

**Proposal for Regulation Change:  
Guidelines for Information Requirements  
Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee  
SFAC-2015\_1**

Date: Feb 18 2014

To: **Fisheries Section, Skeena Region**

Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC

From: **Dustin Kovacvich**

# of pages \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # **250-847-7728**

Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # 250-847-7260

Phone # 250-847-3377

Fax # 250-847-3396

**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 is one month prior to the meeting date.
- Proposal submissions may be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in Smithers.

**Proponent Contact Information:**

Name: Dustin Kovacvich

Mailing Address: 591 Kalum Lake Road Terrace BC

Affiliation: Skeena Angling Guide Association

Day-Time Phone: 250-635-5295

Email: [dustinko@nicholasdean.com](mailto: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.

Zymachord River Just West of Terrace BC

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Just blanket Skeena Region regulations apply

**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 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.

The main objective of this regulation is to protect the Char population from excess mortality by anglers either targeting them or as by catch during Steelhead and Coho Fisheries. The Zymachord river is prime breeding and rearing habitat for both Bull Trout and Dolly Varden Char.

Since the former logging road has been rebuilt and access has increased there has been a noticeable drop in the catch rates of Char on the Zymachord River. Even with full catch and release regulations the mortality for Char according to Alaskan research is around 30% to 40% when bait is used and almost nil when bait is not used.

Since we have total catch and release regulations for Char in streams region wide it would be advisable that a bait ban be put on the Zymachord river to reduce the mortality rates for caught and released Char.

The expected outcome would be that Char survival rates would increase and lead to a healthier more robust Char population in the Zymachord River.

Signature: Dustin Kovacvich

Date: Feb 18 2014

**Proposal for Regulation Change:  
Guidelines for Information Requirements  
Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee  
SFAC-2015\_2**

Date: Feb 18 2014

To: **Fisheries Section, Skeena Region**

Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC

From: **Dustin Kovacvich**

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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.*

Clore River Tributary of Zymoetz River approximately 34 kilometers from Skeena Confluence

**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

Bait ban

Above Limonite Creek (Zymoetz River A): Class I water Jul 24 - Dec 31; Steelhead Stamp mandatory Jul 24 - Dec 31;

**Canadian residents only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Jul 24 - Dec 31**

Below Limonite Creek (Zymoetz River B): Class II water Jul 24 - May 31; Steelhead Stamp mandatory Jul 24 - May 31;

**Canadian residents only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Jul 24 - 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).*

Fly Fishing Only July 24 to December 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.*

This fishery has extremely unique characteristics which make it different from many other Steelhead fisheries across the province.

Highly aggressive steelhead found in a small river environment that feed on insects regularly when hatches occur does not happen in very many places in the world. The Clore River is one of these very unique places. It is a highly treasured by the individuals who fly fish it and is recognized as one of the finest Steelhead Dry Fly Fisheries in the world.

This is a fishery that is already primarily a fly fishery. The fly fishing experience can be greatly reduced by a small minority of gear anglers fishing this area. The gear anglers can access and cover water more easily and efficiently than fly fisherman catching many more fish per rod on average per day. Gear Anglers can also easily fish areas that are extremely difficult to fly fish and leave no refuges for holding steelhead anywhere in the Clore River. A gear fisherman can have a much large impact on the quality of the fishery than an individual fly fisherman. Gear fishing also tends to put the fish off the bite for many more days than fly fishing leading to few anglers gear fishing have quality fishing in areas with a hugely reduced quality of angling for fly fishers who try to fish the same waters covered by gear anglers.

The Clore has very limited easy access and is not a highly utilized family fishery therefore a fly fishing only regulation should have little to no impact on young anglers in this area.

It is my feeling and also that of other anglers that I personally know who recreationally fish

and/or guide the Clore River that the vast majority of the users on this section of river would be in full support of fly fishing only regulations for the Clore River Jul 24 to Dec 31.

Signature: Dustin Kovacvich

Date: Feb 18 2014

**Proposal for Regulation Change:  
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SFAC-2015\_3**

Date: Feb 18 2014

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From: **Dustin Kovacvich**

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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.*

Zymoetz A

**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

Bait ban

Above Limonite Creek (Zymoetz River A): Class I water Jul 24 - Dec 31; Steelhead Stamp mandatory Jul 24 - Dec 31;

**Canadian residents only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Jul 24 - Dec 31**

Below Limonite Creek (Zymoetz River B): Class II water Jul 24 - May 31; Steelhead Stamp mandatory Jul 24 - May 31;

**Canadian residents only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Jul 24 - 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).*

Fly Fishing Only July 24 to December 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.*

This fishery has extremely unique characteristics which make it different from many other Steelhead fisheries across the province.

Large highly aggressive steelhead found in a small river environment that feed on insects regularly when hatches occur does not happen in very many places in the world. The Upper section of the Zymoetz River is one of these very unique places. It is a highly treasured by the individuals who fly fish it and is recognized as one of the finest Steelhead Dry Fly Fisheries in the world.

