition of the practice of applied biology in section 1(1) of the regulation.

1 (1) **“practice of applied biology”** means the provision of

- (a) advice or services that
 - (i) are based on biological sciences, and
 - (ii) relate to aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems or the living organisms, habitats or processes of those ecosystems, or
- (b) advice or services that are ancillary to those described in paragraph (a)

What is an area of practice?

An area of practice is a distinct area or aspect of the practice of applied biology.

What's included in an area of practice?

An area of practice includes all advice, services, or activities that may be carried out within, or in support of, the area of practice including the following:

- data collection (e.g., survey, inventory, or monitoring) and management,
- analysis or interpretation of information or data,
- providing advice or recommendations,
- mapping and classification,
- planning,
- engagement, collaboration, co-management, and consultation activities,
- assessment of impacts on individuals, populations, habitats, or ecosystems,
- assessment of risk,
- development or implementation of mitigation, restoration, enhancement, or remediation,
- writing and developing plans, designs, or prescriptions,
- population and harvest management,
- applying for or issuing permits or authorizations,
- monitoring for effectiveness or compliance,



- regulatory compliance activities,
- developing policy, standards, guidelines, and best practices,
- writing or reviewing reports, articles, or books,
- developing or delivering education or training, and
- ancillary activities that support work within the area of practice.

What are ancillary activities?

Ancillary activities provide necessary support to the primary activities within the practice of applied biology. Ancillary activities are not based on biological sciences but when completed by a registered applied biology professional in support of applied biology work are part of the practice of applied biology. These include activities required for supervision of individuals or management of teams, programs or projects related to the practice of applied biology such as human resource management (e.g., recruiting, hiring, and supervising employees), financial management (e.g., creating business plans, budget management, risk management, and developing or implementing procedures), and project or program management (e.g., planning, controlling, and monitoring).

Self-declaring area of practice

During annual renewal of registration, registrants self-declare the specific area(s) of practice in which they are competent to practice and offer advice and services. These are published on the register and are not verified by the College of Applied Biologists, so it is the responsibility of registrants to ensure that their self-declared area(s) of practice is accurate and up to date.

How many areas of practice may be self-declared?

A registrant may self-declare in as many areas of practice in which they are competent to offer advice or services.



List of Areas of Practice

Area of Practice	Definition
Botany	The scientific study of plants including flowering plants, conifers, ferns, bryophytes, and algae, or application of this science to the management of wild species.
Zoology	The scientific study of animals including mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates or application of this science to the management of wild species.
Mycology	The scientific study of fungi and lichens, or application of this science to the management of wild species.
Ecology	The scientific study of the distribution, abundance and relationships between organisms and their interactions with the environment and ecosystem, or application of this science to the management of wild species.
Biochemistry	The scientific study of chemical processes within and relating to living organisms or application of this science to the management of wild species.
Microbiology	The scientific study of microscopic organisms including bacteria, viruses, archaea, fungi, and protozoa, or application of this science to the management of wild species.
Genetics	The scientific study of genes, genetic variation, and heredity in organisms or application of this science to the management of wild species.
Toxicology	The scientific study of adverse effects of toxins on living organisms or the application of this science to the management of wild species.
Wildlife management	Management of interactions between wildlife, their habitats, and people to limit impacts to predefined levels, maintain wildlife population objectives, and produce sustainable biological, environmental, and socioeconomic benefits.
Fisheries management	Management of interactions between wild fish, their habitats, and people to limit impacts to predefined levels, maintain fish population objectives, and produce sustainable biological, environmental, and socioeconomic benefits.
Species at risk management	Management of interactions between wild species, their habitats, and people to protect species at risk, prevent species from being extirpated or becoming extinct, and provide for the recovery of species at risk.
Environmental management	Management of the processes and practices of an organization or project to reduce adverse impacts on wild species and their habitats and ecosystems.
Contaminated sites management	Management of contaminated sites including identifying sites that are or may be contaminated, investigating contaminated sites, remediation planning, and implementing remediation of contaminated sites.
Environmental or impact assessment	A planning and decision-making process to identify, predict and evaluate the potential effects of proposed projects or undertakings.
Habitat or ecosystem restoration and enhancement	Altering the physical, chemical, or biological characters of a site or landscape to restore or enhance the natural functions that support life cycle requirements of wild species.
Invasive species management	Activities to prevent the introduction or control spread of, remove, and mitigate adverse effects of invasive species on wild species and their habitats.
Regulatory compliance	Monitoring, inspection, and collection of information to determine compliance with laws and regulations related to the management of wild species populations, their habitats, and ecosystems.
Policy and legislation development	Contributing to the development of policies and legislation related to the management of wild species populations, their habitats, and ecosystems.
Education and training	Providing education or training services related to the management of wild species populations, their habitats, and ecosystems.