Proposal for Regulation Change:
Guidelines for Information Requirements
Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee

Date: JAN. 19 2010
To: Fisheries Section, Skeena Region
Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC
From: GENE ALLEN

Instructions for Proposal Submission:
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- Deadline for submission of proposals for the 2010 SFAC meeting is January 30, 2010.
- Proposal submissions may be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Fisheries Section, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment, Smithers.

Proprietary Contact Information:
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Mailing Address: SITE L COMPL. HAZELTON V0J 1Y0
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Ministry of Environment
Skeena Region
Mailing Address:
3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers BC
VOJ 2N0
Location Address:
3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers BC
Telephone: 250-847-7720
Facsimile: 250-847-7720
**Location:** Please provide specific details of the water body. In cases where only portions of water bodies are of interest, use known landmarks, tributary confluences, or measured distances from landmarks as descriptors.

**KISPOX RIVER.**

**Existing Regulation(s):**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 1, 2021</td>
<td>Dec 31st</td>
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**Artificial or natural**

**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g., increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Enderby/Skeena River confluence).

**FLY FISHING ONLY DURING CLASSIFIED PERIOD Sept 15th - Oct 31st**

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement on: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g., conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety, billet); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

Plastic scented worms are killing a lot of steelhead while float fishing. One angler from Washington told my brother and me that you should be able to take the dead steelhead home. In 3 weeks, he said he released close to twenty that were dead. He was catching up to 15 steelhead a day. Very effective. This is a catch & release fishery on a special river lets take care of the fish. Mortality is there on any released fish but is far greater with plastic worms.

**Signature:** [Signature]

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Date: ___________________________  # of pages ___________________________
To: Fisheries Section, Skeena Region  Ministry  Fax # 250-847-7728
Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC  Ministry  Phone # 250-847-7260
From: Rob Brown  Phone # 250-635-9351
Fax # ___________________________

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Proponent Contact Information:
Name: Robert Brown
Mailing Address: 4603 Munthe Ave. Terrace B.C. V8G 2H5
Affiliation: Steelhead Society of B.C. Northern Branch
Day-Time Phone: 250-635-9351  Email: angler1@telus.net
**Location:** Please provide specific details on the water body. In cases where only portions of water bodies are of interest, use known landmarks, tributary confluences or measured distances from landmarks as descriptors.

- Zymoetz River □

**Existing Regulation(s):**

p. 59 (Regional Daily Catch Quotas & p. 63 Regulation Synopsis).

**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

Catch and release for bull trout, Dolly Varden char year round.

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety, other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

Save for that gathered during the last creel survey done on the Zymoetz, which was conducted during a period of time when very few char are in the river, there is no formally gathered data on the status of these species. That being so, anecdotal data from fishermen who frequent the river is the best data available. A few of our members fit this definition. Our experience indicates that char appear in the lower river late in the Fall and that they are most abundant over the winter and in March and April. The fish crowd into a few tail outs and pools below the lower canyon. These few spots are easily accessed from both sides of the river. The fact that the flows are at their lowest and the river is clear increases their vulnerability. Because of these factors, a few fishermen have exerted a large toll on Zymoetz char. In the 1980s we regularly encountered fishermen who took literally dozens of fish home on a regular basis. In recent years catches have declined markedly. It is not unusual to fish all day without hooking a Dolly or bull trout. Since the MOE operates according to the precautionary principle, we suggest that this anecdotal evidence indicates that a catch and release regulation offers much needed protection for Zymoetz char while providing a method to monitor their population abundance.

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Entire Skeena Drainage ☑️

**Existing Regulation(s):**

See Synopsis

**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

Institute a new regulation that makes it illegal to remove a fish from the water before releasing it.

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety, other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

More emphasis on how to release fish is needed in the regulations. Steelhead Society members continue to see anglers releasing fish in a ways that harm them. There is widespread ignorance of the least invasive ways of handling fish. Much more emphasis should be brought to this problem by using the middle section of the sport fishing regulation synopsis. For example, two full pages of pictures demonstrating how to release fish with the least possible harm would greatly help in this regard. ☐ The education needs to be followed up with a regulation that makes it illegal to release a fish by completely removing it from the water. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has such a regulation. Conservation Officers would benefit from the institution of same.

