



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

Date: Nov. 11, 2015 # of pages 3

To: Fisheries Section, Skeena Region 250-847-7337  
Ministry

Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC Phone # 250-847-7260

From: Jeff Lough Phone # 250-847-9729 (h)  
Phone # 250-847-7326 (w)

Proponent Contact Information:	
Jeff Lough - Regional Fisheries Biologist MoFLNRO	
Box 5000	
Smithers, BC	
Tel: 250-847-7337	Alt: 250-847-7260

**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.

Lachmach River (MU 6-14)

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Several Federal, Provincial and Regional angling regulations apply to the Lachmach.

The Water-specific regulations for the Lachmach R. applicable to this proposal are:

- No Fishing September 1 to October 31
- Bait ban

**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).

The Water-specific angling regulation for the Lachmach R proposed to be changed on April 1, 2016 is to:

- Rescind the No Fishing Sept 1-Oct 31 regulation.

**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.

From the late 80's through to the late 90's, the Lachmach River was managed by DFO as a North Coast Coho index stream. In April 1987, at DFO's request, B.C. prescribed a No Fishing from Sept.1-Oct. 31 regulation to complement DFO's zero (0) harvest quota for Coho on the Lachmach. This approach to regulation harmonization is often referred to as a "mirror order". This additional regulation would reduce an anglers ability to, if encountered by enforcement officers, state that they were fishing for non-Coho species (e.g. Cutthroat, Dolly Varden) but would actually be "incidentally" catching (and ultimately impacting) Coho on the index stream.

After the Lachmach R. was no longer managed as North Coast Coho index stream the quota for Coho for that stream became 1/day, however a request by DFO to remove BC's "mirror order" was never received. Accordingly the No Fishing Sept 1 to Oct. 31 (for fin fish other than salmon) mirror order has remained in the *Freshwater Fishing Regulation Synopsis* since 1987 to present.

If the No Fishing Sept 1 to Oct. 31 regulation is rescinded there would be increase opportunity to angle for finfish other than salmon in the Lachmach River for the Sept.1 – Oct. 31 period.

Signature:



Date: November 11, 2015

**Proposal for Regulation Change:  
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Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee**

Date: Nov. 17, 2015 # of pages 3

To: Fisheries Section, Skeena Region 250-847-7728  
Ministry

Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC Phone # 250-847-7260

From: Len Vanderstar Phone # 250-847-9729 (h)  
Phone # 250-847-7326 (w)

**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 March 15, 2015 SFAC meeting is February 1, 2015.
- 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: Len Vanderstar

Mailing Address: 1761 Kidd Rd., Smithers, BC, V0J 2N6

Affiliation: Friends of Morice Bulkley; Friends of Wild Salmon

Day-Time Phone: 250-847-7326 (w)

Email: lvanderstar1761@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.

All Skeena Region steelhead rivers

**Existing Regulation(s):**

None existing

**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).

I am recommending that the Sports Fishery Advisory Committee consider:

1. Set a restriction on hook size for spoon fishing during times of river occupancy by steelhead adults so that there is minimal chance of the hook penetrating into a fish's eye or gill plate;  
or
2. Ensure that spoon hooks are trailing hooks to minimize eye penetration (the hook is not leveraged into the eye but able to stay in one place due to its inherent flexibility of spoon attachment);  
or
3. Restrict the use of spoons for steelhead fishing (*may be problematic with a coho catch and retain season overlap*).

**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.

Over the years, I have noticed that hardware gear fishermen (using spoons) are disproportionately injuring and killing adult steelhead in Skeena Region rivers (I have fished steelhead in the Skeena Region for over 20 years). This is largely due to the large hook size, even though they are barbless. What I have noticed is that the larger supplied hook that comes with the lure has a greater tendency to penetrate into the fish's gills internally (throat hooked), or extending beyond the lip and damaging/blinding one eye of the fish. A case in point was yesterday I decided to experiment with two steelhead fishing techniques on the upper Morice River. I hooked and retrieved eight, four using fly casting (trailing hook flies) and four using a cleo spoon (this is a smaller spoon than most kitimat spoons). Two of the steelhead suffered eye injury (one for sure blinding) from the cleo spoon; no lasting injury was associated with the flies (typical clean hook-ups on the side of their mouths).

I also hooked an even number of bull char on both fly line and spoon casting. Of the six or so bull char

caught, no fish was injured but one was fortunate enough not to have the hook penetrate into a gill even though the hook was embedded deep in the throat. I have witnessed a few bull char mortally wounded due to deep spoon hook penetration by these aggressive fish over the years.

Incidentally, I came across a dead steelhead this season (2015) that I “suspected” was the result of bleeding from the gills due to hook penetration. In all the years that I have steelhead fished, I only witnessed one steelhead die from a fly hook-up (although some may have died upon release due to over-playing by inexperienced fishermen), but the major contributing factor was likely the gill parasites that I noticed on the doe.

The argument that hook size increases hook-up and retention success does not hold water from my experience; smaller hooks are equally as successful from my experimentation, and short trailing hooks even more successful. There is a general consensus that one is going to inflict more deep tissue damage to the fish with large hooks.

Steelhead conservation is not just about “escapement”, “habitat” or “catch & release”, but also about reducing injury and mortality.

