

**Consultation Report**

**Phase 1 (January – March 2008)**

**Skeena Quality Waters Strategy**

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Public Relations • Community Engagement • Facilitation

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# 1. Executive Summary

For years, people have told the Ministry of Environment that waters in the Skeena River system have persistent steelhead angler-use issues — crowding, disproportionate numbers of non-resident anglers or guided anglers, lack of opportunities for resident anglers, illegal guiding, poor angler etiquette — leading to a degraded quality of angling experience.

In response to these concerns, the ministry has implemented the Quality Waters Strategy on the Skeena River. The end product of the engagement process is Angling Management Plans (AMPs) that will recommend revisions to current sport fishing regulations for steelhead angler-use issues on the Skeena River. The AMPs do not address steelhead populations and conservation issues; those are addressed through other planning processes.

The Quality Waters Strategy is a stakeholder-driven process with a provincial Quality Waters Committee and a Regional Committee that both have representation from resident anglers, the guiding community, and the Ministry of Environment. The Regional Committee plays an important role in overseeing the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy.

Community engagement is a fundamental component of the Quality Waters Strategy. This report describes the results of Phase 1 of the community engagement process for the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy, which included stakeholder and public consultation.

The objectives of the consultation process were to:

1. Open up a dialogue on angling-use issues in the Skeena River watershed
2. Identify what and where the angler-use problems are in different priority waters
3. Suggest possible solutions to angler-use problems in those waters
4. Provide comments on the overall consultation process
5. Provide information to the Working Groups to use in the development of Angling Management Plans

The Regional Committee identified the following rivers as a priority for dealing with angler-use issues: Babine, Bulkley and Morice, Kitsumkalum, Kispiox, Kitseguecla, Kitwanga, Lakelse, Skeena IV (downstream from Kitwanga), Skeena IV (upstream from Kitwanga), Suskwa, and Zymoetz I and II.

The consultation process began with stakeholder meetings throughout the watershed followed by a series of Public Meetings in the larger communities. Working Groups comprised of resident anglers, guides and the Ministry of Environment were formed to develop Angling Management Plans. The will address community input, draft plans will be developed and brought back to stakeholders and the public for review and comments (Phase 2), and then the plans will be passed on to the ministry for formalization and the eventual changes to sport fishing regulations.

The Skeena Quality Waters Strategy community consultation is by design broad-based, so it can play a critical role in supporting the overall goals of the Quality Waters Strategy, which seeks to balance the needs of resident anglers with those of the guiding industry and the local economy.

A total of 25 stakeholder meetings were held in Houston, Terrace, Smithers, Hazelton, Kitimat and Prince Rupert with 113 people attending.

Six Open House / Public Meetings were held along the watershed in Houston, Smithers, Hazelton, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert with a total of 255 people attending.

Three questions were used to stimulate discussions at both the stakeholder and the Public Meetings:

1. Do you have any questions or comments on the proposed consultation process?
2. What do you think are the problems surrounding angler use and steelhead in the Skeena River system?
3. What do you see are the solutions?

Email invitations and information updates were sent out at regular intervals to an ever-expanding stakeholder database.

A website was established linked at: <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/>

Advertisements were placed in local papers in advance of the Open House / Public Meetings.

A brochure was developed on the Angling Management Planning process. It was made available in all six communities along the watershed prior to the Public Meetings. The brochures were distributed at each of the Public Meetings and made available on the website. Various summaries of angler data and angler-use data were prepared and placed on the website and available at the Open House / Public Meetings.

A response form was developed to provide more quantifiable information from those taking part in the community engagement process. The form was placed on the website as an interactive form and was available in a paper format at all the Public Meetings.

A total of 248 Response Forms were received — 172 electronically via the website, 13 delivered or faxed to the regional Ministry of Environment office in Smithers and 63 handed in at the Public Meetings.

The results of Phase 1 of the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy consultation process demonstrate that people from all walks of life care passionately about the future of steelhead sport fishing on the Skeena River and its tributaries. This passion extends around the world, and clearly there is little doubt in most peoples' minds that something needs to be done to preserve the quality of angling in this world-class fishery.

The primary role of Phase 1 consultations is to document public comments on angler-use issues around steelhead sport fishing in the Skeena River watershed.

For the most part, the documented results speak for themselves, but some key points from those who filled out response forms are:

- 61% of BC residents strongly agree or agree there is a crowding problem; only 14% of non-resident aliens (non-Canadian anglers) agree; responses from non-resident Canadians are mixed; 63% of guides agree or strongly agree; local economy responses are mixed
- 66% of BC residents and 85% of non-resident aliens say that crowding occurs in the fall
- More than 10% of BC residents note crowding in the Bulkley, Kispiox, Skeena (downstream from Kitwanga Bridge) and lower Zymoetz, non-resident aliens note crowding in the Babine, Bulkley, Kispiox and lower Zymoetz
- 57% of BC residents agree there are too many unguided, non-resident alien anglers; 73% of non-resident aliens disagree
- 62% of BC residents agree there is a problem with illegal guiding activity; 31% of non-resident aliens agree
- 50% of BC residents believe that non-resident angling fees should be increased; 71% of non-resident aliens disagree; non-resident Canadians give mixed responses; Guides have mixed responses; 52% of respondents in the local economy strongly disagree or disagree
- BC residents have a range of responses to designating certain waters or times as resident-only angling with 36% strongly agreeing; 74% of non-resident aliens strongly disagree; 64% of non-resident Canadians disagree; 45% of guides strongly disagree while 36% strongly agree; 64% of local economy respondents strongly disagree or disagree
- 63% of BC residents agree to restricting the length of time that a non-resident alien can fish; 78% of non-resident aliens disagree, non-resident Canadians have a range of responses; non-resident Canadians give a range of responses; 59% of guides strongly agree or agree; local economy responses were variable
- 65% of BC residents agree that a lottery system for non-resident aliens is a good idea; 86% of non-resident aliens disagree; non-resident Canadians give a range of responses; 54% of guides strongly agree or agree; 40% of local economy respondents strongly disagree while 24% strongly agree
- 75% of BC residents agree with a hierarchy of licence fees (resident < non-resident Canadian < non-resident alien); non-resident alien responses to this statement were not conclusive; 69% of non-resident Canadians agree; 55% of guides strongly agree or agree and 32% were neutral; responses from the local economy are mixed

The first objective of this consultation process was to establish a dialogue on steelhead angler-use issues. The engagement of this broad community, in particular the residents of British Columbia who live, work and fish in the Skeena River watershed, was challenging because the terms of reference for the consultation were very clearly

focused on steelhead angler-use issues and participants wanted to talk about many other issues.

Given the ministry has not held a public and stakeholder consultation process as comprehensive as this in many years, people were eager to bring up issues that they previously felt unable to communicate to the ministry or that they felt the ministry had not heard or acknowledged.

The second objective of the consultation was to hear what people thought the angler-use issues and problems are. First of all, it was very clear that the vast majority of participants in the community consultation process believe there is a crowding issue and that the quality of fishing in terms of angler use, is in need of improvement.

Interestingly, the results of the crowding question for non-resident alien respondents were quite different. There are two possible reasons why this group does not see crowding as a problem. The first is that many of these people fish in their own countries and all over the world and relatively speaking, they may not see the Skeena as crowded. The second is that this segment of respondents was not supportive at all of the Quality Waters Strategy process, felt threatened by the possibility that their fishing may be constrained in some way, and so just wanted the whole process to “go away.” There was an active phone, email and letter campaign to alert non-resident aliens of the Quality Waters Strategy, which contained a great deal of misinformation and “scare tactics” that could have contributed to this situation.