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Location: Please provide specific details on the water body. In cases where only portions of water bodies are of interest, use known landmarks, tributary confluences or measured distances from landmarks as descriptors.

Lakelse Watershed

Existing Regulation(s):

p. 59 (Regional Daily Catch Quotas & p. 61 Regulation Synopsis).

Proposal: Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

Catch and release for Cutthroat trout, bull trout, Dolly Varden char and Rocky Mountain whitefish year round.

Rationale: Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety; other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

This may seem a surprising proposal for a river that hosts such diverse and abundant stocks of fish, and has been one of the most consistent producers of trout and char in Skeena Region, but last season veteran anglers, the majority of whom have fished the river for over a quarter of century, are better anglers now than they were in the past, and have the benefit of better access than they have ever had, reported dismal catches of trout, char and whitefish during a year of abundant pink and coho returns, a time when the fishery for trout, char and whitefish is usually superb. We know that the abundance of these species seems to be linked to the strength salmon returns. The returns of pinks for the last two years has been dismal by Lakelse standards. The sockeye run is almost critically depressed and has been for some time. These factors may in large part explain last year's crash in the trout char fishery. One thing is clear: char, trout, whitefish, and rainbows could be in crisis indicating that they deserve increased protection. Note that we are calling for catch and release in the entire watershed. We argue that it is illogical to protect the river and stream stocks and still allow five fish to be killed in the lake, where, during the winter in particular, they are extremely vulnerable.

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Kitimat River  

**Existing Regulation(s):**

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**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence):

Catch and release for bull trout, Dolly Varden char, rainbow trout year round.

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety, other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

Rationale: The sections of the rationale arguing for a catch and release regulation for char on the Zymoetz river dealing with a scarcity of data and the importance of anecdotal data from veteran anglers applies here as well. It is well known (here we can reference the work done by Diony deLeeuw, RPBio on this system) that, like the Zymoetz, there are surprisingly few overwintering spots for Kitimat trout and Char. Access to these spots is relatively good and the number of angling days has increased thanks to generally milder winters. The best evidence indicates that these stocks are in steady decline. Again we cite the precautionary principle and suggest that catch and release will maintain a fishing opportunity while providing a way to monitor the efficacy of that regulatory change.

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Kitsumkalum River

**Existing Regulation(s):**

- Bait ban January 1 to March 15.
- No guiding October 31 to March 15, Class 11 Water
- All year, Steelhead Stamp mandatory Dec. 1 to May 31.

**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

The bait ban should be extended until June 30. Artificial lures would to be mandatory for the entire watershed from January 1 to June 30.

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety, other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

While it was a step in the right direction the current bait ban does not cover the part of year when summer and late winter, or spring, steelhead congregate in the lower Kalum to spawn. Thus, the fish are vulnerable at the most critical time. The imposition of the current bait ban was widely criticized because knowledgeable anglers knew that it would not provide this protection and others felt that it was crafted to suit the guides. Extending the period of prohibition would eliminate both those notions.

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Skeena River ❑

**Existing Regulation(s):**

- Bait ban January 1 to March 15.
- No guiding October 31 to March 15, Class 11 Water all year, Steelhead Stamp mandatory Dec. 1 to May 31.

**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Nechamsucks/Skeena river confluence).

- A no angling restriction be in place in that section of the Kalum river where it meets Deep Creek for a distance of 100 meters upstream of Deep creek and 200 meters or so downstream on the east side of the river from April 1 to May 31.

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety, other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

There is large and growing fishery for late winter, or spring, steelhead in the lower Kitsumkalum River that targets those fish and early run Spring salmon. A significant number of steelhead bound for the lower river's most important spawning tributary stream, Deep Creek, hold in the run directly below it. The run has filled in considerably in the last few year making those fish extremely vulnerable. This regulation would afford them a measure of protection.

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Skeena Zymoetz, Bulkley, Kitwanga river confluences.

Existing Regulation(s):

A steelhead stamp is required 1.5 km. upstream of the Zymoetz through out Skeena 4 from July 1 to October 31. No other Skeena regulations are in place.