Signature: *Len Vanderstar*

Date: Nov. 17, 2015

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

Date: <u>January 20,2016</u>	# of pages _____ Ministry _____
To: <u>Fisheries Section, Skeena Region</u>	Fax # <u>250-847-7728</u> Ministry _____
Office: <u>3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC</u>	Phone # <u>250-847-7260</u>
From: <u>Jim Culp representing the BC Federation of Fly Fishers</u>	Phone # <u>1-250-635-2540</u>  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 2016 SFAC meeting is February 7, 2016.</li> <li>▪ Proposal submissions may be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Senior Biologist, Mark Beere, Fisheries Section, Fish &amp; Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Smithers.</li> </ul>	
<b>Proponent Contact Information:</b>	
Name: Jim Culp	
Mailing Address:4709 Hamer Ave. Terrace B.C. V8G2E2	
Affiliation: Region 6 Representative BC Federation of Fly Fishers	
Day-Time Phone: 1-250-635-2540	Email: culpoutdoors@telus.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.*

The total length of the Skeena River and all of its tributaries.

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Existing regulations are varied and many throughout the tributaries and the main Skeena River.

Starting with the Lower Skeena River and its tributaries there are no bait restrictions for indigenous freshwater species or for steelhead during the regular angling season on the main stem or the lower tributaries.

The first bait restriction begins with the Lakelse River where a total natural bait ban is in effect for the whole river system over the calendar year.

There is only one bait restriction for the total length of the Skeena River which is at the confluence of the Kispiox and Skeena Rivers, within three white boundary signs.

Moving upstream from the Lakelse River the Kitsumkalum River has a bait ban from January 1 to June 15 primarily to protect overwintering summer run steelhead.

The Zymoetz River system has a permanent bait ban throughout its total length over the calendar year as do the following rivers; the Morice River; the Suskwa River; the Kispiox River (except Havenor Creek) and the Babine River.

The Kitwanga, Kitseguella, Sustat and Klutantan Rivers have bait bans from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31.

The Bulkley River has a bait ban from Aug. 1 to Dec. 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).*

The proposal is to ban the use of all natural baits over the calendar year as a lure while angling for steelhead, all species of trout (rainbow and cutthroat) char (dolly varden, bull trout and lake char where they may drop down from a lake into the top pools of a river) and whitefish. Most of these species can be found somewhere in the Skeena River system during every month of the year. The proposed bait ban is for the total length of the Skeena River and all of its tributaries except those that have been designated in the existing regulations as streams where it has been deemed desirable to allow natural bait to be used for special fisheries for children or fish management reasons.

**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.*

Bait bans have been implemented over time in river systems across British Columbia and within other jurisdictions and countries as a means to provide protection for juvenile salmonid species and or to reduce the hooking and capture of adult steelhead, trout, char and other species that are overwintering, are vulnerable from too many being caught and too protect small or endangered populations of all these species.

A variety of studies and a wide angler understanding and agreement over many years has conceded that both adult and juveniles will too often ingest bait, deep into the throat or gill, and when hooked the point of the bait hook can puncture critical arteries and cause the fish to bleed to death. Most of the studies have shown that there are more angler contacts with target species using bait compared to artificial lures and usually causes more bleeders compared to equal number of angler hookups using artificial lures. This undoubtedly would be the case where angling off of gravel bars using the so called still fishing technique with a baited hook or lure such as spin-n-glo that is in a stationary, weighted position where a fish can swim up to the bait and often ingest it and swim away and in a rush and hook itself. The angler has very little control over the hookup, particularly those anglers who are not very experienced and who do not understand and at times do not care about catch and release and the reasons for it as a fish management tool.

Hook size restrictions are critical for reducing bleeders whether using natural bait or an artificial lures. Large or oversize hooks even on an artificial lure will too often penetrate vulnerable arteries. It makes no sense to use natural bait in a catch and release fishery and flies in the face of the very principle which is to reduce, and in fact minimize the number of fish hooked that result that can result in a sub-lethal or lethal outcome.

To use the argument that a bait ban regulation would negatively impact children and families who are just learning how to fish is unreasonable and not a fact. It is true that bait is more effective in hooking fish, which includes juvenile fish that are more aggressive than adult fish because they are constantly on the prowl for food which makes them more susceptible to the smell of bait and the soft texture, particularly of salmon eggs or roe and garden worms.

The goal is not to hook any juvenile fish regardless what lure one is using including flies. Most lures do hook juveniles, with artificial lures usually around the outside of the mouth allowing anglers to release them easier and quicker.

Children and all family members can learn how to use artificial lures such as spi-n-gloes dangling behind a boat or by casting and still fishing with bar rigs as they would with bait. It is in fact easier to fish with artificial lures because it is not necessary to attach and reattach a



fresh piece of roe that is often eaten by juvenile trout, char, white fish and so on. And it will often break off by the current moving it back and forth or it will some time fly off the hook when casting.

It is a challenge and fun to find artificial lures that work, it is all part of angling and most children and families quickly learn from word of mouth or by experiment what works and what does not.

Most of all catch and release is intended to encourage anglers to catch less, rather than more, and reduce injury and mortality of the fish that are released.

The Skeena Watershed is not a very productive ecosystem compared to comparable size river systems in warmer regions of BC and south into the U.S. It is possible by angling to cause a substantive impact upon indigenous populations of trout and char if angling pressures become too great and concentrated.

There is little doubt that angler numbers have increased dramatically over the past decade and will continue to grow as the human population in the Skeena Watershed and Kitimat area increases as a result of extensive industrial growth. As well this growth will continue to intensify in the north, south and in eastern BC, the US, and from abroad as fisheries elsewhere decline or their quality deteriorates also from too many people and angling pressure and environmental issues.

Not to be ignored is the declining Canadian dollar, which is making Canada a tourist bargain. Many financial experts are saying the Canadian dollar will remain well below par for years to come. We must prepare for an increase of foreign anglers which is good and bad, who nevertheless have to be managed and controlled in order to protect our fish resources and the quality of our recreational fisheries.

