



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

SFAC-01

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

Instructions for Proposal Submission:

- Members of the Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee (SFAC) interested in submitting a proposal to introduce a new, or change an existing regulation for consideration are requested to follow the guidelines provided in this form to facilitate Ministry & SFAC evaluation.
- Deadline for submission of proposals for the 2007 SFAC meeting is one month prior to the meeting date: February 26, 2007.
- Proposal submissions may be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Fisheries Section, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment, Smithers.

Proponent Contact Information:

Name: Sam A Moroski

Mailing Address: 2025 Gerow Island Road. Burns Lake.

Affiliation: Non-Affiliated Member

Day-Time Phone: 250-638-6037

Email: _____

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.

This is the recommending that all of the bodies of water in the Skeena district be included in the following proposal. All freshwater lakes for all species of fish.

Existing Regulation(s):

There are currently no existing regulations in place for the banning or restriction of triple hooks or barbed triple hooks in this region.

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).

My recommendation is to eliminate triple hooks used for freshwater fishing for Rainbow trout, Lake trout or any other species of fish in the Skeena Region

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.

In the Skeena Region, many of the lakes are habitat for large rainbow (pacifero) and lake trout. These fish have fairly stringent regulations for daily limits in place. The problem lies in the releasing of these fish. Most anglers that are spending more than one day on these lakes, which are very common because of the accessibility, have a trophy fish in mind, or something that will exceed the normal catch. The problem is that these fish are very sensitive to the release and many do not make it. Reasons are improper handling techniques. Some of these fish are hooked on down-riggers at 50 to 100 feet. This alone is very hard on the fish and brings the survival rate down. A triple hook causes several problems when hooked. Firstly, is very rare that the fish is not injured in the hooking process because of the nature and design of the triple hooks. To remove a triple hook, takes surgical care and precision and a high percentage of the time cannot be done without injury. Secondly, the amount of time it takes to do this removal successfully usually exceeds the time allotted for a successful release and the fish is put back without being revived properly, therefore succumbing to its injuries.

For some time now triple hooks have been banned from any other form of the ocean or river fishing for the same reason thy should be banned from lakes. A single hook should in no way impede the fishing process or reduce successful catches, the same way it has not in oceans and rivers. If we are going to encourage catch and release fundamentals, we should be also setting guidelines to make it more efficient and successful. Not much point in releasing these large fish if they are not going to survive.

If it is felt that this regulation would be too aggressive for the anglers to adhere to, perhaps barb-less triple hooks would be the first sage in reaching this goal of securing the survival of these large freshwater species, and survival for anglers of the future.

Having a single hook instead of a triple hook would definitely increase the successful release of these fish and would reduce as well the injuries cause by the initial hooking of them leading to fewer fatalities and an increased survival rate. This would in fact encourage the release of fish by anglers wanting to

catch the trophy fish.

This proposal was submitted last year, however I was asked to resubmit it. Not sure why. This is the re-submission. The time should not be a factor as it was submitted initially last year.

Signature:

Date:



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The Best Place on Earth

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

SFAC-02

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Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC Ministry _____
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Proponent Contact Information:

Name: Brian Patrick

Mailing Address: 5008 Agar Avenue, Terrace BC V8G 1J1

Affiliation:

Day-Time Phone: 250-638-0663

Email: mrt@monarch.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.

Region 6 – Lakelse River C.N.R. Bridge and upstream to Lakelse Lake

Existing Regulation(s):

Fly fishing only March 1 – 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).

At Best: No Fishing March 1 – May 31 – let the fish spawn in peace
At minimum – no wading in gravel beds

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.

Objective – as this is a spawning bed we want to conserve the eggs laid and allow them to be undisturbed.

This is necessary because wading in gravel beds releases salmon, steelhead and cutthroat eggs to hordes of feeding cuts – in essence “chumming”. Most fishers are standing in midstream disturbing Redds and basically trolling a fly; not casting, not imitating but just trolling an egg on a hook. Of course the front trout hit, but also spawning steelhead are present at this time trying to spawn and occasionally hit the fly. Such great fun wearing a spawner out on their spawning bed. This practice is NOT ethical and can not be good for fish numbers now or in the future.

Signature:

Date:



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SFAC-03

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Day-Time Phone: 250-638-0663

Email: mrt@monarch.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.

All of BC

Existing Regulation(s):

Wild steelhead fishing is catch and release only in all of BC

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).

Wild steelhead is catch and release in all of BC and no kill. Total bait ban be in affect.

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.

1. Objective to stop the incidental kills of wild steelhead. If steelhead is so threatened that a person cannot eat even one of these fish then why is bait even considered ethical? An eating fish generally swallows bait and hook up in the throat or gills are common. A feeding steelhead released after is usually a dead steelhead within a day so why catch and release a bait caught fish just to have it die?
2. Regulation is necessary to stop the incidental kill of steelhead
3. Expected outcome...a lot less incidental kill of wild steelhead

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Proponent Contact Information:

Name: Eckard Mendel

Mailing Address: 2689 Laidlaw Frontage Road, Smithers BC V0J 2N6

Affiliation:

Day-Time Phone: 250-847-3173

Email:

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.

Lakes legal for ice fishing in Region 6

Existing Regulation(s):

Only one rod and/or line permitted per person
Current regulations permit two rods/lines if fisherman is alone in a boat for summer fishing.

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).

Amendment to allow use of two rods/or lines per person for use in ice fishing in lakes in 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.

This would not affect the catch restrictions or daily limits. It would encourage more winter fishing activity. Most of the active use lakes in the Bulkley Valley are currently stocked.

Signature:

Date:



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SFAC 2008-05

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Proponent Contact Information:

Name: Gordon Wolfe

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2993 , Smithers

Affiliation: Steelhead Society of BC

Day-Time Phone: 847-4142

Email: _____

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 (Copper River) -

Existing Regulation(s):

Currently the upper 3 km from McDonell Lake downstream to the Forestry Bridge is closed to angling all year.

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).

This portion of the river should be open to angling with the same regulatory regime as the downstream waters. That is it opens on June 16th with a bait ban and summer run steelhead must be released as per the existing regulations

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.

The early returning summer run steelhead tend to move through the upper Zymoetz river fairly quickly during late August early September. Due to lower water levels in the river above Serb Creek these steelhead generally move into directly into McDonell Lake during this time frame and do not linger in the section of the river downstream of the lake to the forestry bridge that is the section of the river involved in this proposal. The steelhead hold in the lake until spring when they either ascend the river above the lake or drop back down into the river below the lake where they spawn.

This proposal will provide an additional section of the stream for angling. Currently access to this section, as with the section downstream from the forestry bridge, is limited. Anglers have to be prepared to hike along the river and therefore numbers of anglers fishing the upper Zymoetz river downstream to Mulwain Creek is presently very limited.

The fish species that potentially could be encountered in the upper section of the Zymoetz River are steelhead trout, coho salmon and Dolly Varden Char. All of these species are presently open for angling. Coho salmon and dolly varden char may be retained as per the

regulations.

I hope the Ministry and the committee will look favorably upon this proposal to create an additional angling opportunity.

Signature:

Gord Wolfe

Date: March 4th, 2008



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

SFAC 2008-06

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Name: Gordon Wolfe

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2993, Smithers

Affiliation: Steelhead Society of BC

Day-Time Phone: 847-4142

Email: _____

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.

Morice River

Existing Regulation(s):

Bait Ban – all year in the portions open to fishing

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).

Allow the use of bait to capture Chinook salmon from June 16th to July 31st only (as per the existing regulation for the downstream waters of the Bulkley River) in the entire portion of the Morice River open to fishing downstream of the Gosnell Creek confluence or **proposal(b)** only that portion of the Morice downstream of Lamprey Creek .

Note: If one examines and compares the regulations for the Morice River contained in the Provincial Regulation synopsis and the Fisheries and Oceans Salmon supplement there appears to an inconsistency. The FOC salmon supplement has the portion of the Morice River downstream of Gosnell Creek to Lamprey Creek open to Chinook fishing from June 16th to July 31st whereas the Provincial synopsis states this portion of the river is closed to angling till September 1st. The Provincial synopsis needs to be corrected as this section of the Morice river was opened to Chinook fishing several years ago.

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.

The Morice River has the largest run of Chinook salmon in the upper Skeena. Bait is currently allowed to be used in the downstream waters of the Bulkley River during this period. The use of bait will allow anglers to harvest some more of these prized fish in the Morice River. The fish are generally still in very good shape until early August. Other fish species likely to be encountered in the open section of the Morice River during this time frame are whitefish, rainbow trout and Dolly Varden char. Steelhead are probably absence from the Morice River in July. Current regulations allow for retention of whitefish, rainbow trout and Dolly Varden char in the Morice River.

It is my understanding from talking to numerous anglers that fish these waters for Chinook salmon that few rainbow trout or dolly varden char are caught by anglers fishing **traditional**

Chinook salmon gear(large spoons, large spinners and spin and glows) in the normal salmon fishing waters. These species are encountered by anglers fishing more traditional trout gear (small spinners and flies) fishing back channels and back eddies where Chinook salmon generally do not hold. If a concern exists with these resident fish species populations in the Morice River then the current retention regulations for these species should be re- examined.

The 15 km of the upper most section of the Morice is closed to angling till October 1st to allow the Chinook salmon to complete spawning and the dolly varden char that were staging in this section of the river to ascend the tributary streams to spawn and return to the river to start to regain a good physical condition.

I hope the Ministry and the committee will look favorably upon this proposal.

Signature:

Gord Wolfe

Date: March 4, 2008

Priority Resident Anglers'

Brief Description

A critical fault has been identified within a number of angling policies and strategies pertaining to British Columbian resident anglers priority over that of non-resident and sport angling guides. Although resident priority may be stated there is no firm direction as to how decision makers are to consider and apply said priority of resident anglers. A criterion needs to be established outlining how the priority of resident anglers is to be considered and applied by decision makers during the application and implementation of angling regulations. This likely falls outside the Regional scope and may be provincial in nature but wish to bring this issue forward in an effort to initiate action by the Ministry. Please note that resident priority needs to apply to both classified and un-classified water in British Columbia.

Reason For Proposal

- Many resident anglers feel their priority over non-residents and sport-angling guides has not been properly and effectively applied through the decision-making processes and implemented in regulations.
- Ineffective management and application of resident angler priority over that of non-residents and commercial sport anglers is sighted as an underlining cause in the gross reduction in resident angler participation.
- Fish and Wildlife are held in public trust and MoE (Gov't) is entrusted to represent the best interests of citizens ensuring sustainable use and entrenchment of their priority.
- Will provide clear direction for decision makers.
- Fosters public trust, when the Provincial Government respects the rights and priority of residents, residents respect and have faith in Government.
- Protects resident anglers from being negatively impacted and displaced by tourism, non-resident and guided sport angling interests.
- Is ethically, morally and socially acceptable.

Proposal:

The manner and direction of how decision makers apply resident priority and opportunity over that of non-residents and angling guides is lacking. It is our request that MoE pursue through consultation, a publicly acceptable criterion that will direct decision makers in the consideration and application of resident opportunity and priority over that of non-resident and sport angling guides when restrictions are deemed necessary. Resident priority needs to apply to both classified and un-classified water of BC.

Kitimat Rod and Gun

Junior Angler Licensing

Brief Description:

Currently junior anglers 16 and under are able to angle in BC free of charge. Anglers' ages 16 to 19 are required to purchase an angling license and associated stamps. It is not the junior anglers that brunt the costs but the parent or guardian. There is a need to increase the age of which a freshwater angling license is required for purchase and resident anglers 19 and under be free of charge.

Reason for proposal:

- Avenue to increase participation and new anglers.
- Junior anglers 16-19 do not brunt licensing costs parents or guardians do. A parent with two minor children is forced to purchase 2 additional licenses and stamps. For many with limited income this removes the family angling opportunity and hinders participation.
- Promotes social and bonding aspects angling provides for families and friends.
- Promotes a healthy and socially acceptable opportunity for minor anglers.
- Increases minor anglers awareness of their natural environment and the fish and wildlife therein.

Specific Proposal Request

Currently anglers 16 and under do not require an angling license or associated stamps in BC as per page 6 of the 2007/08 angling synopsis. It is requested that the age be increased to 19 and the wording changed from "*If under 16 and a resident of BC+*" to "***If under 19 and a resident of BC+***". The 3 defining points to remain status quo.

Kitimat Rod and Gun

Non-Resident Aliens Guided Only On Classified Waters

Brief Description

It is requested that all non-resident aliens angling on classified waters be guided only. Implementation will lower the high angling pressure, aid in conservation, improve business for guides who hold classified water rod days and improve the angling experience. Currently many of our classified waters are being over exploited, creating conservation and crowding concerns for all users. Application of this proposal will also be effective in addressing illegal guiding issues on classified systems.

Reason For Proposal

- Aids in conservation and sustainability
- Reduces impact on classified waters
- Improves the angling experience of all users
- Fosters business for sport angling guides
- Addresses the over crowding issue on classified water
- Reflects resident priority
- Eliminates illegal angling on classified waters.

Specific Proposal Request

It is requested that a regulatory change be implemented that makes it mandatory for all non-resident alien anglers to be guided on all classified waters in Region 6 and should consider the following criterion.

Criterion

1. Rod Days Capped at Current allocations

- If accepted, this proposal is not to be used to inflate rod days on classified waters. The intent is to aid in conservation and sustainability, reduce watershed impact, return quality angling, respects resident angling opportunity and priority, address over crowding, fosters angling guiding and eliminate illegal guiding enforcement issues.

2. Guided angling on classified waters

- A licensed guide must accompany non-resident aliens wishing to angle classified waters in BC. When purchasing angling licensing for classified

waters, non-residents must provide the licensing officer with the name of the guide outfitter, the guide's license number, the river in which angling will take place and the dates of angling. On completion of angling, non-residents must obtain a completed form of declaration from their guide.

3. Accompanied angling on classified waters

- A non-resident who is not a resident of Canada (alien) may also be eligible under a Permit to Accompany providing that the applicant applying for the permit is a BC resident and they qualify under one of the required relationship categories (i.e., if accompanied by a father, brother, niece, nephew, grandson, grandfather, mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-and-law, but excludes cousins).
- Also, the applicant must be a permanent resident of BC who has held a BC angling license for 3 of 5 years preceding the application. The person must obtain the permit at least one month prior to angling.
- The non-resident alien must show the Permit to Accompany or a copy indicating the name of the permittee when purchasing their angling license and stamps.
- Only one Permit to accompany will be issued to a person in a license year with a maximum of 2 qualifying non-resident alien anglers per permit.
- The applicant is not to charge a fee or accept reward for providing angling opportunities. To do so constitutes an offense on the part of the non-resident angler and BC applicant.
- The BC applicant will accompany the permitted non-resident alien angler(s) at all times and be in visual and verbal contact with them.
- All fees to be the responsibility of the applicant with an added fee dedicated to the HCTF.

LEA Non-Resident Alien Opportunity

- Where a limited opportunity exist for non-resident alien un-guided participation on classified waters and will not negatively impact resident anglers a Limited Entry Angling system should be sought. The fee structure should be set up in such a manner that all costs are the responsibility of the applicant and an additional HCTF fee added.

Kitimat Rod and Gun



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SFAC 2008-10

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Office:	<u>3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC</u>	Fax #	<u>250-847-7728</u>
		Ministry	<u> </u>
		Phone #	<u>250-847-7260</u>
From:	<u>Rick McDiarmid</u>	Phone #	<u>250-559- 8089</u>
		Fax #	<u> </u>

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Proponent Contact Information:

Name: Rick McDiarmid

Mailing Address: Box 682 Queen Charlotte B.C. V0T 1S0

Affiliation: Non affiliated

Day-Time Phone: 250-559-8089

Email: rickmcd@qcislands.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.

Tlell River

Existing Regulation(s):

- Cutthroat trout release
- Class II water Sept 1 – Apr 30; Steelhead stamp mandatory Dec1 – Apr 30
- Tidal water regulations apply below tidal boundary

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).

Allow retention of 2 Cutthroat trout - none under 30cm.

We also propose that with consultation from local anglers, biologists and Conservation Officers there be a review of many local stream regulations. This would make the regulations better reflect current fish populations, particularly for Cutthroat and Steelhead trout. This would likely increase protection of vulnerable populations as well as providing local anglers with some opportunities.

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.

- 1) To provide increased opportunity for engaging new anglers as well as providing local anglers the opportunity to have a retention fishery.
- 2) High rate of incidental Cutthroat trout during other fisheries. This proposal would allow the retention of badly hooked fish.
- 3) A conservative fishery on the Tlell river would provide local families with the opportunity for family outings – the area is already popular for camping and hiking.
- 4) Increased public awareness of fishing and the impacts of people on the environment.
- 5) No population estimates are available for Cutthroat trout in the Tlell river. All indicators point to a very healthy population throughout the watershed. Approximately 70% of the Tlell watershed is very inaccessible and receives little to no fishing pressure effectively providing refuge habitat.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R.M. S.', written in a cursive style.

Date: March 23, 2008



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COLUMBIA

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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).

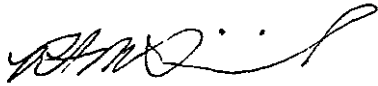
Allow retention of 2 Cutthroat trout - none under 30cm.

We also propose that with consultation from local anglers, biologists and Conservation Officers there be a review of many local stream regulations. This would make the regulations better reflect current fish populations, particularly for Cutthroat and Steelhead trout. This would likely increase protection of vulnerable populations as well as providing local anglers with some opportunities.

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.

- 1) To provide increased opportunity for engaging new anglers as well as providing local anglers the opportunity to have a retention fishery.
- 2) High rate of incidental Cutthroat trout during other fisheries. This proposal would allow the retention of badly hooked fish.
- 3) A conservative fishery on the Tlell river would provide local families with the opportunity for family outings – the area is already popular for camping and hiking.
- 4) Increased public awareness of fishing and the impacts of people on the environment.
- 5) No population estimates are available for Cutthroat trout in the Tlell river. All indicators point to a very healthy population throughout the watershed. Approximately 70% of the Tlell watershed is very inaccessible and receives little to no fishing pressure effectively providing refuge habitat.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RAM' followed by a flourish.

Date: March 23, 2008