



Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Branch
Kootenay Region
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Proposed Province-wide Bait Ban for Streams

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is presently considering a province-wide ban on the use of bait in streams. Lake fisheries are NOT affected by this proposal. Information on the rationale can be found on pages 2 and 19 of the present (2005-06) regulations synopsis (http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/pdf/provincial_regulations_2005.pdf).

In general, this change would address several concerns, including:

- (a) *Survival of released fish* - angling trends are toward more catch and release, and fish caught on bait are more prone to lethal hooking injuries;
- (b) *High catch rates* – more fish can be caught on bait, resulting in reduced seasons and also increasing the overall number of potential severe hooking injuries among released fish;
- (c) *Transfer of disease* - fish diseases can be transferred from one watershed to another by bait; and,
- (d) *Simplified regulations* - this regulation would be harmonize the stream angling regulations across the province, hopefully resulting in simplification.

In the Kootenays, there are presently 34 regulations banning bait on streams. These water-specific regulations would no longer be required. However, we recognize that there are certain streams where bait fishing can still be offered, providing a traditional angling opportunity without unacceptable risk to the fish populations. Regional Fisheries staff will be developing a suggested list of exemptions to the bait ban, but your feedback is needed to help us produce this list. ***Please submit your comments using the form attached to this information package (Word document also available – see Regional regulations web site for link).***

Proposed Province-wide Bait Ban for Streams 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.)

Province-wide Bait Ban for Streams									
General Comments									
Support for this regulation (check one):									
Strongly agree		Agree		No opinion		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
Comments:									

Please see over for water specific comments.

Province-wide Bait Ban for Streams Comments on Specific Streams

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