The SFAC committee should take a proactive, futuristic approach towards angling on the Skeena River and its tributaries. If the right things are done it is possible to preserve and even enhance the angling experience of this very special fishery. The goal should be to modify our desires and encourage others to do the same, catch less but enjoy the experience to the maximum. There will be much to offer and the demand will recognize what is available and be the first in line to participate in a Skeena angling experience. Destroy it or allow it to deteriorate will make no one happy, tourism will suffer and so will the experiences now enjoyed by resident anglers.

The now enshrined bait ban on the Thompson River took years to become reality, before it happened it divided and pitted anglers, conservationists, First Nations, fishery managers, tourism operators and ordinary people against each other. All concerned about that great river and its steelhead fishery should have focused on saving its steelhead (not the fishing) that are now only hanging on by a thread by managing water allocation, the commercial salmon fishery, habitat and the recreational fishery that have all contributed to the problematic future of these fish.

We must not go through that agony and despair that haunted those who have cared about Thompson River steelhead (and there are many) here in the Skeena Watershed as we together

grapple over how to manage what is arguably the largest, wild, summer run steelhead fishery remaining in the world.

Signature: Jim Culp

Date: January 18, 2016

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Date: January 20, 2016 # of pages \_\_\_\_\_  
Ministry \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Fisheries Section, Skeena Region Fax # 250-847-7728  
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Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC Phone # 250-847-7260  
From: Jim Culp Phone # 250-635-2540  
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**Proponent Contact Information:**

Name: Jim Culp

Mailing Address:

Affiliation: BC Federation of Fly Fishers Region 6 Representative

Day-Time Phone: 250-635-2540

Email: [culpoutdoor@telus.net](mailto:culpoutdoor@telus.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.

Zymoetz (Copper) River

**Existing Regulation(s):**

No Fishing upstream of the sign at the transmission line crossing (downstream of the Zymoetz Canyon) Jan. 1 to June 15

**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).

Close the river to all angling on (one month earlier than the existing regulation) December 1 to June 15 from the same location below the Zymoetz Canyon (lower/first canyon at 5 km. on the Copper River Forest Road).

**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 is a pause, to realize that the Zymoetz River summer steelhead are being subjected to increasingly more angling pressure which has and likely will result in a rise of sub-lethal and lethal impacts while these fish are in their overwintering/holding state. Only a few years ago this was not an issue but very quickly the situation has changed with more and more knowledgeable, very competent anglers, with float boats and more effective and varied tackle and communication networks that were not imaginable a decade ago providing them with the ability to catch increasing numbers of these vulnerable steelhead.

It is well known that holding steelhead are easy to catch by those who understand what is going on/are experienced anglers and who use the most effective tackle. It is not acceptable for any angler under these circumstances to be catching large numbers of steelhead while they are in their sanctuary period, almost a time of semi-hibernation, living for the most part off of their body fats and the odd tid.bit of food that is available.

The question that needs to be asked: "When and at what time should anglers leave overwintering steelhead alone alone"?

Signature: Jim Culp

Date: January 18, 2016

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**Proponent Contact Information:**

Name: Jim Culp

Mailing Address: 4709 Hamer Ave. Terrace BC V8G2E2

Affiliation: BC Federation of Fly Fishers Region 6 Representative

Day-Time Phone: 250-635-2540

Email: [culpoutdoors@telus.net](mailto:culpoutdoors@telus.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.*

Zymoetz (Copper) River and tributaries

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Catch and release all steelhead over the angling season from June 15 to January 1.  
No fishing from McDonnell Lake downstream to 3 km. signs  
No fishing between the signs in the Zymoetz Canyon(lower)  
No fishing upstream of the sign at the transmission line crossing (downstream of the Zymoetz Canyon) Jan.1 to June 15.

**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).*

The proposal is to implement a limit on the number of steelhead an angler can catch and release over a given angling day on the Zymoetz River and its tributaries.

The BC Federation of Fly Fishers is proposing that the daily angling limit for steelhead be two per day in the Class 2, B Section of the Zymoetz River and its tributaries the Clore River and Kitnayakwa Creek.

In the Class 1, A Section the daily catch and release number be 4 per 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.*

The rationale for this regulation is for the most part the same as for regulation #1. With the rapid increase in anglers fishing these two independent sections of the Zymoetz River and the realization that the number of anglers will only increase as the human population in the Skeena Valley and Kitimat Valley continue to grow at an exponential rate along with anglers from afar wanting to fish its waters.

The situation will only become more acute in terms of maintaining a quality fishery, while the pressure upon steelhead stacking up in the Class 2 Section of the river upstream of the Water Gauge Run at 12 km. on the Copper River Forest Road and even more so in the area above the Second Canyon beginning at 20 Km. on the Copper River Forest Road to Limonite Creek

the boundary with the Class 1 Section.

As angler numbers grow it will become more and more difficult to manage that increase in pressure. Starting now, with progressive changes that are not overly restrictive, will assure support from the majority of the angling community who by and large will understand the rational and will support the new direction which is to reduce sub-lethal and lethal impacts to steelhead while maintaining some semblance of a quality sport fishery.

The reason for the larger recommended limit of 4 per day for the Class 1, A Section is that there is much less angling pressure because of the remoteness of the area and the steelhead tend to be spread out over a relatively large, difficult area to access so long as helicopters are not used to fly anglers from pool to pool.

It has not been uncommon over the past three years to count over one hundred anglers a day during the September, early October prime time angling period. In the past two dozen anglers would have been considered too many. We have also heard numerous stories and reports of anglers catching a dozen or more steelhead over an angling day which is too many encounters resulting in too many sub-lethal and lethal impacts.

