
Kootenay Region Angling Regulations Proposed Changes for 2009-10

INTRODUCTION

The following summarizes changes to angling regulations currently under consideration for Kootenay Region. These changes, if approved, will be effective and appear in the Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis beginning April 1, 2009. We welcome and will consider your comments as we finalize changes to the regulations.

Proposals for regulation changes result from requests by rod and gun clubs, other non-government organizations, the public at large, and technical studies of trends in fish populations and angler use in the region. This document provides some of the background to assist you in understanding the rationale for each regulation change proposal.

WHO CAN COMMENT?

Anyone with an interest in freshwater sport fishing in British Columbia can comment.

HOW CAN I COMMENT?

We will accept comments in a number of forms. Your options are:

- (a) electronically via email to fishing.surveys@gov.bc.ca;
- (b) conventional mail to the Nelson office of the Ministry of Environment, at the address noted at the top of this document;
- (c) via FAX to Nelson office of the Ministry of Environment at 250-354-6332.

To assist us in getting the best possible information, **please use the forms we provide in this package**. An MS Word file is available from the web site should you wish to use a computer.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS?

The deadline for submission of comments is August 22, 2008. Comments that you provide later than this date may not be timely enough to be considered in the development of final regulations proposals.

HOW WILL THE MINISTRY USE MY COMMENTS?

Angling regulations meet three main objectives:

- (a) address fish conservation concerns;
- (b) improve the quality of angling by managing angler use and fish harvests; and,
- (c) provide a range angling experiences to meet the diverse expectations of the angling community.

Simplification of regulations is also important. We will consider your comments wherever possible, in light of all three objectives. Ultimately, however, fish conservation receives highest priority in the final decision on any regulation change.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Government of British Columbia is committed to protecting the privacy of people whose personal information is held by government through responsible information management practices. Any personal information provided to the Government of B.C. is collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or other applicable legislation.

Kootenay Region Angling Regulations Proposed Changes for 2009-10

Regulation number: R4-1

Location: various

Management Unit: all

Proposal: Implement special regulations to control the spread of illegally introduced, non-native fish species. Options under consideration include the following:

- (a) Regionally, implement curtailed angling opportunities for yellow perch, bass and walleye to discourage illegal stocking activities. Options include “no fishing for” or quota = 0 for these species.
- (b) Whenever new instances of illegal stocking occur, restrictive measures will be taken, such as a complete angling closure at that location, followed by rehabilitation to remove the non-native species (as and when resources to rehabilitate are available).
- (c) For some lakes, consideration will be given to tolerating a perch and/or bass fishery with generous daily quotas, to assist in controlling non-native fish populations and to meet the demand for these species with a limited set of opportunities. These lakes include: Alta, Baynes, Bednorski, Haha (may remain closed if, based on current surveys, pike are a continued risk), Hiawatha, Jim Smith, Kikomun Creek Park, Lost, Lund, Saugum, Spring, Suzanne, Tie, Wasa, Windermere, Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area waters (Six Mile Slough, Leach, Kootenay River Canal), French's Slough, Kootenay, Pend d'Oreille system reservoirs, Erie, Lomond and Rykerts.
- (d) In the case of a very limited number of lakes (e.g. Duck Lake), status quo regulations will be left in place to allow continued fishing opportunity.

Rationale: Illegal transplants of non-native fish species have been a concern for fisheries managers for many years and have recently become a critical and costly issue. Province-wide, there are now over six times as many freshwater systems containing these species than since the earliest reports in the early 1950s.

While such introductions may seem harmless on the surface, they actually pose a tremendous threat to aquatic ecosystems. Impacts to native fish from predation and competition, as well as the transfer of diseases and parasites, are key concerns.

The Ministry of Environment and anglers must take action to safeguard remaining native fish resources and angling opportunities. Costs to remove and prevent the spread of transplanted species are high, and such efforts are not always successful. As a result, we have considered options to proactively discourage illegal transplants. Some of the regulations this proposal describes are a step in that direction. In most cases, the approach would be to restrict angling opportunities to locations where non-native fish presently occur, and to be highly restrictive when newly established populations are discovered.