Proposal: Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

Bait ban. Bulkley River: Declare an area 100 meters upstream of the confluence with the Skeena and 200 meters below that includes all of the gravel bar downstream of the confluence as an area where bait is not allowed as a lure from Aug.1 to Jan.1. Kitwanga River: bait ban August 1 to January 1 100 metres up and downstream of the river mouth. Zymoetz River: bait ban August 1 to January 1 100 metres up and 200 downstream of the river mouth.

Rationale: Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety; other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

This proposal is intended to be consistent with the bait bans in the three target rivers. All three confluence areas receive heavy angling pressure during the period when steelhead are holding in the Skeena prior to moving into their home streams. The problem is acute late in the Fall until the closure at the end of January.

The Anderson Flats coho fishery is problematic. Anglers using bait there claim to be fishing for coho. There is no need to use bait to catch coho when it universally accepted that lures and jigs work as well or better for them. As long as they use bait, the Anderson Flats anglers will hook more steelhead. For and intents and purposes, they may as well be targeting them. As we all know more bleeders and higher mortality and injuries as a function of more hookups are a direct result of bait use.

There have been a few reports of similar problems at the mouth of the Kitwanga River. Potentially this could become a larger problem. It should be nipped in the bud.

The Zymoetz confluence is similar to the Bulkley. The angling pressure is very intense from July until mid-September. Many anglers camp out at the water's edge. The possibility of steelhead being killed and hidden has been confirmed by the roadside checks of Fisheries officer. There should be a bait ban at this location where steelhead are very vulnerable to excessive angling pressure and motorized vehicles should be prevented from driving onto the gravel bar. There is ample room for parking along the entrance road. Moreover, consideration should be given to boat owners to launch their river boats and take out drift boats at a designated location along the bar.

Bulkley - There is a concern over catching Bulkley/Moricre river steelhead in higher numbers than is desirable and by methods as described that are not desirable or ethical where catch and release is used as an angling method. The proposal is to declare an area 100 meters or so upstream of the confluence and 200 meters more or less that includes all of the gravel bar downstream of the confluence as an area where bait is not allowed as a lure from Aug.1 to Jan.1. Katanga - The proposal is for a bait ban off the river mouth for a distance of 100 meters upstream and downstream from Aug. 1 to Jan. 1. Zymoetz/Copper - The proposal is to ban the use bait from July 15 to Jan.1 from a point about 100 m upstream of the confluence to a point about 200 meters or as far as the bar extends downstream.

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Skeena River

**Existing Regulation(s):**

See Synopsis

**Proposal:** Include a concise and accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g., increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

**Bait Ban**

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g., conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety; other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

**Rationale:**

Rather than debating where and when bait should be allowed on the Skeena River, we propose to simplify the regulations and the management of fisheries while simultaneously simplifying enforcement through the prohibition of bait from August 7th to July 1st of the following year. Steelhead are found in the Skeena river from mid July until freshet of the following year. In fact it can be argued that steelhead are in the system year round. Ideally we would like to see a bait ban year round but since DFO has jurisdiction over Chinook salmon, and they continue to allow the use bait for those fish, we will avoid that fight for now by confining the call for a bait ban to the period indicated above. Still, we believe that MOE should broach the subject of a bait restriction during the chinook season too. All species of Skeena fish can be caught without using bait. Bait smells making it ethically fishy. Bait, be it roe, shrimp, worms, or maggots, attracts more fish than artificial baits do because it has an odour. When a fisherman fishes with bait, he is chumming. If a fisherman tossed live bait into a lake or stream prior to fishing the same area with, say, a spoon or a fly, he would be breaking the law. Yet bait fishing sportsmen are essentially doing the same thing without sanction. Therefore, It can be persuasively argued, that bait use is unethical. The majority of Skeena anglers use artificial lures. It is far easier to release fish hooked with lures. Fewer fish are injured when using them. As any skilled float fisherman or bottom bouncer will tell you, to avoid the lethal hookups that result of rapid ingestion, the use of bait requires more vigilance and quicker reactions than any other form of fishing. On the other hand, bar fishing with a rod holder and a set line by its very nature is conducive to less focused angling and requires less vigilance than any other form of angling. Consequently, when a bar fisher uses bait the result is deadly for fish of all sizes. If, through legislation, bait could be available to skilled fishermen only things wouldn’t be so bad. Unfortunately such restrictions are impossible. Back trolley with gobs of salmon roe, crudely called "gut bombing" by the American Fisherman who introduced it to Skeena, is the most effective and the most reprehensible form of fishing in freshwater. The end result of this practice is that the giant chinook intent on spawning in the part of the river in which they are hooked are deeply impaled, played to the point of exhaustion, then released with large hooks still embedded deep in their throat or their gut. Unbelievably, this disgusting form of fish abuse is still tolerated by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and still used by guides and tourist fisherman. The bait ban we are proposing would be a first step in bringing an end to it. The use of bait is a relic of a bygone (and demonstrably unenlightened) era of
recreational fishing when there were more fish and fewer fishermen. We must embrace the true meaning of conservation and adopt this regulation. Doing so will benefit all species of Skeena fish while ensuring the continuance of a quality fishery in our home waters.