We understand the difficulty Conservation Officers would have to enforce a catch and release, catch limit regulation. There are ways that would help, one of which could be a punch card that would be reminder to anglers and could assist a C.O's observing an angler catching and releasing a steelhead and punching his/her card. For the most part we would have to depend upon an anglers good will and other anglers observing and reporting anglers who would ignore such a regulation.

Signature: Jim Culp BC Federation of Fly Fishers

Date: January 19, 2016

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

Date: January 20, 2016

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To: Fisheries Section, Skeena Region

Ministry

Fax # 250-847-7728

Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC

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Phone # 250-847-7260

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**Proponent Contact Information:**

Name: Jim Culp

Mailing Address:

Affiliation: BC Federation of Fly Fishers Region 6 Representative

Day-Time Phone: 250-635-2540

Email: culpoutdoor@telus.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.*

Zymoetz River Class 1, Section A Section or anywhere else within the Zymoetz River system

**Existing Regulation(s):**

There is no regulation.

**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).*

The BC FFF is proposing a restriction on the use of helicopters as a means to transport anglers from one fishing location to another fishing location on the Zymoetz River Class 1 Section or anywhere else within the Zymoetz River system.

Our proposal is that a helicopter should be limited to transporting and dropping off an angling party at the beginning of their trip and be picked up at the end of the day at a designated pickup location. The guided or unguided party would walk and fish, or walk and use a raft to ferry anglers across the river, or use a raft to float to the pickup location.

Unless the rules have changed for hunting, the transport of hunters by helicopter has been restricted for many years. Should the use of helicopters for angling be any different?

**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 was at least one day during the 2015 steelhead angling season when four helicopters were moving anglers around the Class 1 Section of the Zymoetz River. That was a very unsafe situation with so many helicopters flying up and down that very narrow river valley during what we understand was a cloudy somewhat difficult weather day. According to our information neither the pilots or the guides or whoever were chartering the helicopters were talking to each other. Guiding is a very competitive business so it was no surprise to hear what happened. One can only imagine how the quality of the angling experience was for anglers in the helicopters being moved around. What about the possibility of any anglers that day who had taken the land route to that part of the river and had to put up with the noise of the helicopters and than being scooped by a helicopter landing at their destined fishing location of choice after their long walk through the bush.

When the guiding days in the Class I Section in the 1980's were all licensed to a previous



guide who did all of his guiding with a helicopter and coincidentally during the same period it was common for a wealthy angler from the US to be using her own private helicopter at the same time, the noise and quality of the angling experience was compromised for anglers who accessed the river by walking. Between the two they monopolized the situation and at times ruined the fishing for others.

As the writer of this proposal this is not a personal issue. I have not fished the Class I Section for a number of years and may never fish it again because of my age and the difficulty of being able to walk to my old fishing haunts.

The most important consideration is that this Class I Section is a rare and very special angling experience for someone fortunate to fish for wild summer steelhead in such a pristine scenic valley. Helicopters buzzing up and down the valley are no more acceptable than logging which has not taken place during the prime time of September and October, which has a condition of the "LRMP Special Management Zone" along the river agreed to respect the quality of the angling experience for angling guides and their clients and unguided resident anglers during that time of year. While I was a member of the LRMP representing tourism during the process I was instrumental in being able to convince all of the LRMP members at the time to agree to the concession "Consider minimizing disturbance caused by resource development activities during the specified Class 1 angling season" through consensus. To date and since adoption of the LRMP plan in 2002 including the special provisions we are not aware of any logging having taken place during the Sept./Oct. time frame.

Signature: Jim Culp	Date: January 20, 2016
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Date:	<u>January 26, 2016</u>	# of pages	_____
To:	<u><b>Fisheries Section, Skeena Region</b></u>	Ministry	_____
		Fax #	<u><b>250-847-7728</b></u>
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Office:	<u>3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC</u>	Phone #	<u>250-847-7260</u>
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From:	<u><b>Alex Bussmann</b></u>	Phone #	<u>250-847-3377</u>
			_____
		Fax #	<u>250-847-3396</u>
			_____

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- 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: Alexandre Bussmann

Mailing Address: PO Box 550, Smithers, V0J 2N0

Affiliation: Oscar's Source For Adventure

Day-Time Phone: 250-847-3377

Email: alex@oscarssports.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.

Skeena 4

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Canadian Residents only in Skeena River Section 4 on Saturdays and Sundays during classified period in two zones:

(a) Shegunia River confluence to Sedan Creek confluence July 1-Dec 31 and (b) Chindemash Creek confluence to 1.5 km above Zymoetz River confluence, July 1-Dec 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).

Change the Canadian Residents only zone on Skeena 4 during classified period (July 1 – December 31) **from** zone (a) Shegunia River Confluence to Sedan Creek confluence **to** zone (a) Burdick Creek confluence to Sedan Creek confluence.

Zone (b) Chindemash Creek confluence to 1.5 km above Zymoetz River confluence remains unchanged.

**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 of new regulation: The proposed regulation change would increase the angling opportunity of Non Canadian Alien Anglers on Saturdays and Sundays during the classified period (July 1 – December 31). Quality Waters has reduced fishing opportunities of Non Canadian Aliens by 30% in the Houston, Smithers and Hazelton area with the Morice, Bulkley, Kispiox, Suskwa and most accessible parts of the Skeena being off limits to them on Saturdays and Sundays.
- 2.) The regulation amendment is necessary because: Houston, Smithers and Hazelton are in the middle of Steelhead Paradise. Asking Non Canadian Alien Anglers not to fish 2 out of 7 days on the Morice, Bulkley, Kispiox, Suskwa and the most accessible parts of the Skeena without offering them a viable alternative in the Smithers area is very discriminatory. The two zones on Skeena 4 open to Non Canadian Aliens at this point are marginal. River access is difficult.
- 3.) Why and/or how the new regulation would be effective: Extending zone (a) would allow

Non Canadian Aliens to have easier access to Skeena 4 water in the Hazelton area on weekends during the classified period. It would give them a reason to stay in the Houston, Smithers, Hazelton area over the weekend versus leaving Northern British Columbia altogether or going to the Terrace area.