This is a fishery that is already primarily a fly fishery. The fly fishing experience can be greatly reduced by a small minority of gear anglers fishing this area. The gear anglers can access and cover water more easily and efficiently than fly fisherman catching many more fish per rod on average per day. Gear Anglers can also easily fish areas that are extremely difficult to fly fish and leave no refuges for holding steelhead anywhere in the upper Zymoetz. A gear fisherman can have a much large impact on the quality of the fishery than an individual fly fisherman. Gear fishing also tends to put the fish off the bite for many more days than fly fishing leading to few anglers gear fishing have quality fishing in areas with a hugely reduced quality of angling for fly fishers who try to fish the same waters covered by gear anglers.

The upper Zymoetz has very limited easy access and is not a highly utilized family fishery therefore a fly fishing only regulation should have little to no impact on young anglers in this area.

It is my feeling and also that of other anglers that I personally know who recreationally fish and/or guide this section of the Zymoetz River that the vast majority of the users on this section of river would be in full support of fly fishing only regulations for Zymoetz A.

Signature: Dustin Kovacvich

Date: Feb 18 2014



**Proposal for Regulation Change:  
Guidelines for Information Requirements  
Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee  
SFAC-2015\_4**

|         |  |            |                            |
|---------|--|------------|----------------------------|
| Date:   | <u>November 21, 2014</u>                         | # of pages | _____                      |
| To:     | <u><b>Fisheries Section, Skeena Region</b></u>   | Ministry   | _____                      |
|         |  | Fax #      | <u><b>250-847-7728</b></u> |
|         |  | Ministry   | _____                      |
| Office: | <u>3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC</u>           | Phone #    | <u>250-847-7260</u>        |
| From:   | <u><b>Upper Skeena Angling Guides Assoc.</b></u> | Phone #    | _____                      |
|         |  | Fax #      | _____                      |

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Instructions for Proposal Submission:</b>   |                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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 &amp; SFAC evaluation.</li> <li>▪ Deadline for submission of proposals for the March 15, 2015 SFAC meeting is February 1, 2015.</li> <li>▪ Proposal submissions may be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Fisheries Section, Fish &amp; Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Smithers.</li> </ul> |                           |
| <b>Proponent Contact Information:</b>  |                           |
| Name: Gene Allen   |                           |
| Mailing Address:   |                           |
| Affiliation: Upper Skeena Angling Guides Association   |                           |
| Day-Time Phone: 250.842.8829   | Email: gjooster@gmail.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.*

Kispiox River

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Bait ban (except Hevenor Creek)  
Canadian resident anglers only on weekends, September 1 – October 31  
No powered boats  
No angling from boats  
Class II water; steelhead stamp mandatory September 1 – October 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).*

Fly-fishing only during the Classified Water period: September 1 – October 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 has been a recent huge increase in rubber worm increase from American anglers. More than 50% of the late-season anglers in 2014 were gear fishermen. Gear fishermen are catching ~10 fish for every one caught by fly fishermen, especially late in the season as water temperatures drop.

Signature: Original signed by Gene Allen

Date: 21 November, 2014

**Proposal for Regulation Change:  
Guidelines for Information Requirements  
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SFAC-2015\_5**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Date: <u>November 21, 2014</u>                  | # of pages _____<br>Ministry _____          |
| To: <u>Fisheries Section, Skeena Region</u>     | Fax # <u>250-847-7728</u><br>Ministry _____ |
| Office: <u>3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC</u>  | Phone # <u>250-847-7260</u>                 |
| From: <u>Upper Skeena Angling Guides Assoc.</u> | Phone # _____<br>Fax # _____                |

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| Name: Gene Allen   |                            |
| Mailing Address:   |                            |
| Affiliation:   |                            |
| Day-Time Phone: 250.842.8829   | Email: gjrooster@gmail.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.*

Kispiox and Bulkley rivers

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Bait ban (except Hevenor Creek)  
Canadian resident anglers only on weekends, September 1 – October 31  
No powered boats  
No angling from boats  
Class II water; steelhead stamp mandatory September 1 – October 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).*

Extend the classified waters period from September 1 – October 31 to September 1 – November 15

**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 regulation change would increase income to the Crown from Classified Waters licence sales.  
There are more anglers during this time period now that climate has changed (mild winters more common).  
This change would also address increasing effort from non-residents that angle during this time that contribute little to the local economy.

Signature: Original signed by Gene Allen

Date: November 21, 2014

**Proposal for Regulation Change:  
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SFAC 2015\_6**

|   |                             |
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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.*

BC

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Bait ban (except Hevenor Creek)  
Canadian resident anglers only on weekends, September 1 – October 31  
No powered boats  
No angling from boats  
Class II water; steelhead stamp mandatory September 1 – October 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).*

Increase the classified licence fee for all non-residents from \$22/day to \$50/day.

**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 extra revenue could be applied to help enhance funds for wild steelhead projects. This is still a reasonable price to pay compared to other river systems that are not as special as the Skeena River system.

Signature: Original signed by Gene Allen

Date: November 21, 2014