| Signature: | Date: 01/29/10 |
Proposal for Regulation Change:
Guidelines for Information Requirements
Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee

Date: January 28, 2011

To: Fisheries Section, Skeena Region
Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC

From: Dustin Kovacvich Chairman SAGA

# of pages
Ministry
Fax # 250-347-7728
Ministry
Phone # 250-847-7260

Phone # 250-635-5295
Fax # 250-635-7971

Instructions for Proposal Submission:

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- Deadline for submission of proposals for the 2011 SFAC meeting is one month prior to the meeting date: January 30, 2011.
- Proposal submissions may be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Fisheries Section, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment, Smithers.

Proponent Contact Information:

Name: Dustin Kovacvich
Mailing Address: PO Box 434 Terrace BC V8G 4B1
Affiliation: Skeena Angling Guide Association
Day-Time Phone: 250-635-4577 Email: dustinko@nicholasdean.com
**Location:** Please provide specific details on the water body. In cases where only portions of water bodies are of interest, use known landmarks, tributary confluences or measured distances from landmarks as descriptors.

Zymoetz River Watershed

**Existing Regulation(s):**

- Closed all year from McDonell Lake downstream 3 km to signs
- Closed all year between signs in Zymoetz Canyon
- No fishing above the sign at the transmission line crossing (below Zymoetz Canyon), Jan 1-June 15
- Bull ban
- Above Limonito Creek: Class I water Sept 1-Oct 31 and Steelhead Stamp mandatory Sept 1-Oct 31
- Below Limonito Creek: Class II water Sept 1-Oct 31 and Steelhead Stamp mandatory Sept 1-Oct 31

**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g., increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

Trout and Char Catch and Release Only on the entire Zymoetz River including tributaries

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g., conservation, increase opportunity; simplify regulations, public safety; other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

Conservation

This regulation is needed to help stop the decline of Bull Trout in Zymoetz River. The Bull Trout population on the Zymoetz seems to be in serious decline. When personal fishing and guiding I have noticed a marked reduction in the size and number of Bull Trout encountered throughout the entire watershed. All of the other guides and local anglers I know have a similar opinion on the Bull Trout population in the Zymoetz. This regulation would reduce the mortality of Bull Trout from Angling. It would also help protect the small population of Coastal Cutthroat and Resident Rainbow Trout present in the Zymoetz River.

---

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Kitsumkalum River including tributaries

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Bait ban Jan 1-Mar 15

**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g., increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

Bait Ban Nov 1 to Jul 1

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g., conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety; other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

Conservation

To offer better protection from catch and release mortality for holding and spawning summer run Steelhead, and Steelhead fry and smolts. The use of bait can greatly increase angling success leading to many more incidents of catch and release. This increases the potential for mortality due to more encounters per angler effort. Bait angling also can have a higher incident of deep hooking which leads to higher mortality. Juvenile steelhead can be particularly heavily impacted by the use of bait when anglers are targeting trout and char as well. Putting a bait ban in place should have a positive effect on reducing mortality for holding, spawning, and juvenile Steelhead. Leading to a larger and healthier Steelhead catch and release fishery on the Kalum River. The dates take into account the majority of the Chinook and Coho retention fisheries held from July 1 to October 31 and allow anglers the opportunity to use bait when looking to harvest salmon. This regulation is easy to implement, enforce, understand, and is low in cost as well. The majority of other summer run steelhead streams in the Skeena Region have bait bans to protect summer run steelhead and it seems only logical to extend this to the Kalum River.