- 4.) Expected outcomes of the new regulation: Non Canadian Aliens would stay in Steelhead Paradise longer, feel more welcomed and yes spend more money in our communities. Tourism is a very important component to the Northern economy. The amended regulation would not affect Canadian Residents or guides negatively as both groups would have the entire Morice, Bulkley, Kispiox, Suskwa, Copper and parts of the Skeena etc to themselves on Saturdays and Sundays during the classified period.
- 5.) NA

Signature:

Date:

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

Date: January 26 2016

To: **Fisheries Section, Skeena Region**

Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC

From: **Walter Faetz**

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

Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # **250-847-7728**

Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # 250-847-7260

Phone # 250-615-7672

Fax # none

**Instructions for Proposal Submission:**

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**Proponent Contact Information:**

Name: Walter Faetz

Mailing Address: 5221 Skeena Drive

Affiliation: Spey Lodge Inc.

Day-Time Phone: 250-635-1514

Email: [info@speylodge.com](mailto:info@speylodge.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.*

Zymoetz River 1 and 2  
Skeena River IV  
Bulkley River  
Morice River  
Kitsumkalum River  
Kispiox River

**Existing Regulation(s):**

**Non-guided Non-resident Alien Restrictions**

Zymoetz River upstream of Limonite Creek Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays July 24 to Dec. 31

Zymoetz River downstream of Limonite Creek      Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays  
July 24 to May 31

Bulkley River excluding the following tributaries: Morice, Suskwa and Telkwa Rivers  
Saturdays and Sundays    Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

Kispiox River      Saturdays and Sundays    Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

Kitsumkalum River in the following zone only: Kitsumkalum Lake outlet to Glacier  
Creek confluence    Saturdays    April 1 to March 31

Kitsumkalum River      Sundays      April 1 to March 31

Morice River      Saturdays and Sundays    Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

Skeena River in the following zones only:

(a) Shegunia River confluence to Sedan Creek confluence; and

(b) Chindemash Creek confluence to 1.5 km above Zymoetz River confluence

Saturdays and Sundays    July 1 to Dec. 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).*

To create a booking system for non-residents anglers wishing to fish Steelhead on the above rivers.

Under the new system, a set amount of non-resident, non-guided angler days will be made available through the existing online angling licensing system. Selections will be made on a first-come, first-serve system, ensuring all non-resident anglers have an equal opportunity.

**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 current restrictions to non-resident anglers on the above rivers are a result of the QWS recommendations that changed Skeena area steelhead regulations in 2012. Part of those changes were to limit non-resident use on weekend. The hope was this would increase resident experiences and simultaneously decrease crowding issues. The result was increased pressure during the week and increased non-resident Canadian pressure on weekends. The overall daily experience has continued to deteriorate due to crowding. Basically it's the opinion of many that forcing seven days of anglers into four or five days of angling, damaged the experience for all anglers on the weekdays. The angling experience is not weekly, or monthly, or seasonal it's a daily experience. It is the opinion of many that limiting non-residents should be a daily endeavor not weekly.

Limiting non-residents anglers daily is not a new idea in British Columbia. The Dean River has had limits placed on non-resident use for some time now via a lottery system. It is the opinion on many that the angling experience on the Dean River is equal to or less than some of the rivers in this proposal.

Also, On September 03 2015 this news release came from Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, media relations.

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Regulatory changes to Kootenay angling management announced today will help ensure a quality fishing experience, reduce crowding on popular rivers and support trout conservation.

The main change is implementation of a booking system for non-resident anglers on three “classified waters” in the Kootenays: the Wigwam River, Skookumchuck Creek and Michel Creek. All three of these fisheries have seen non-resident, non-guided angler use exceed targets, creating overcrowding on the river as well as pressure on fish populations.

Under the new system, a set amount of non-resident, non-guided angler days will be made available through the existing online angling licensing system. Selections will be made on a first-come, first-serve system, ensuring all non-resident anglers have an equal opportunity.

Once these days are sold, non-resident anglers will have to book through a licensed angling guide to fish on these waters. Angler-guided days have been increased on the Wigwam and Skookumchuck in anticipation of additional interest from non-residents seeking access to these waters. These additional days will become available later in the season.

The new system will ensure resident anglers maintain priority access on streams that have been over-subscribed in recent years, while still allowing non-residents ample opportunity to access these high-demand systems.

B.C.’s classified waters are productive wild trout streams in wilderness and semi-wilderness settings, which provide unique and high quality fishing opportunities that are in high demand but limited supply. The classified waters system was created to help protect the quality of fishing opportunities these waters provide. The system includes limits to guided and non-guided angling, reflects resident priority, and requires special classified water licences. Together these measures support stock assessment, habitat protection and enhancement, as well as compliance and enforcement.

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The Kootenay FLNR staff have taken these bold steps and need to be commended. The Kootenay region receives the second most non-resident angler use in BC, region six Steelhead streams receive the most.



Kootenay Staff and stakeholders completed AMP summary forms for all their classified rivers. They established physical parameters of the rivers, angler density targets for the rivers and allocation for all classes of anglers. This will be a required component of implementing similar regulations in the Skeena region, because to date Skeena region AMP's do not address these vital components.