Persons responsible for illegal introductions are subject to penalties of up to \$100,000 for a first offence, and subsequent infractions may result in prison terms of up to 12 months. Note that the BC Wildlife Federation is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the successful prosecution of individuals responsible for illegal introductions of fish in BC. Please report any suspicious activity to the Conservation Officer Service (1-877-952-7277).

Regulation number: R4-2

Location: various

Management Unit: all

Proposal: The Ministry of Environment is considering province-wide changes to the angling regulations to improve consistency across the regions and simplify wherever possible. We hope to provide a more compact set of regulations that are easier to understand and remember. Initially, we will be changing the regulations for small lakes. Small lakes constitute the largest number of special regulations in the current fishing regulations synopsis. Future work will include reviews of regulations for large lakes and rivers.

To assist you in understanding changes proposed for small lakes, you will need a copy of the current 2008-2009 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis in hand. If you don't have a paper copy, you can find the synopsis on the internet here:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/#Synopsis

For Region 4 (the Kootenays), you will find "default Regional Regulations" on page 41. Exceptions to these are in the tables of "Water-Specific Regulations" beginning on page 42.

Our process for simplifying small lakes regulations has involved the following:

- modify the default Regional Regulations so they can be applied consistently across the Province;
- whenever possible, use these new default Regional Regulations as the only restriction for small lakes, thus minimizing the number of lines in the Regional Water-Specific Regulations;
- for small lakes where Water-Specific Regulations are still required, apply one of a limited number of "Regulatory Suites".

Regional Regulations

Proposed changes to the default Regional Regulations are minor. Presently, the only change under consideration is an increase in the aggregate trout/char bag limit to 5 per day. This represents an increase from the present Kootenay Region limit of 4 per day and will be consistent with adjacent regions of B.C. Within the 5 fish per day limit, quotas for rainbow or cutthroat trout over 50 cm, for bull trout, and in streams will remain unchanged. We are considering no other changes to regional quotas at this time.

Regulatory Suites

Fixed combinations of regulations referred to as "Regulatory Suites" have been developed to apply to waters where additional restrictions are required. These are outlined below:

Regulatory Suite 1

Objective: Decreased mortality while allowing for harvest fishery

Additional regulation(s):

- Two (2) fish limit

(regulatory suites continued on next page)

Regulatory Suite 2

Objective: More limited mortality allowing for harvest fishery

Additional regulation(s):

- Two (2) fish limit
- Single barbless hook
- Bait ban
- Seasonal closure*

Regulatory Suite 3

Objective: Low level of mortality allowing for minimal harvest fishery

Additional regulation(s):

One (1) fish limit

- Single barbless hook
- Bait ban
- Seasonal closure*
- Size restriction, none under 50 cm

Regulatory Suite 4

Objective: Minimal level of mortality while allowing non-retention fishery

Additional regulation(s):

- Non-retention (catch and release)
- Single barbless hook
- Bait ban
- Seasonal closure*

* Seasonal Closure Options (Regulatory suites 2, 3, & 4 above)

To achieve simplification and recreation objectives, one of the following existing winter closures will apply to lakes falling under suite 2, 3 or 4. Your view is important:

Dec. 1 – Jan. 2, Dec. 1 – Mar. 31, Dec. 1 – Apr. 30, Nov. 1 – Mar. 31, Nov. 1 – Apr. 30

Special Cases

Some waters may require restrictions beyond the Regional Regulations and the Regulations Suites as a result of specific conservation issues, social concerns (e.g. fly fishing) or federal boating restrictions. When such circumstances arise, unique Water-Specific Regulations will apply as required and displayed in tables in the synopsis. This approach is similar to the way the regulations are currently handled. However, our plans are to minimize the use of such Water Specific Regulations as much as possible.