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Mailing Address: PO Box 434 Terrace BC V8G 4B1

Affiliation: Skeena Angling Guide Association

Day-Time Phone: 250-635-4577 Email: dustinko@nicholasdean.com

Ministry of Environment
Skeena Region
Mailing Address:
Bag 9000
3726 Alfred Ave.
Smithers BC V0J 2N0

Location Address:
3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers BC
Telephone: 250 847-7260
Facsimile: 250 847-7728
**Location:** Please provide specific details on the water body. In cases where only portions of water bodies are of interest, use known landmarks, tributary confluences or measured distances from landmarks as descriptors.

Skeena Region 6 all streams

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Region 6
NO FISHING: in any stream in the watersheds of the Skeena River above Cedarvale or Nass River above Kleault Bridge, Jan. 1 to June 15
(NOTE: Nass River mainstem is EXEMPT and Skeena River mainstem above Cedarvale is only closed Jan. 1 to May 31). See tables for other exceptions.
NO FISHING: in any stream in the Iskut River watershed (upstream of Forest Kerr Canyon), April 1 to June 30; and in the Fraser River watershed in Region 6, April 1 to June 30.

Lakeelse River
Cutthroat trout release above CNR bridge, Mar 1-Apr 30

Region 1
And you must release:
Cutthroat Trout from streams,
Oct. 1 to May 31

Region 2
And you must release:
• Wild trout/char from streams

**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

Catch and Release Only for Wild Coastal Cutthroat Trout Mar 1 to May 31 in all streams in the Skeena Region 6 (dates could be change for biological reasons)

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety, other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

**Conservation**
To protect spawning Coastal Cutthroat Trout while still allowing the harvest of hatchery Coastal Cutthroat Trout (e.g. Kitimat River) during the spring time. To keep anglers from over harvesting wild spawning cutthroat while they are vulnerable in the spawning streams. Should help increase recruitment of juvenile cutthroat trout for improved fishing success and help maintain and protect valuable brood stock. Regulation would be easily implemented, low in cost, simple to understand, and easily enforced. Similar if not much stricter regulations are in place in most of the rest of the province to protect spawning trout in the spring.

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Affiliation: Skeena Angling Guide Association
Day-Time Phone: 250-635-4577   Email: dustinko@nicholasdean.com
**Location:** Please provide specific details on the water body. In cases where only portions of water bodies are of interest, use known landmarks, tributary confluences or measured distances from landmarks as descriptors.

All Streams of Skeena Region 6

**Existing Regulation(s): Applicable**

Region 6
Trout/char: 5, but not more than
- 1 over 50 cm
  (Includes Kitimat hatchery steelhead)
- 2 from streams
- 3 Dolly Varden/bull trout and lake trout combined
And you must release:
- Trout/char under 30 cm from any stream

Region 1
And you must release:
All Dolly Varden

Region 2
And you must release:
- Wild trout/char from streams

Region 3
And you must release:
- Bull trout (Dolly Varden) from streams, Aug. 1 to Oct. 31

Region 4
Most Streams with spawning Bull Trout are closed during spawning period or Catch and Release Only

Region 5
Many Streams with spawning Bull Trout are closed during spawning period or Catch and Release Only

Region 7A
And you must release:
Bull trout (Dolly Varden):
from streams, all year
from lakes, Aug. 15 to Oct. 15

Region 7B
NOTE: Bull trout may only be retained from Oct. 16 to Aug. 14. These fish may only be from the Liard River watershed (or other specified waters) and only 30-50 cm in length. See below.
And you must release:
Bull trout from the Liard River watershed Aug. 15 to Oct. 15, and from the Peace River watershed all year (See tables for exceptions)

Region 8
And you must release:
Bull trout (Dolly Varden) from streams
**Proposal:** Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g., increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of Exchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).

Bull Trout and Dolly Varden Catch and Release Only Aug 15 to Oct 31 in all Streams of Region 6

**Rationale:** Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g., conservation, increase opportunity, simplify regulations, public safety, other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

Conservation
To offer protection to highly vulnerable spawning char from predation by angling in Region 6. Bull Trout and Dolly Varden are long lived species that benefit from having good large brood stock bases. The reduction in harvest of spawning adults could lead to better overall health of the stocks. They can be particularly vulnerable when in small spawning streams to predation by anglers. These dates could be changed if biological data supports different spawning periods in the Skeena Region. Similar regulations are already in place in most of the rest of the province and it would seem only reasonable to offer Skeena Region Bull Trout and Dolly Varden similar protection. This regulation is easy to implement, low in cost, and simple to enforce. It does not remove the opportunity to angle but does limit the ability to harvest. Although harvesting ripe or post spawn fish for the table is questionable since eating quality is usually very poor.

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**Location:** Please provide specific details on the water body. In cases where only portions of water bodies are of interest, use known landmarks, tributary confluences, or measured distances from landmarks as descriptors.

Skeena Region 6 Streams found in the Nass, Skeena, and Kitimat Watersheds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Regulation(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout/char: 5, but not more than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 over 50 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 from streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3 Dolly Varden/bull trout and lake trout combined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And you must release:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trout/char under 30 cm from any stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And you must release:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Dolly Varden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And you must release:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wild trout/char from streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout/char: 5, but not more than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 4 from streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 over 50 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 bull trout (Dolly Varden) or lake trout.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None under 60 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And you must release:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bull trout (Dolly Varden) from streams, Aug. 1 to Oct. 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout/char: 5, but not more than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 rainbow trout or cutthroat trout over 50 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 from streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 bull trout (Dolly Varden) of any size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout/char: 5, but not more than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 over 50 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 from streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 Dolly Varden/bull trout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 lake trout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 7A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout/char: 5, but not more than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 over 50 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 from streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 lake trout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bull trout (Dolly Varden)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTE: Bull trout (Dolly Varden) may only be retained Oct. 16 to Aug. 14. These fish may only be taken from lakes and only 30 - 50 cm in length. See below. And you must release: Bull trout (Dolly Varden): from streams, all year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Region 7B
Trout/char: 5, but not more than
1 over 50 cm
2 from streams
1 bull trout
NOTE: Bull trout may only be retained
from Oct. 16 to Aug. 14. These fish may
only be from the Liard River watershed
(or other specified waters) and only 30-
50 cm in length. See below.
And you must release:
Bull trout from the Liard River
watershed Aug. 15 to Oct. 15, and
from the Peace River watershed all
year (See tables for exceptions)
Region 8
And you must release:
Bull trout (Dolly Varden) from streams

Proposal: Include a concise & accurate description of the proposed regulation (e.g. increase daily possession limit for cutthroat trout from 2/day to 4/day on Skeena River downstream of EXchamsiks/Skeena rivers confluence).
Bull Trout and Dolly Varden Limit Reduced to 1 per day between 30cm to 50cm in all streams of Region 6 or at a minimum in the Nass, Skeena, and Kitimat Watersheds

Rationale: Provide a descriptive statement for: 1) the objective(s) for the new regulation (e.g. conservation, increase opportunity; simplify regulations; public safety; other); 2) why the regulation is necessary; 3) why and/or how the regulation would be effective at reaching objective; 4) expected outcomes of the new regulation; 5) provide reference to biological studies or supporting literature where appropriate. Add an additional sheet if necessary.

Conservation
To help protect juvenile and brood stock adult Bull Trout and Dolly Varden. Bull Trout and Dolly Varden are slow growing long lived, relatively low fecundity species that are highly vulnerable to over predation by anglers. Bull Trout and Dolly Varden have an aggressive nature which leaves them prone to easy over harvest by angling. This regulation would allow the larger Bull Trout and Dolly Varden to remain in the population to act as brood stock to help keep long term viability in the population and fishery. The allowing of the harvest of 1 fish between 30cm to 50cm still allows for the "cherished opportunity to harvest by resident anglers" while allowing for reasonable conservation. This proposed regulation is low cost; easy to implement, easy to understand and easy to enforce. There are similar if not more restrictive regulations already in place throughout the province.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________________