Current regulation already allows the director to enact a booking type system.

Excerpt from the Angling and Scientific collection Regulation

**Allocating classified waters angling licences to non-guided non-residents and non-guided non-resident aliens**

**2.02 (1) The director may establish one or both of the following for a classified water for a calendar year:**

- (a) the maximum number of classified waters angling licences or angler days to be allocated to non-guided non-residents;**
- (b) the maximum number of classified waters angling licences or angler days to be allocated to non-guided non-resident aliens.**

**(2) In making a decision under subsection (1), the director must have regard to the management plan for the classified water.**

All the rivers in this proposal share these traits,

- Wild runs of Steelhead
- Worldwide reputation as a potentially high quality angling experience
- Primarily easy access by road, boat or helicopter
- Infrastructure, boat launches, logging roads or highways along the river, motels, hotels, tackle stores
- Water level stations, which provide anglers with real time information
- Active guide component, which draws attention to high quality fishing
- Well known crowding, so much so that some residents will not fish them any longer

The completion on this proposed regulation change will not be easy. It will required a great deal of effort on the part of Smithers FLNR staff, Victoria FLNR and on all stakeholders. But however difficult the task the results will be substantial. As in the Kootenays data collection will be simplified, enforcement will be simplified, growth of NR use will be capped, leaving resident angler priority intact.

AMP for these rivers will have to be revisited and completed to properly implement this proposed regulation change. But if that' s possible in the Kootenay region than I have every faith that it' s more than possible in Skeena region.

The angling experience and the effects of crowding on Skeena area Steelhead rivers has been discussed for more than two decades now. The QWS attempted to address these concerns but fell short by focusing on weekend limits rather than daily.

The long lasting Dean river lottery and the soon to be changes in the Kootenay Region trout streams demonstrate that if the will exists limiting daily angler use is possible.

Skeena region Steelhead streams are world class, they deserve world class management of anglers.

Signature:

Date: January 26 2016

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

January 23, 2016

<b>To:</b>	<b>Fisheries Section, Skeena Region</b>	Ministry	
		Fax #	<b>250-847-7728</b>
<b>Office:</b>	3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC	Ministry	
		Phone #	250-847-7260
<b>From:</b>	Jim Culp	Phone #	250-635-2540
		Fax #	

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**Proponent Contact Information:**

Name: Jim Culp

Mailing Address: 4709 Hamer Ave. Terrace BC V8G2E2

Affiliation: BC Federation of Fly Fishers Region 6 Representative

Day-Time Phone: 250-635-2540

Email: [culpoutdoors@telus.net](mailto:culpoutdoors@telus.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.*

Zymoetz River Class 2, B Section - From the confluence with the Skeena River to and into the Lower Canyon (5 Km. Copper River Forest Road) and above the canyon to the Limonite Creek boundary with Section A or to make it simple all of the Zymoetz River system.

**Existing Regulation(s):**

There is no existing regulation to manage the use of power boats.

**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).*

Ban the use of any power boat/jet outboard on an inflatable boat or jet sled inboard or an outboard on the Zymoetz River Class 2, B Section or all of the Zymoetz River system.

**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.*

While it may appear at the outset that such a ban is not necessary because of the limited river access for launching a boat and because it is a fast flowing river with many treacherous rapids etc. it is not an issue.

The fact is that over the years more than one boat operator has taken advantage of the lack of control over the use of power boats on the lower section from the Skeena River to the First/ Lower Canyon. The same thing has happened in the middle section of the river above the Second Canyon and it could happen in two other sections where it is possible to launch an inflatable boat with a small jet.

It is only a matter of time that someone decides to use a jet boat in one or more sections of the river by challenging the existing lack of control over the use of power boats. There needs to be a simple rule that says no power boats are allowed. They are not needed for access to any fishing locations within the Class 2 Section. If an angler(s) or guide(s) decided they wanted to use a jet sled or inflatable with a jet they could/would cause a lot of chaos and bad feelings by ruining the fishing for walk in or float boat anglers.

Signature: Jim Culp

Date: January 23, 2016

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

Date:	January 23,2016		
		# of pages	
To:	<b>Fisheries Section, Skeena Region</b>	Ministry	
		Fax #	<b>250-847-7728</b>
Office:	3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC	Ministry	
		Phone #	250-847-7260
From:	Jim Culp	Phone #	250-635-2540
		Fax #	

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<b>Proponent Contact Information:</b>	
Name: Jim Culp	
Mailing Address: 4709 Hamer Ave. Terrace BC V8G2E2	
Affiliation: BC Federation of Fly Fishers Region 6 Representative	
Day-Time Phone: 250-635-2540	Email: culpoutdoors@telus.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.*

Kitsumkalum River

**Existing Regulation(s):**

No regulation exists for restricting power boats on the Kitsumkalum (Kalum) River

Kitsumkalum (Kalum) River – Canadian residents only on Saturdays from the outlet of Kitsumkalum Lake to Glacier Creek confluence all year.(see map 3 page 63)

Canadian Residents only on Sundays for the entire river all year. There are also some guiding specific regulations that can be found on the Government website.

**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).*

Explore the idea of a jet boat ban for the Kitsumkalum (Kalum) River during the steelhead angling period from October 15 to May 1.

A second related proposal for a catch and release regulation which would limit the number of steelhead released to two per day such as is being proposed for the Zymoetz River Class 2, B Section.

**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.*

A catch and release regulation such as proposed for the Zymoetz River along with other options should be considered as a way to reduce the number of Kalum River steelhead hookups. The issue is that anglers catch and release a wide race spectrum of steelhead, beginning with early summer run steelhead which may share a pool or run with fall fish, early winter migrating steelhead, mid-winter fish and those steelhead that move into the river during March and April. It is a complex management picture that requires some real soul searching and science by the angling community and the fishery managers to decide what to do.

The first order of business is to determine if Kalum River steelhead are in trouble and if so which races are declining? If there are limited funds and fisheries staff to carry out studies that can provide meaningful data, anglers and the Provincial Fisheries managers have to decide whether or not the precautionary principle should take on a more dominant position in place of sufficient science. The BCFFF suggests that all concerned should be looking at all the various means available to protect those races of steelhead, not one race should be over exploited in order to maintain a steelhead recreational fishery. There may be a need to close the recreational fishery to provide a sanctuary time when Kalum River steelhead are left alone.

With fresh steelhead migrating into the Kalum River from August through until April or maybe even a few in May, there is a long angling period that impacts in particular upon those early summer run fish, much more so than any other summer run steelhead in the Skeena system.

The two regulation changes that the BCFFF is proposing, if implemented, would lessen or limit the impact upon holding steelhead. The first is to reduce the boat traffic by only allowing drift boats or rafts as an alternative to power boats, which would reduce access to some sections of the river because there would not be available launching and takeout places the total length of the river. Only walk in anglers would fish those locations. Guides and all other anglers would not be able to move around as much, reducing their effectiveness along with the number of steelhead hookups. This would be a minor conservation contribution but it would in addition enhance the quality of the angling experience for all of the anglers on the river. If this proposal were adopted there is need for the Fisheries Section to assist in opening up the key drift boat take out upstream of Lean to Creek that is a gazetted public road that has grown over but could be in conflict with a private road entrance to a private property.

The second more substantive regulation change would be the same as the Zymoetz Class 2, B Section proposal, to cap the number of steelhead that an angler could hook and release on a given angler day at 2 steelhead. This regulation would accomplish all the same things as for the Zymoetz River along with the same complications, so there is no need to repeat the rational (see the Zymoetz Class 2 rational).

Signature: Jim Culp

Date: January 23,2016

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

Date: January 23, 2016 # of pages \_\_\_\_\_  
Ministry \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Fisheries Section, Skeena Region Fax # 250-847-7728  
Ministry \_\_\_\_\_  
Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC Phone # 250-847-7260  
From: Jim Culp Phone # 250-635-2540  
Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions for Proposal Submission:

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## Proponent Contact Information:

Name: Jim Culp

Mailing Address: 4709 Hamer Ave. Terrace BC V8G2E2

Affiliation: BC Federation of Fly Fishers Region 6 Representative

Day-Time Phone: 250-635-2540

Email: [culpoutdoors@telus.net](mailto:culpoutdoors@telus.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.*

Zymoetz (Copper) River Class 1, A Section

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Zymoetz Class 1, A Section – Canadian Residents only on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays July 24 to December 31. There are also some specific regulations for guiding that allows non - resident anglers to be guided on Fridays that can be found on the Government website.

**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).*

Discuss the possibility of implementing a lottery system and/or other ways to improve the management of angling in the Class 1, A Section of the Zymoetz (Copper) River.

The other changes that could be considered to improve the quality experience for all those who fish this section of the river while at the same time providing a regime that limits the number of anglers who can fish this section on a daily basis;

(1)The number of guides who operate on this section of the river could be reduced from three to two by buying out one guide and all non-resident anglers fishing this section would have to be guided.

(2)Reduce the size of the area where guiding can take place so that a section is set aside for resident anglers.

**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.*

Not to be confused with the previous angling regulation proposals, we are asking for a discussion over how to regulate and control angler numbers into this mostly pristine, wild place, and talk about access and transport of anglers into the valley. It is time to consider a lottery system as a way to manage both resident and non-resident anglers, and guiding only for non-residents.

The Dean River has a quasi non-resident lottery regulation and the Elk River in the east Kootenay is the latest river as we understand it to have some control by this means over the number of non-residents who can fish that river.

We think that one of the three existing angling guiding operations should be bought out and an equal number of rod days should be divided between the two remaining operators with one guide allocated a portion of the upper half and the second guide allocated a portion of the lower half, with a section in the middle being retained for resident anglers only.

All non-residents should have to be guided by one of the two operators. If a guiding only regulation is not implemented we can to some extent say good bye to this part of the Zymoetz River system because it already has achieved International star status and will, a step at time, be taken over by non-residents setting up tent camps for extended stays. It may be time to implement as well, a resident lottery system to manage this relatively small river system to limit the number of anglers who can fish the section on a given day.

For the most part access to the middle of Section A, which is the most popular sub-section for resident anglers to fish are limited to using what remains of a mainline forest road. The road has washouts and partly collapsed bridge which can only be traversed by walkers, bicycles and ATV's.

For those who are able, helicopters are a viable option which we talked about in Proposal #4 but did not discuss a private helicopter use regulation. We understand that regulating the private use of a helicopter is a more complicated process issue.

Access to the upper sub-section is by vehicle from the Bulkley Valley and by walking or by floating to the fishing locations or again by helicopter.

The lower 1/3 sub-section or so can be accessed via a mainline forest road and by walking into various pools or by helicopter.

Signature: Jim Culp

Date: January 24, 2016

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

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Date: January 23, 2016 # of pages \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Office: 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC Phone # 250-847-7260  
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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 (Copper ) Class 2, B Section

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Zymoetz Class 2, B Section – Canadian Residents only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays July 24 to December 31. There are also some specific regulations for guiding that allows non-resident anglers to be guided on Friday and Saturday that can be found on the Government website.

**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 proposal is for the Zymoetz River in the Class 2, B Section above the First Canyon at 5 km. on the Copper River Forest Road, from October 1 to the angling closed time (Jan. 1 or Dec. 1), be restricted to fly fishing only, using a floating line and a single fly hook, with no internal or external weight, with a maximum of a # 4 fly hook size.

**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.*

At the March 15, 2015 SFAC meeting following the discussion of the two fly fishing only proposals put forward by Dustin Kovacvich and the acrimony that ensued, the committee members talked about alternative ways to provide protection for Zymoetz River steelhead. One was to close the river to all angling during November, or as early as October 1, and the other was a daily catch and release limit of steelhead (see BCFFF Zymoetz River proposals for catch and release and earlier/ longer steelhead angling closed time).

Should the Zymoetz River catch and release limit proposal not be acceptable or workable we are putting forward this proposal as an alternative.

The rationale to close a river to angling for conservation reasons and not seriously weigh other options is not acceptable. All alternative tackle restrictions and innovation must be reviewed and considered prior to an angling closure to determine whether or not one or more could achieve the same objective.

There is an answer to the conundrum of too many steelhead being caught and released above the Lower Canyon at 5 km. on the Copper River Forest Road to the Limonite Creek boundary with the Class 1 Section. The epicenter or where the majority of runs and pools are located, which attract the bulk of overwintering steelhead, is above the Second Canyon. These fish begin to collect as early as late September and increase their buildup over their migration period that tapers off to only a dribble of fish in late October. Large numbers of steelhead hold in these pools before they disperse to their spawning areas in the following spring.

This is the time for angler action and innovation as a way to reduce the number of steelhead hookups while maintaining quality steelhead angling during October and November. The BCFFF will support an open tackle period from July 24 until the September 30 for the Class 2 Section. This is the steelhead migration time into the upper river system, into the Clore River and so on before these fish begin to rest and hold in the area of concern from about October 1 on. The reality is that some of steelhead, even before October 1, begin to congregate and hold in this section of river. This is the time when there is need for tackle restrictions that puts the conservation and well being of steelhead before anglers maximizing their catch.

Our recommendation/proposal would substantially reduce the number of steelhead hookups, as the water temperature decreases, that coincides with a reduction in the number of steelhead hookups. It is common knowledge that as the water temperature drops, the activity level and the metabolism of these fish slows down, consequently they are not as active in their search for a surface morsel to eat which could be a fly skating across the water surface.

What many anglers do not understand is that it is easier to use a fly rod and tackle, more relaxing and the least expensive way to fish for steelhead. When a steelhead is hooked using a floating line and fly the thrill is impossible to duplicate, particularly if one is using a surface fly that a steelhead rises too or chases across the surface.

No angler, regardless of age or sex who is able to walk along a rough rock or stone beach or bank and is able to wade in a fast current is excluded from fishing this way.

If members of the SFAC committee and the Fish and Wildlife Branch Fishing Section agreed to

our proposal, anglers at the season end would be bragging and be excited over single encounters with steelhead grabbing their fly off of the surface, rather than hooking a large number of steelhead and putting most of them on the beach. Our goal is to try and instill the quality experience approach amongst anglers rather than it being a competition with the quantity of steelhead caught being the most important goal.

No regulation will completely solve the conundrum of the ever increasing number of anglers that want to angle on a river such as the Zymoetz. This being the reality means that more and more will have to be willing to share the opportunity with others. Along with that attitude will be the need to get along and develop a code of conduct and an attitude that is no different than with our everyday lives when shopping and carrying out our day to day business. Life is becoming more and more challenging because of its high pace and complexity. As anglers maybe we can contribute a wee bit to a slowdown over the way we live and treat each other in a more considerate and sharing way.

Signature: Jim Culp

Date: January 24, 2016

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

Date:	<u>February 3, 2016</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>British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers</b></u>	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 2016 SFAC meeting is February 7, 2016.

- Proposal submissions may be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Senior Biologist, Mark Beere, Fisheries Section, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Smithers.

**Proponent Contact Information:**

Name: Jessea Grice

Mailing Address: BOX#126 Telkwa B.C. V0J2X0

Affiliation: BC Federation of Fly Fishers

Day-Time Phone: 250 877 9965

Email: [jessea.grice@gmail.com](mailto:jessea.grice@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.

Bulkley and Morice Rivers

**Existing Regulation(s):**

Non-resident aliens are restricted to non-guided fishing Monday to Friday. They can fish on Saturday and Sunday with a licensed guide.

**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).

In order to maintain the Bulkley/Morice world class steelhead fishery, we propose implementing a trial rod day booking system for the Bulkley and Morice Rivers for 3 years starting in 2017.

The data recorded over three years would then help determine the number of angler days in the classified period (September 1-October 31) that would be distributed to the different groups in order to limit the number of anglers per day. **The number of days would then be divided amongst the different user groups after consultation with all stakeholders.**

Days would be booked using an online system and could be booked from April 1 (start of the fishing season) onward with a maximum number of days to be booked at one time.

Non-Resident Aliens would be the first to be restricted with guide rod days being restricted second, followed by resident anglers as the last group to be restricted.

Resident only weekends would remain unchanged.

**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 objective of this proposal is to address the crowding on the Bulkley and Morice Rivers. Crowding is increasing and having a booking system will address the crowding while enhancing the quality of the fishing experience.

A "Rod Day Booking System" was widely accepted by Quality Waters Strategy participants as an effective tool to reduce crowding and preserve a quality angling experience

Signature



Date: February 5, 2016