Implications for Region 4

Each small lake can be managed with Regional Regulations, one of the four Regulatory Suites, or unique Water-Specific Regulations. We reviewed small lakes management in the Kootenays and applied this new approach to each waterbody (see Table 1). If accepted, *these changes would result in the removal of 22 small lakes from the Water-Specific Regulations tables in the synopsis*. Of the remaining 28 lakes, 19 would be regulated using Regulatory Suites and only nine would require unique, Water-Specific Regulations.

To review these changes, check the regulations of your favorite lakes using your 2008-09 synopsis. Compare these to the changes outlined in Table 1. Keeping in mind that some compromise will be required if we want to simplify the regulations, are these changes acceptable?

Table 1. Proposed regulations for small lakes in Kootenay Region (see footnote and preceding text for definitions of terms). For existing regulations, refer to the 2008-09 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis.

Lake Name	MU	Proposed Classification ¹	Lake Name	MU	Proposed Classification ¹
Botts	4-34	R2	Loon	4-2	R3
Cartwright	4-34	R3	Lower Elk	4-23	R2
Cerulean	4-25	RR	Lower Halgrave	4-34	RR
Champion 1	4-8	RR	Mcclain	4-34	R3
Champion 2	4-8	RR	Moose	4-24	R2
Cherry	4-3	WS	Moyie	4-4	RR
Connor	4-23	RR	Nine Bay	4-34	R3
Cottonwood	4-8	RR	Phillips	4-23	R1
Dorothy	4-26	WS	Plaid	4-19	RR
Duck	4-6	WS	Premier	4-21	WS
Echoes	4-20	R3	Rock Island	4-25	RR
Enid	4-26	RR	Rosebud	4-8	R1
Fish	4-21	RR	Sowerby	4-21	WS
Fisher Maiden	4-26	WS	St. Mary	4-20	WS
Fortress	4-40	RR	Summer	4-22	R2
Gibson	4-18	RR	Summit	4-23	R3
Grizzly	4-25	RR	Summit	4-17	R1
Haha	4-3	RR	Sunburst	4-25	RR
Idlewild	4-3	WS	Tamarack	4-20	RR
Island	4-23	RR	Twin	4-34	R2
Jade	4-34	RR	Upper Elk	4-23	R2
Kiakho	4-5	RR	Waldie	4-8	RR
Larchwood	4-20	R3	Whiteswan	4-24	WS
Larix	4-25	RR	Whitetail	4-26	R3
Little Mitten	4-34	R3	Wilbur	4-34	R3

1. Proposed classifications:

RR = Regional Regulations (same as 2008-09, except trout/char daily quota = 5)

WS = Water Specific Regulations (unchanged from 2008-09)

R1 = Regulatory Suite 1

R2 = Regulatory Suite 2

R3 = Regulatory Suite 3

R4 = Regulatory Suite 4



Kootenay Region Angling Regulations Consultation on Proposed Changes for 2008-09

Consultation Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to document your concerns and suggestions. The information you provide is important to us and will be considered thoroughly. We will not be able to respond individually to each submission.

Contact Information	
Name:	
Address:	
Email:	
Telephone & fax:	
Representing:	Club or organization if applicable; indicate your position (e.g. president, etc.)

Comments on Proposed Changes to Region 4 Regulations		
Regulation Number	Agree With Proposal? (check one)	Comments and Concerns (attach additional pages if desired)
	yes _____ med _____ low _____ no _____	
	yes _____ med _____ low _____ no _____	
	yes _____ med _____ low _____ no _____	

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Regulation Number	Agree With Proposal? (check one)	Comments and Concerns (attach additional pages if desired)
	yes ____ med ____ low ____ no ____	
	yes ____ med ____ low ____ no ____	
	yes ____ med ____ low ____ no ____	
	yes ____ med ____ low ____ no ____	

Other ideas and concerns not described in the proposals: