

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

Date:	<u>Feb 2, 2013</u>	# of pages	_____
To:	<u>Fisheries Section, Skeena Region</u>	Ministry	
		Fax #	<u>250-847-7728</u>
		Ministry	
Office:	<u>3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC</u>	Phone #	<u>250-847-7260</u>
From:	<u>BRIAN PATRICK</u>	Phone #	<u>250-638-0663</u>
		Fax #	<u>250-638-8500</u>

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 2013 SFAC meeting is February 4, 2013.
- Proposal submissions may be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Fisheries Section, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Smithers.

Proponent Contact Information:

Name: BRIAN PATRICK

Mailing Address: 5008 Agar Ave, Terrace, B.C. V8G 1J1

Affiliation: MISTY RIVER TACKLE & HUNTING

Day-Time Phone: 250-638-1369

Email: mrt@citywest.ca

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.*

Kasiks river, Ecstall, Khyex, Exchamsiks, Extew and any other larger fish bearing tributaries on the lower Skeena River be declared as special waters/classified II waters

Existing Regulation(s):

NONE

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).*

Kasiks river, Ecstall, Khyex, Exchamsiks, Extew and any other larger fish bearing tributaries on the lower Skeena River be declared as special waters/classified II waters

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.*

Kasiks river, Ecstall, Khyex, Exchamsiks, Extew and any other larger fish bearing tributaries on the lower Skeena River be declared as special waters/classified II waters in order to protect these individual river systems from over exploitation from any form of fishing our populations of salmon, steelhead, coastal cutthroat & coastal char which are being recognized as being unique & special in this world. Being a classified waters controls fishing via:

- a) Guided Rod Days are controlled by the Ministry to protect from overfishing as unclassified waters.
- b) Locals can access Class II at a reasonable cost to the citizens of B.C. and I think residents here respect what we have.
- c) Tourist from out of province must pay a premium to fish these waters and a large number balk at paying \$20.00/day and this protects the river from overfishing.

Every tributary on the Skeena is an irreplaceable resource and we do have to look at protecting it and limiting any potential overuse.

Signature:

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ALL AREA'S IN THE SKEENA WATERSHED WHICH ARE CONSIDERED CATCH & RELEASE ONLY

Existing Regulation(s):

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ALL AREA'S IN THE SKEENA WATERSHED WHICH ARE CONSIDERED CATCH & RELEASE ONLY BE MADE NO FISHING UNTIL STUDIES HAVE PROVEN THAT CATCH & RELEASE IS NOT DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH AND SURVIVAL OF THE SPECIES BEING TARGETTED.

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CATCH & RELEASE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A MANAGEMENT TOOL UNTIL TESTING POSITIVELY SHOWS NO HARM TO FISH FROM THIS PRACTICE. LOTS OF STUDIES SEEM TO SHOW A HIGH MORTALITY IN SALMONIDS & OTHER FISH WHICH HAVE BEEN MOLESTED BY FISHERMEN WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS.

THE RECENT PROPOSAL REGARDING CATCH & RELEASE OF STREAM BOUND TROUT DOES NOTHING TO HELP FISH NUMBERS IF THE CREATURE DIES FROM STRESS OR OXYGEN DEPRAVATION OR GILL DAMAGE A FEW WEEKS LATER. IT WOULD BE A LOT LESS WASTEFUL IF THAT FISH WAS AT LEAST EATEN BY THE FISHERMAN

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Upper Lakelse River

Existing Regulation(s):

Cutthroat trout release above CNR bridge, Mar1-apr 30
Fly fishing only between lakelse lake and CNR bridge mar1-may31
Bait ban; no power boats
Class II water all year ; Steelhead stamp mandatory Dec 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).*

Upper Lakelse NO FISHING whatsoever
Alternate: No Fishing during steelhead Egg Brood Seasons both summer & winter runs

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.*

To curb damage in easily accessible spawn beds (eg Herman's Hole – area where Her;man Creek enters Lakelse River) by Fisher Persons wading & fishing in actual gravel beds where eggs are laid and to stop the targeting of brooding fish waiting for conditions to spawn. Also to reduce unknown damage (if any) to fish from the practice of catch & release until positive studies have been conducted to determine effects.

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ZYMACORD RIVER

Existing Regulation(s):

NONE

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).

CHANGE DESIGNATION TO A CLASSIFIED WATER II

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.

Zymacord River being a very special river is being fished indiscriminately by guides & others as a NO CLASSIFIED WATERS. This river should be classified as a special waters/Class II waters in order to restrict indiscriminant guiding for Steelhead, cutthroat, char & coho. Also enabling Ministry to allocate days in total for guides (if any) to restrict the overfishing of this unique little coastal river system. My own thoughts are that this system is so unique it should be the same as the unique & larger Lakelse system on the opposite bank of the Skeena. Make it a class II & no guide days. At the very least any river systems in danger of overfishing of any sort be class II waters in order to allow the Ministry to decide how much pressure can be put on a small river system. We all remember what became of the Kasiks Coho runs being almost completely fished out due to being unclassified and therefore targetted by unscrupulous guides due to unregulated fishing. Some local guides have focused on the Zymacord as a no-charge (not classified) place to take clients especially for coho, even though runs are small. The main reason being it is such a small valley river system it is the very first river to clear up after the heavy rains we experience in the fall.

Signature:

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