Participants identified key problems with the steelhead angling experience at all the meetings. They included:

- Too many non-resident aliens
- Illegal guiding
- Not enough resident opportunities, no sense of the resident-priority of the Quality Waters Strategy
- Angler etiquette issues — working pools inappropriately; fly versus gear conflicts, both logistical and ideological; actual interpersonal conflicts, unacceptable boating practices
- Too many guided anglers in certain waters
- Access issues (lack of boat ramps, public land access, remote areas)
- No women, children and families
- Too many boats — jet boats and individual boats

Participants raised the following solutions most often:

- Need for regulations that balance the angling experience with the guiding industry and the local economy, which is dependent on steelhead in so many ways
- Establishing an overall cap, both daily and seasonally, on the density of anglers for a particular river and then allocating the available “spaces” to the different user groups
- Re-establishing priority for residents through resident-only zones or times

- (weekends), cheaper licences, or free licences for youth 16-19
- Controlling non-resident alien usage through shorter-term licences (8-day), a lottery system, or guided only fishing
- Reassessing guiding on each of the rivers for their rod-day allocations and number of clients per guide
- Addressing illegal guiding through public education campaigns (media, on licences, signage), high-profile “sting” operations, and better identification of legal guides
- Dealing with etiquette problems through public education in the Angling Synopsis and on fishing licences, video or DVDs, and having an angler test similar to the hunter exam

The biggest process issue concerned the stakeholder composition (4 resident anglers, 3 guides, 1 ministry) of the Working Groups. Many people felt that the local economy should be at the table on these Working Groups.

Considerable media interest was sparked by the consultation process and a summary of that is included in the report.

Prior to the consultation process, there was an expectation that some of the meetings might be quite confrontational. This was not the case. Many different ideas were brought forward, but for the most part, they were talked about in a respectful way. People recognize that though they may come from different places, do different things and have different ideas, in the end they are all neighbours, and are all part of a community.

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank:

- Paddy Hirshfield, Quality Waters Biologist with the Ministry of Environment, Skeena Region, who accompanied me on all the stakeholder and public meetings, providing note-taking and logistical support, answering far too many questions, and performing countless other tasks.
- Dana Atagi, Section Head, Fish and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment, Skeena Region, who provided strategic advice at several junctures in this process and attended most of the public meetings, providing the ministry perspective.
- Jeff Lough, Fisheries Biologist, Skeena Region, Ministry of Environment, who provided assistance and a ministry presence at the public meetings.
- Dean Peard, Resource Information Biologist, Skeena Region, Ministry of Environment, who also provided assistance and a ministry presence at the public meetings.
- Members of the Regional Quality Waters Management Committee, for comments and encouragement throughout the process.
- Associate Susan Clarke, who staffed the registration table, took notes and helped with other aspects of the public meetings.
- Associate Lisa Worth, who transcribed the notes from stakeholder meetings, and analyzed the data from the Response Forms.
- Associate Dorli Duffy, who assisted with editing of this report.
- The people who live, work and fish in the Skeena River watershed who shared their passion for steelhead with me.

## **2. Introduction**

### **Quality Waters Strategy and Angling Management Plans**

For years, people have told the Ministry of Environment that waters in the Skeena River system have persistent steelhead angler-use issues — crowding, disproportionate numbers of non-resident anglers or guided anglers, lack of opportunities for resident anglers, illegal guiding, poor angler etiquette — leading to a degraded quality of angling experience.

In response to these concerns, the ministry has implemented the Quality Waters Strategy on the Skeena River. The Quality Waters Strategy is a province-wide process that aims to maintain and improve the angling experiences offered in BC's waters, by managing angler use. The strategy includes a community engagement process, to help identify waters of concern that require new or revised regulations.

The end product of the engagement process will be Angling Management Plans (AMPs) that will recommend revisions to current sport fishing regulations for steelhead angler-use issues on the Skeena River. The AMPs will not address steelhead populations and conservation issues; those are addressed through other planning processes.

The Quality Waters Strategy is a stakeholder-driven process with a provincial Quality Waters Committee and a regional Skeena River committee (Regional Quality Waters Management Committee or Regional Committee) that both have representation from resident anglers, the guiding community, and the Ministry of Environment. The Regional Committee plays an important role in overseeing the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy.

### **Community engagement process**

Community engagement is a fundamental component of the Quality Waters Strategy and the development of Angling Management Plans.

The objectives of Phase 1 of the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy consultation process are to:

1. Open up a dialogue on angling-use issues in the Skeena River watershed
2. Identify what and where the angler-use problems are in the different priority waters
3. Suggest possible solutions to angler-use problems in those waters
4. Provide comments on the overall consultation process
5. Provide information to the Working Groups to use in the development of Angling Management Plans

The Regional Committee identified the following rivers as a priority for dealing with angler-use issues:



Babine  
Bulkley  
Morice  
Kitsumkalum  
Kispiox  
Kitseguecla  
Kitwanga  
Lakelse  
Skeena IV (downstream from Kitwanga)  
Skeena IV (upstream from Kitwanga)  
Suskwa  
Zymoetz I  
Zymoetz II

The consultation process began with stakeholder meetings throughout the watershed followed by a series of Public Meetings in the larger communities. Working Groups comprised of resident anglers, guides, and the Ministry of Environment are being formed to develop Angling Management Plans. The Working Groups will address community input, develop draft Angling Management Plans and bring these back to stakeholders and the public for review and comments (Phase 2). The plans will then be passed on to the ministry for formalization and eventual changes to sport fishing regulations.

The Quality Waters Strategy has a toolbox of regulatory tools that address angler-use issues such as crowding. The toolbox will be used by the Working Groups in the development of the Angling Management Plans.

The over-arching principle in applying any tools from the toolbox is to select the least intrusive tool that equates to the smallest intervention required to solve an identified angler-use issue.

Skeena Quality Waters Strategy community consultation is by design broad-based, so it can support the overall goal of the strategy — to balance the needs of resident anglers with those of the guiding industry and the local economy.

#### **Acronym and abbreviation legend**

WG – Working Group	RC – Regional Committee
AMP – Angling Management Plan	NG – non-guided
AUI – Angler Use Issues	QW – Quality Waters
AUP – Angling Use Plan	QWS – Quality Waters Strategy
SH – Steelhead	SQWS – Skeena Quality Waters Strategy
MOE – Ministry of Environment	CO – Conservation Officer
NRA – Non-Resident Aliens (non-Canadians)	BV – Bulkley Valley
NRC – Non-Resident Canadians	FN – First Nation
CW – Classified Waters	

### **3. Methods**

#### **Stakeholder identification**

In a traditional stakeholder process, all groups and organizations from different sectors with an interest in steelhead on the Skeena River system — tourism, accommodation, angling, guiding, bait and tackle stores, other businesses, chambers of commerce, conservation, and economic development, etc. — would be invited to send representatives to stakeholder meetings. Meetings would be either by individual sector or multi-sectoral.

In this case, many of the stakeholders, such as anglers, guides or bed and breakfast operators, do not necessarily belong to an organization that represents them. There are angling groups, guiding organizations and associations of different tourism-related businesses, but some are not very active and others are not necessarily representative of all the interests of that particular sector.

Hence a traditional stakeholder-based process was not used in favour of seeking out both groups and individuals who represent a wide range of interests in the watershed.

Stakeholders were identified through a variety of sources — ministry databases, yellow pages, contact with other agencies, conversations with key community contacts in each of the six communities in the Skeena watershed — Houston, Smithers, Hazelton, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert. A database was set up and as the consultation process proceeded, additional names from stakeholder meetings, Public Meetings, and email and phone contacts were added.

Defining a stakeholder can be difficult because everyone has a different interpretation of who or what group has an interest in the issue at hand. Stakeholders were defined very broadly as anyone or any group that believes it has an interest or a “stake” in steelhead angling in the Skeena watershed. As a result, anyone was able to attend a stakeholder meeting if they were interested.

#### **Stakeholder meetings**

Stakeholder meetings took place over a one-week period in January and a one-week period in February 2008 (Table 1). Meetings were held in all six communities across the watershed.

**Table 1 Stakeholder Meeting Schedule**

<b>Date / time (2008)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Main Sector</b>	<b>Number attending</b>
Thurs Jan 17 7:00 pm	Houston	Houston Library	Angling	6
Fri Jan 18 9:00 am	Smithers	Hudson Bay Lodge	Guiding	3
Fri Jan 18 10:30 am	Smithers	Hudson Bay Lodge	Angling	5
Fri Jan 18 1:00 pm	Smithers	Kokopelli Cafe	Local economy	2
Fri Jan 18 2:30 pm	Smithers	Kokopelli Cafe	Guiding	1
Fri Feb 8 9:00 am	Smithers	Hudson Bay Lodge	Guiding	3
Fri Feb 8 10:30 am	Smithers	Hudson Bay Lodge	Accommodation,	6
Fri Feb 8 1:00 pm	Smithers	Hudson Bay Lodge	Angling	2
Fri Feb 8 3:00 pm	Smithers	Hudson bay Lodge	Local economy	3
Sat Jan 19 10:00 am	Hazelton	Northwest Community College	Guiding	5
Sat Jan 19 1:00 pm	Hazelton	Northwest Community College	Angling	14
Sat Feb 9 10:00 am	Hazelton	Northwest Community College	Guiding	1
Sat Feb 9 11:30 am	Hazelton	Local business	Local economy	1
Sat Feb 9 1:00 pm	Hazelton	Northwest Community College	Angling	6
Sun Jan 20 2:00 pm	Terrace	Terrace Library	Guiding	5
Sun Jan 20 4:00 pm	Terrace	Sandman Inn	Guiding	1
Sun Jan 20 7:00 pm	Terrace	Sandman Inn	Angling	6
Mon Jan 21 11:00 am	Terrace	Local businesses	Local economy	2
Sun Feb 10 1:00 pm	Terrace	Terrace Library	Guiding	3
Sun Feb 10 3:00	Terrace	Library	Local economy	2
Sun Feb 10 7:00 pm	Terrace	Coast Inn of the West	Angling	8

<b>Date / time (2008)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Main Sector</b>	<b>Number attending</b>
Sun Feb 10 1:00 pm	Kitimat	Chamber office	Angling	2
Mon Feb 11 3:00 pm	Kitimat	Chamber / Visitor Centre office	Local economy	1
Mon Feb 11 6:00 pm	Kitimat	Rod & Gun Club	Angling	8
Mon Jan 21 6:30 pm	Prince Rupert	Crest Hotel	Angling	17
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>113</b>

Stakeholder meetings lasted between 1-1/2 and 2 hours and typically began with the distribution of a handout (See Appendix C), a summary of the Quality Waters Strategy, and a description of the consultation process. Participants were asked three main questions:

1. Do you have any questions or comments on the proposed consultation process?
2. What do you think are the problems surrounding angler use and steelhead in the Skeena River system?
3. What do you see are the solutions?

Detailed notes were taken by the facilitator (Alan Dolan) and the Ministry of Environment representative (Paddy Hirshfield).

Participants filled out a sign-in sheet so their names and contact information could be added to the database and they were also asked to think about whether they wanted to be considered for one of the Working Groups.

## **Targeted emails**

Email invitations and information updates (Appendix A) were sent out at regular intervals to an ever-expanding stakeholder database. Emails were sent on January 10, January 31, February 18, March 8 and March 27, 2008.

## **Website**

A website was established linked to the Ministry of Environment, Skeena Region:  
<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/>

The website contained information on:

- Consultation process
- Working groups
- Angling Management Plans
- Regional Management Committee

- An online version of the Response Form
- Background information
  - Brochure
  - Angling and angling use data
  - Quality Waters Strategy documents
- How to contact the facilitator and the ministry

## Advertising

Advertisements were placed in local papers in advance of the Open House / Public Meetings (Table 2).

**Table 2. Summary of placement of newspaper advertisements**

Newspaper	Insertion Dates
Prince Rupert Daily News	Wed. Feb 13, 20
Prince Rupert Daily News	Fri. Feb 15, 22
Bulkley Browser	Fri Feb 15, 22
Houston Today	Wed. Feb 13, 20
Kitimat Northern Sentinel	Wed. Feb 13, 20
Smithers Interior News	Wed. Feb 13, 20
Terrace Standard	Wed. Feb 13, 20

The display advertisement, which measured approximately 5 inches by 5.3 inches, is shown on the next page.

CJ  
Client: Ministry of Environment  
Campaign: Skeena Steelhead Angling

Ad Size: 5.0625" x 6.00"

Community Dialogue

## What would improve your STEELHEAD ANGLING EXPERIENCE in the Skeena River watershed?

To address longstanding issues such as angler crowding during the steelhead fishery, the Quality Waters Strategy needs your input.

**Open house: 5:00–7:00 p.m.; public meeting 7:00–9:00 p.m.**

Houston	Seniors' Centre	Monday, Feb. 25, 2008
Smithers	Hudson Bay Lodge	Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008
Hazelton	Kispiox Valley Hall	Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008
Terrace	Coast Inn of the West	Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008
Kitimat	Kitimat River Lodge Community Centre	Friday, Feb. 29, 2008

**Open house: 12:00–2:00 p.m.; public meeting 2:00–4:00 p.m.**

Prince Rupert	Highliner Plaza	Saturday, Mar. 1, 2008
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**For more information contact: Alan Dolan, Facilitator, Skeena Quality Waters Strategy 250 478-8056 [adolan@islandnet.com](mailto:adolan@islandnet.com) or visit [wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)**



Ministry of  
Environment

## Open House / Public Meetings

Six Open House / Public Meetings were held along the watershed in Houston, Smithers, Hazelton, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert (Table 3). All the meetings were held in the evening except Prince Rupert, which was held on a Saturday afternoon.

A registration table was set up and staffed from the beginning of the Open House. There was a sign-in sheet and copies of the brochure and the Response Form. Ministry staff and the facilitator met with people on a one-on-one basis, providing information and answering questions. The information included the agenda of the meeting (Tables 4 and 5), where different information could be accessed, and encouragement for people to fill in Response Forms.

The Open House portion consisted of seven display panels (See Appendix I), maps, copies of the brochure (Appendix I), the Tool Box fact sheet (Appendix I), the 2005 Quality Waters Strategy document, angling and steelhead data summaries and other information.

The Public Meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation by the facilitator (Appendix I). Most of the agenda was devoted to comments and questions from the public in attendance. Attendees were asked questions similar to those used in the stakeholder meetings:

1. Do you have any questions or comments on the proposed consultation process?
2. What do you think are the problems surrounding angler use and steelhead in the Skeena River system?
3. What do you see are the solutions?

A note-taker captured all the main points made by the speakers.

**Table 3. Schedule of Open House / Public Meetings**

Date	Location	Time
Feb 25/08	<b>Houston</b> – Seniors' Centre 3250 14th St	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 26/08	<b>Smithers</b> – Hudson Bay Lodge 3251 Highway 16	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 27/08	<b>Hazelton</b> – Kispiox Valley Hall Kispiox Rd	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 28/08	<b>Terrace</b> – Coast Inn of the West 4620 Lakelse Ave	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm

Date	Location	Time
Feb 29/08	<b>Kitimat</b> – Kitimat River Lodge Community Centre 654 Columbia Ave	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
March 1/08	<b>Prince Rupert</b> – Highliner Plaza 815 1st Ave W	Open House: 12–2 pm; Public Meeting 2–4 pm

**Table 4. Open House / Public Meeting agenda (Houston, Smithers, Hazelton, Terrace, Kitimat)**

Time	Activity
5:00 – 7:00 pm	Open House
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Public Meeting
7:00 – 7:20 pm	Facilitator's comments and presentation
7:20 – 8:55 pm	Public input
8:55 – 9:00 pm	Thank you and closing

**Table 5. Open House / Public Meeting agenda (Prince Rupert)**

Time	Activity
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Open House
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Public Meeting
2:00 – 2:20 pm	Facilitator's comments and presentation
2:20 – 3:55 pm	Public input
3:55 – 4:00 pm	Thank you and closing



## **Response Forms**

A Response Form was developed (Appendix E) to collect more quantifiable information from those taking part in the community engagement process. The form was placed on the website as an interactive form and was available in a paper format at all Public Meetings.

The Response Form data was transferred electronically and manually to an Excel spread sheet, which calculated frequency histograms and tables of the data.

## **Print materials**

A brochure was developed — Planning for Steelhead (Appendix I) — as a general audience piece on the Angling Management Planning process. It was made available in all six communities along the watershed at the following locations:

- Bait and tackle stores
- Chambers of commerce
- Post offices
- Government offices
- Libraries
- Other community locations

The brochures were also distributed at each of the Public Meetings and made available on the website.

Various summaries of angler data and angler-use data were prepared and placed on the website and available at the Open House / Public Meetings.

## 4. Results

### Stakeholder meetings

A total of 25 stakeholder meetings were held with 113 people attending. Appendix B presents detailed meeting summaries of the comments from all the stakeholder meetings.

The notes from the meeting summaries were sorted into five categories. The first three — “Problems,” “Solutions,” and “Information” — relate directly to the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy. “Problems” and “Solutions” correspond to the questions the facilitator asked at every meeting. “Information” refers to additional relevant information provided at those meetings. The fourth category teases out “Process Concerns” from the other comments. The fifth category, “Other Issues,” documents what people said about a wide range of important issues that are not specifically part of the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy consultation process.

Sorting and summarizing information is not an easy or straightforward task because there are “gray areas” within the categories. Many introductory and anecdotal comments were omitted for clarity and brevity.

All of the comments recorded are qualitative and are not easily quantified. For instance, even though I might have heard something many times, saying that I heard it many times immediately calls to question how many people said it. It is not the purpose of these meetings to gather that sort of quantified information. The Response Forms give a much better sense of numbers than the stakeholder meeting summaries.

A small number of stakeholders submitted longer written reports, some of which were quite detailed. These documents are being passed on to the Angling Management Plan Working Groups in their entirety.

The following sections summarize the key points made at the stakeholder meetings. The points are organized into two categories: those of a general nature that were heard at all the meetings and comments specific to certain waters.

#### **General – all parts of the watershed**

There is a strong feeling amongst both guides and anglers throughout the watershed that unguided, non-resident alien anglers have increased in numbers, are contributing to the crowding problem, and some regulations are required to correct the problem. Some guides suggested that they are the only ones regulated and that it is time to regulate other groups. They suggested that the most pressing need was the regulation of non-resident alien anglers. Many people noted that non-resident aliens who come and camp along the river, fish for a long time, and are fairly self-sufficient for supplies, are a particular problem because they contribute so little to the local economy.

There was a strong sentiment from anglers throughout the watershed and well

supported by the guides, that the resident priority principle of the Quality Waters Strategy must be reflected in the Angling Management plans that are developed. Coupled with the importance of resident anglers is the concern that the fishery is at risk of becoming an “elitist” fishery, rather than one for all the people, whatever their means.

One of the suggested regulatory solutions involved requiring all non-resident aliens to use a guide. However, some stakeholders directly involved in the local economy and many others expressed concern about this approach, noting that non-guided, non-resident aliens are an important component of the tourism industry, which in turn is such an important part of the local economy. Some guides expressed concern about this approach, calling it “extreme.” They feared that their rod-day allocations would have to be increased over present levels, which would not be very acceptable to non-guided anglers.

Another regulatory solution was to cap the number of days for a licence on a particular water at eight days. The eight-day licence was brought up many times during the stakeholder meetings, mostly because it has been used on the Dean River, one of BC’s most regulated steelhead sport fisheries.

Lotteries, such as those used on the Dean River, were also suggested as a way of dealing with crowding. There were wide ranging opinions on the palatability of lotteries as a management approach.

In certain stakeholder meetings, participants who had done fairly careful analysis of the situation independently came to the conclusion that the only way to regulate angler-use and crowding issues was to establish some sort of a cap for the number of anglers in any water. Usually with further analysis, they came to the conclusion that a daily cap was the only way that angling pressure could be spread over the entire season.

The Ministry of Environment’s e-licensing process was seen as a very important tool for managing daily caps, lotteries, eight-day licences and other regulatory approaches.

Concern was expressed that there are a lot of local resident anglers who fish very little or not at all because of the crowding. Participants noted that women and children fish very little and the family fishing experience, at least for steelhead angling, is a thing of the past.

A number of stakeholders suggested having one or both weekend days only open to resident anglers.

Illegal guiding is a problem that came up over and over again. In particular, there were references to American and European guides who were seen accompanying various different groups of people along the river. There was also reference to a number of European and American websites where people could access illegal guides to fish the Skeena River steelhead.

An elaborate and well publicized “sting” operation was suggested as one way to address illegal guiding. Some of the guides felt that the legislated definition of guiding might be revised to include certain elements of transporting anglers to a fishing hole.

A number of access issues came up. It is not necessarily possible to address these issues with the regulatory toolbox of the Quality Waters Strategy, but access issues can definitely affect crowding in the river. The increase in the number of boats results in anglers getting to parts of the watershed where they have never gone before and this is a problem. People spoke of walking into a spot where they had fished for years, only to find it already occupied by those travelling by boat. In certain waters, there is a shortage of boat launches, roads, or public-land access for anglers.

Particular reference was made a number of times to the small, individual-style boats as they result in people spreading out over larger stretches of river. In the past a larger boat would deposit a group of anglers at a pool and they would work the pool together. Now, if anglers are using individual boats, they can fill up every pool in a stretch of river.

A number of people, especially those involved in local businesses, but also many anglers and guides, noted that the steelhead fishery is a valuable source of income for the local economy, but comments on where the money comes from and where it goes varied markedly. Concern was expressed that income from angling needs to stay in locally owned businesses and not foreign-owned ones.

Many stakeholders noted the need for more enforcement on the rivers, and wondered how new regulations to address crowding could be effective without added enforcement. It was recognized that conservation officers have too many things to do at the time of year when steelhead fishing is the busiest, in particular dealing with hunting and nuisance bear issues.

In the past, a river guardian program has operated on a few of the rivers and most participants were very positive about those programs. Even without the powers of a conservation officer, guardians are an important presence on the river, and can help in areas of education (accurate identification of fish, proper catch and release techniques, angler etiquette tips, etc.).

Angler etiquette problems — such as people not fishing a pool properly or gear and fly fishermen not respecting the different ways each other fish — were mentioned many times. A number of suggestions to improve these problems were brought forward including more information in the Angling Synopsis, an educational video, a mandatory test for anglers wishing to buy a licence, and informational signs along the river.

Public education was brought up as an important supplement to regulation. Again participants suggested that the areas that needed to be covered included angler etiquette, fish identification, proper catch and release techniques, and habitat protection.

Even though fish numbers and fish conservation were not part of this consultation

process, the subject came up again and again. Many participants had difficulty separating angler use or the quality of an angling experience from the quality of fishing in terms of how many fish an angler catches. Others noted that poor fishing over the past few years has made the crowding problem worse because if the fishing were better, anglers would tolerate higher density fishing conditions.

Participants expressed concern about where their licence money was going. Many expressed a willingness to pay more if they could be assured that licence fees went to local management and enforcement.

Concern was expressed that any changes to the regulations on the priority waters in this process will cause fishing pressure and crowding problems to increase in other waters that are not being addressed in this management planning process.

### **Area specific: Houston-Smithers**

The rivers most discussed in these communities were the three waters identified as a priority by the Regional Committee — Bulkley, Morice and Babine.

Most stakeholders felt that crowding was a problem on the Bulkley and the Morice, particularly during September and October.

In Houston, stakeholders said there was not enough access to the river. There was a need for more boat ramps. The lack of access to most of the Babine River for resident anglers, except for the area below the weir at the outlet of Babine Lake, was also noted.

Many stakeholders, especially from the Smithers area, indicated that the Bulkley Angling Use Plan, which was prepared in the late 1990s but not implemented, had many useful ideas in it. They suggested that approaches discussed in that document need to be considered by the Working Group when developing a new plan for the Bulkley.

### **Area specific: Hazelton**

Discussions with Hazelton area stakeholders focused almost exclusively on the Kispiox River.

The crowding on the Kispiox seems to be largely a combination of non-resident aliens, guided anglers and residents from other parts of BC. Many local residents appear to avoid the Kispiox except perhaps during the “shoulder” seasons.

There are access problems on the Kispiox for resident anglers because most of the land is privately held.

Illegal guiding was cited as a problem on the lower Kispiox River.

The stream guardian program on the Kispiox was very popular.

**Area specific: Terrace-Kitimat-Prince Rupert**

Many of the conversations about angling and crowding in the Terrace-Kitimat-Prince Rupert part of the Skeena were confused somewhat by the salmon-angling fishery, which is very popular there. Anglers cited crowding issues in the main stem of the Skeena, but it was difficult to determine whether the crowding was related to the salmon or the steelhead sport fishery.

There was universal agreement that the Zymoetz River has a major crowding problem. This river was the most discussed at stakeholder meetings in this area. The Kitsumkalum was the second most discussed river regarding crowding. Specific spots on the main Skeena such as China Bar, were also talked about as places where crowding is quite intense in the fall.

Many anglers in this part of the river expressed a desire to keep a fish or two, if population numbers of steelhead are strong. Anglers in Kitimat, who can keep hatchery-reared steelhead from the Kitimat River, were particularly vocal on this subject.

Illegal guiding was cited as a problem on the lower Zymoetz River.

Participants suggested that long-term camping by non-resident alien steelhead anglers along the Skeena main stem is particularly problematic near Terrace.

There is a worry that changes to regulations will increase pressure on rivers such as the Lakelse, Gitnadoix and Exchamsiks.

Kitimat anglers noted that changes on the Skeena system could bring more people and put more pressure on the Kitimat River.

## Open House / Public Meetings

The six Open House / Public Meetings (Table 6) attracted a total of 255 people. Numbers were estimated using the sign-in sheets and visual counts.

**Table 6. Summary of Open House / Public Meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number attending</b>
Feb 25, 2008	7-9 pm	Houston Seniors' Centre	16
Feb 26, 2008	7-9 pm	Smithers Hudson bay Lodge	75
Feb 27, 2008	7-9 pm	Hazelton Kispiox Valley Hall	55
Feb 28, 2008	7-9 pm	Terrace Coast Inn of the West	65
Feb 29, 2008	7-9 pm	Kitimat Kitimat River Lodge Community Centre	20
Mar 1, 2008	2-4 pm	Prince Rupert Highliner Plaza	14
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>255</b>

Appendix D presents detailed summaries of the comments from all six Public Meetings.

Notes from the meeting summaries were sorted into the same five categories as used for the stakeholder meeting notes.

A few participants submitted longer written reports, some of which were quite detailed. These documents are being passed on to the Angling Management Plan Working Groups in their entirety.

In the following sections, the key points made at the Public Meetings are summarized. These summaries are restricted largely to the first three columns in the tables in Appendix D — Problems, Solutions and Information. Most of the points raised at the Public Meetings had already been raised at the stakeholder meetings, often by the same people, but they are noted here as well.

### **Houston**

A small, but engaged group of 16 participated in the Houston Public Meeting.

Crowding was noted as an issue on both the Bulkley and the Morice. The fall and weekends are busy times. Attendees felt that the wilderness experience for steelhead fishing does not really exist in this part of the watershed anymore. Resident anglers felt “pushed out” of the river.

Large numbers of non-resident anglers, especially those who stay a long time were cited as a problem. Illegal guides, many of whom had originally been shown the “good spots” by local licensed guides and then came back to guide others, were raised as an issue.

Solutions included requiring that all non-resident anglers be guided, restricting the length of time that people can spend on a river, and finding a way to limit the number of anglers on each pool.

Lack of access points on the Morice, both boat ramps and walk-in sites, were noted as problems.

It was felt there was a need for more education on angler etiquette. The lack of enforcement was also an important issue.

### **Smithers**

The Smithers meeting was well attended with 75 participants. One angler began by saying the “fishery on the Bulkley River is a zoo.” Crowding is an issue on the Bulkley, especially in the fall. A number of people felt the crowding issue is made worse by poor fishing conditions. Crowding was attributed to guided anglers and non-guided non-residents. In particular a number of people talked about how the quality of angling has decreased for local residents and there is an absence of women, children and families on the river.

Requiring non-residents to use guides was raised, but there were very mixed opinions on this approach. While some felt this would eliminate illegal guiding problems, others suggested it would have a very detrimental effect on the local tourism industry. It was noted that those non-residents who come for a long while but only fish a few hours here and there would be seriously impacted by both guided-only options and restricted-day licences.

There seemed to be general agreement about the need to limit the number of anglers, in particular non-residents, but also possibly guided anglers. The approach used on the Dean River was deemed to be worth exploring. Some people talked about limiting the number of fish caught because of concerns about mortality from catch and release techniques. There was discussion about increasing the opportunities for resident anglers through resident-only fishing on the weekends.

The number of boats is an issue for many people. Boat use now allows anglers to access parts of the river they could not previously fish. While in some ways this spreads people out on the river, it also has the potential to bring boaters to a location that was historically a place for walk-in anglers, many of whom are local.

There was considerable discussion around the Bulkley Angling Use Plan developed in the 1990s. There were questions as to why it was not implemented and suggestions that the plan should be made available to the Angling Management Plan Working



Groups.

Lack of proper river and angling etiquette was again raised as an issue.

Attendees noted their concerns around the lack of enforcement on local waters.

### **Hazelton**

The Hazelton meeting, which was actually held along the Kispiox River, was very well attended given the total size of the community.

There was significant concern about the situation on the Kispiox River. The limited number of pools, poor angler etiquette and boating issues all combine to create a crowding situation that most participants feel needs to be addressed.

Some of the solutions offered included no guiding on the weekends and eight-day licences for non-resident aliens. It was noted that some people might fish “harder” if they have licences for a shorter duration. It was suggested that a lottery fishery could be tried as a pilot on one river. Quebec models for managing salmon were put forward as something to look at. Guided-only for non-residents was raised but again there were many points of view on this approach.

Participants discussed the idea of zoning parts of the Skeena River system to provide options for anglers ranging from family fishing to wilderness experiences.

The issue of boats is a concern on the Kispiox. Increase in the use of boats, in particular single-occupant boats, has meant that anglers can spread out very rapidly and efficiently to all the pools in the river.

Improper use of boats was one component of an angler etiquette problem that exists on the Kispiox. It was suggested that river etiquette in general has declined. One solution might be to print some proper angling etiquette guidelines on the back of the licence.

Illegal guiding was raised as an issue. One solution was to put the penalty for illegal guiding on the back of the angling licence.

Lack of enforcement because of a limited presence of conservation officers is a concern. Residents spoke overwhelmingly in support of a river guardian program, similar to what was on the river a few years ago. It was suggested that this would be a good job for members of local First Nations, who are in need of economic opportunities.

The idea came up, as it did at many meetings, that the problem is the number of fish not the number of anglers, but others pointed out that we need to plan for when fish numbers are low so that we can deal with problems when fish numbers are high.

### **Terrace**

About 65 people participated in the Terrace meeting.

Crowding issues were cited on the Zymoetz, Kitsumkalum as well as the main stem of the Skeena, in specific locations. The situation in these areas is exacerbated by a popular and overlapping salmon-angling fishery. A number of stories were told about conflicts around pools with people not waiting for a space and barging in or casting over other peoples' heads. There was concern that guided anglers were "clumped" in the best fishing spots.

Requiring non-resident anglers to be guided was suggested again, but this was a debated issue. Other suggestions to limit the number of non-residents included resident-only fishing on the weekends, possibly just in certain zones, eight-day licences, and higher fees for non-resident licences. A number of people suggested that resident angler numbers should not be restricted.

Some participants voiced the concern that care must be taken in regulating the number of non-resident anglers, as they are a key component in the local economy. One person added that non-resident aliens with lesser financial means would have difficulty if licence fees were increased.

A number of participants suggested the need to increase the length of time that certain waters in the area are classified.

Illegal guiding was raised as a problem in this section of the river. Participants suggested that "everyone seems to know who they are," but catching them is the problem because it is so difficult to prove that money has changed hands.

The issue of boats was also raised here. Resident anglers often encounter guided boats at their favourite walk-in fishing holes. Boats are now accessing places on the river that were previously only accessible to locals who hiked into their "secret spots."

Road access points are often crowded with out-of-province vehicles.

### **Kitimat**

A small group of 20 attended the Kitimat meeting. However, this community is on the edge of the Skeena Watershed and focuses much of its fishing on the Kitimat River and the ocean. While anglers directed most of their comments on the priority waters closest to them — the Zymoetz, Kitsumkalum and main stem of the Skeena — they also commented on the situation in rivers further away.

Kitimat participants believe that crowding is an issue. They cited was non-guided, non-resident aliens as the main problem. The Kispiox River, Bulkley, Morice, and Zymoetz were all mentioned as rivers that need regulations to deal with crowding problems. The issue of non-residents camping along the side of the river for long periods on the Skeena near Terrace was also raised.

Solutions suggested include six- or eight-day licences, no fishing on the weekends for

non-resident aliens, guided-only for non-resident aliens, and the idea of using the Zymoetz River as a pilot. It was felt that charging more for non-resident aliens would not address the problem.

A number of attendees brought up the need to ensure resident-priority on the Skeena. They felt that this priority could be enhanced by reducing the fee for residents and waiving the fee for 16-19 year olds.

Participants identified illegal guiding as a concern with comments referencing certain European websites, which are not run by licensed guides, that promote guided trips to the Skeena.

Poor angler etiquette, improper fish handling and problems with fish identification were all raised as issues that could be addressed with more education. A mandatory test, similar to what is that used for hunting licences, was suggested as one way to educate the angling public.

Considerable concern was expressed regarding the potential impact of changes to regulations on the Skeena on the Kitimat River. Residents already notice that if water levels on the Skeena are high, many anglers come down to the Kitimat River to fish.

### **Prince Rupert**

The community of Prince Rupert is also on the periphery of the Skeena River watershed and many anglers are more interested in the ocean salmon fishery. As a result, only 14 people attended this Saturday afternoon Public Meeting.

The Skeena main stem and the Zymoetz were mentioned as having crowding problems. Limited stay for anglers was suggested as one regulatory approach

There was a strong sense that a quality experience should be restored to resident anglers over other interests.

Participants expressed concern about the number of jet boats and rafts on the river and the impact the former has had on both the fishing experience and destruction of salmon spawning habitat, notably pinks.

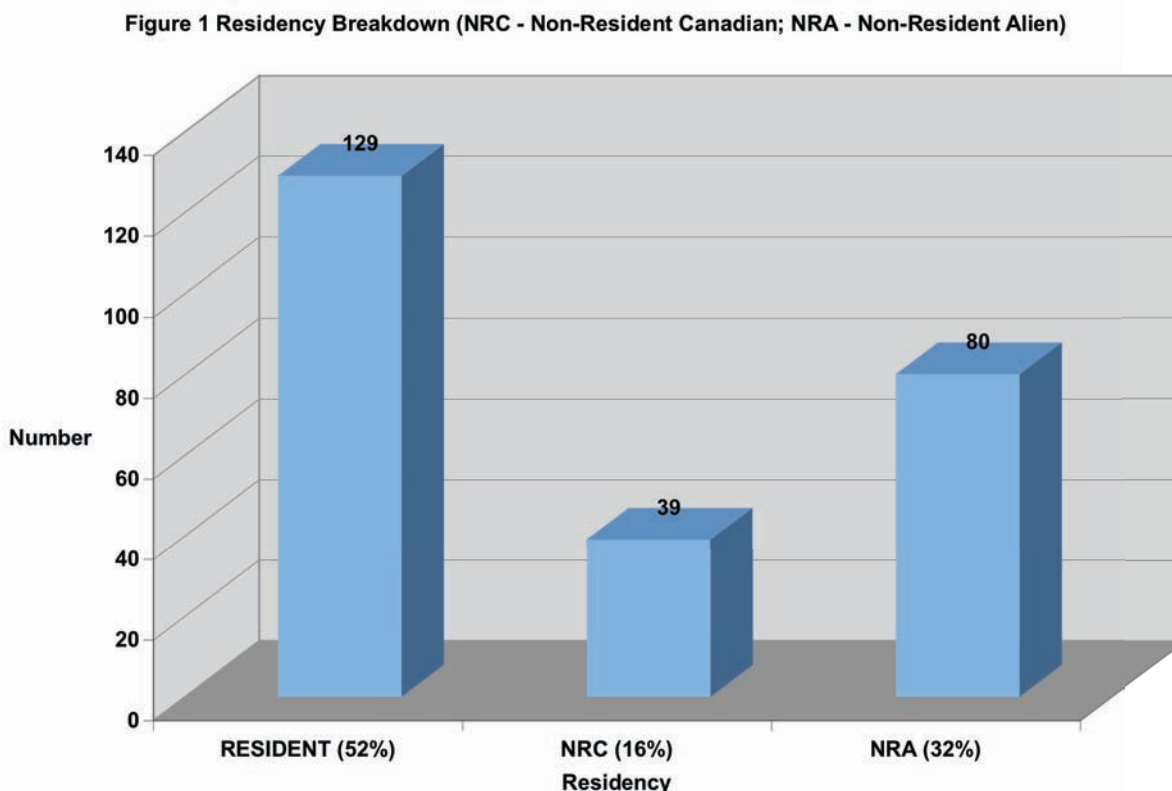
Illegal guiding is believed to be a serious issue.

A concern was expressed that upstream regulations will affect downstream angling, in part by pushing more people to other parts of the watershed.

## Response Form results

A total of 248 Response Forms were received — 172 electronically via the website, 13 handed in or faxed to the regional Ministry of Environment office in Smithers and 63 handed in at the Public Meetings.

The breakdown of residency of respondents is shown in Figure 1.



The following Figures (2 – 75) and Tables (7 – 10) show the responses to all the questions by residents of British Columbia (N=129). These responses are compared with those of non-resident aliens (N=80), for all questions where there was a marked difference in the response.

Responses from guides (N=22) and local economy (N=25) are shown for Response Form question number 14 on crowding and the last eight questions (23 – 30) that deal with different management options.

The titles of the figures and tables contain abbreviated versions of the Response Form questions. The full questions can be found in Appendix E.

A total of 86% of the non-resident alien respondents were from the United States and the rest were from other parts of the world. Virtually all of them were anglers.

Figure 2 Where do you live? (BC Residents)

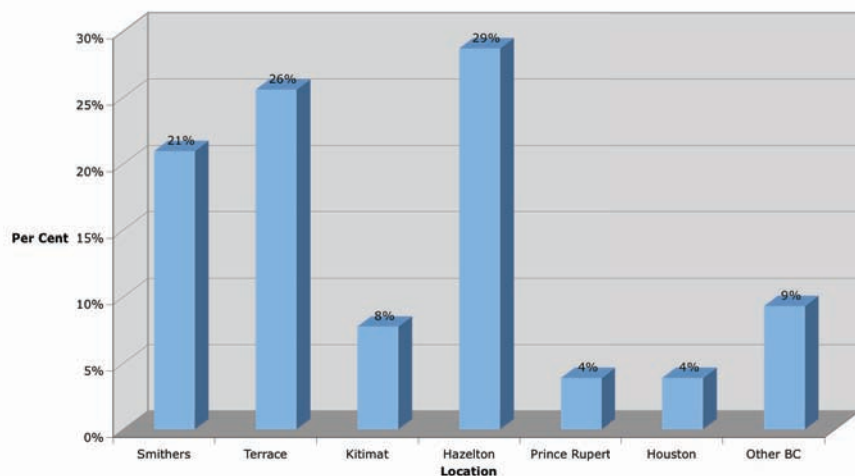


Figure 3. Principal Activity (BC Resident Responses)

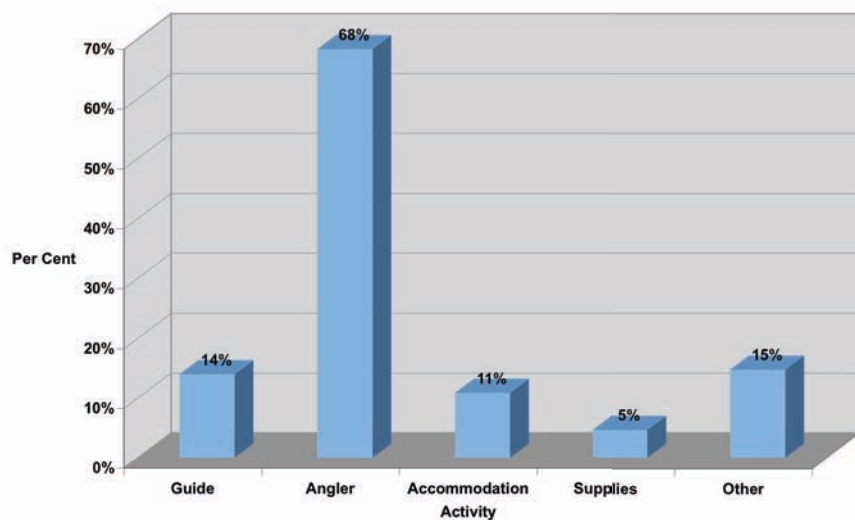


Figure 4. Membership in Organizations (BC Resident Responses)

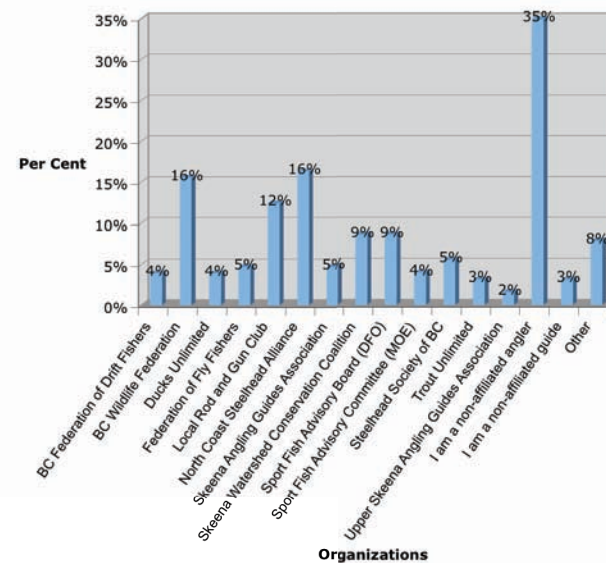


Figure 5. Membership in Organizations (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

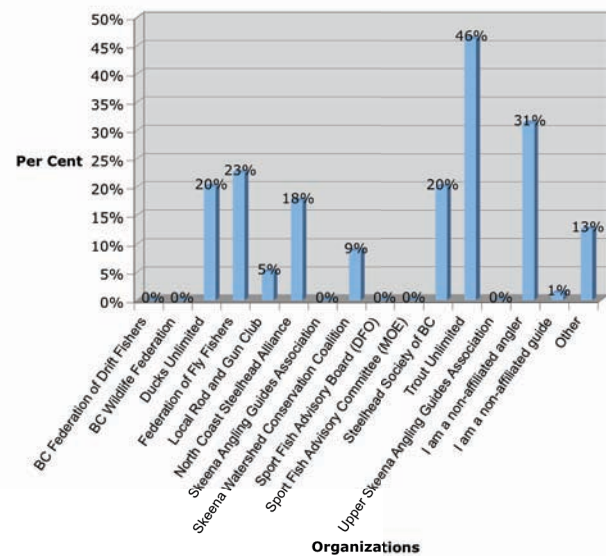


Figure 6. Time Fishing in Skeena Watershed (BC Resident Responses)

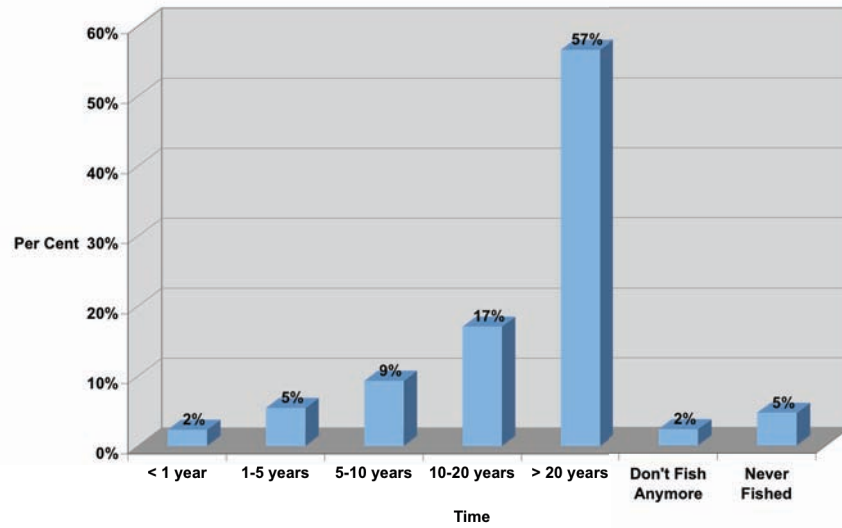


Figure 8. Steelhead Fishing in Last Year (BC Resident Responses)

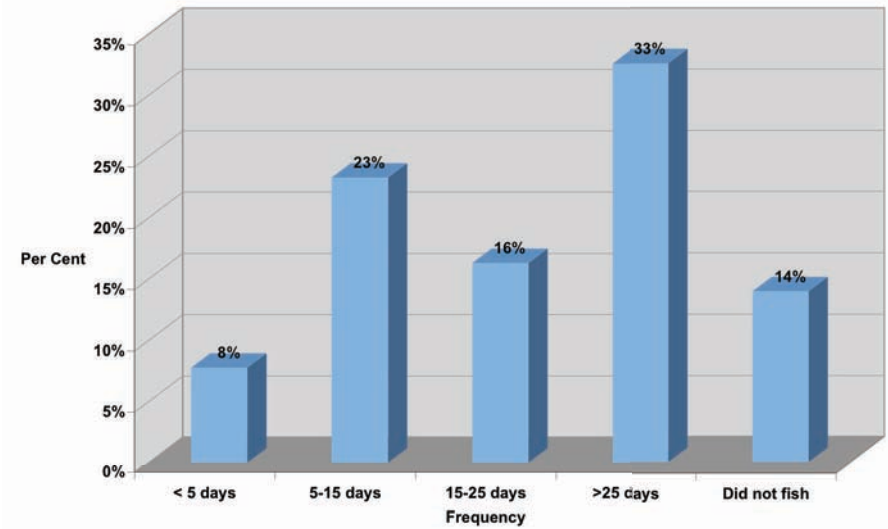


Figure 7. Time Fishing in Skeena Watershed (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

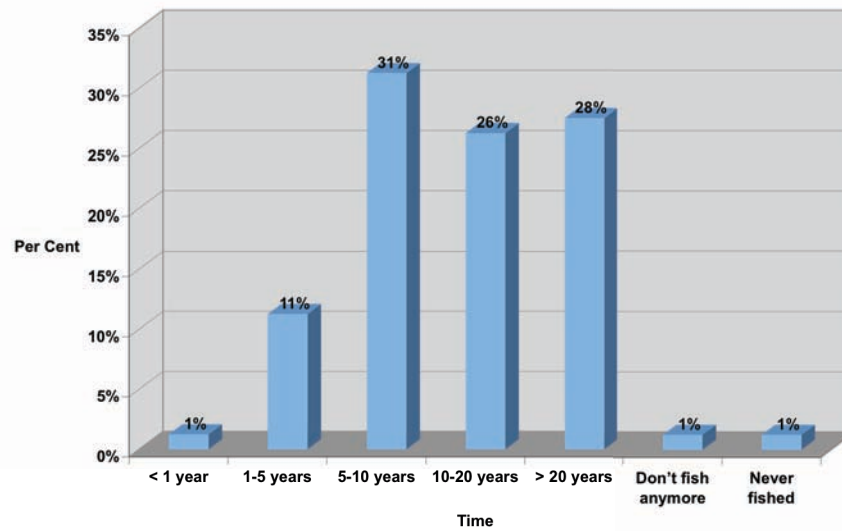


Figure 9. Steelhead Fishing in Last Year (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

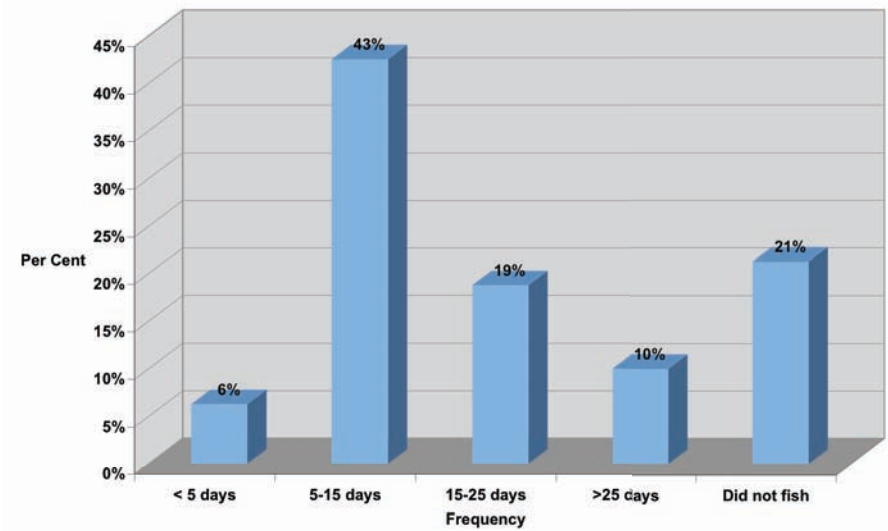


Figure 10. River Access (BC Resident Responses)

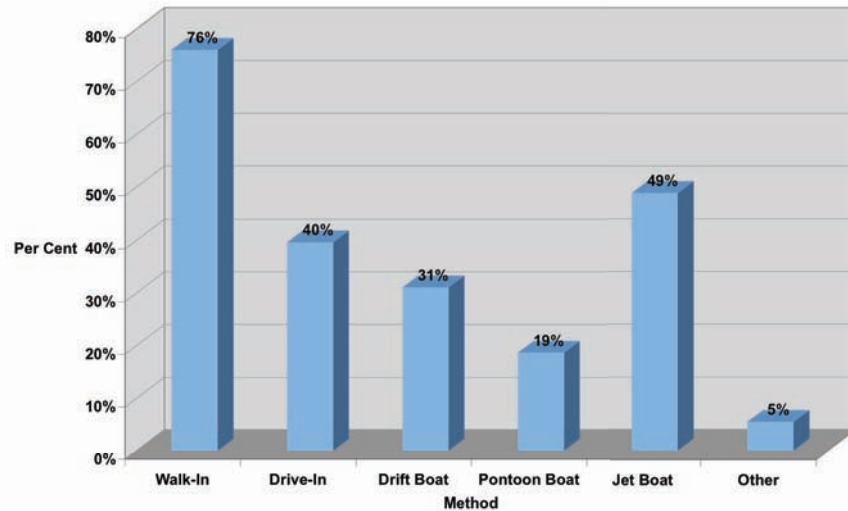


Figure 11. Use of Guide (BC Resident Responses)

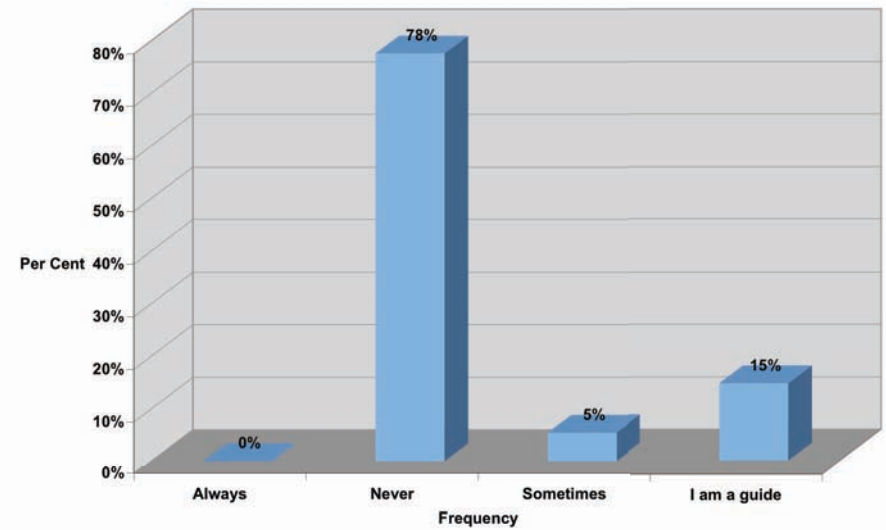


Figure 12. Use of Guide (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

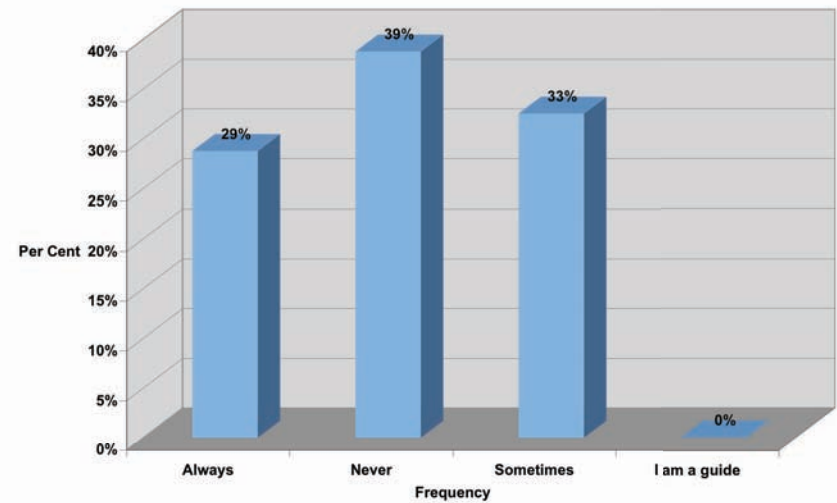


Figure 13. Use of Guide on Specific River (BC Resident Responses)

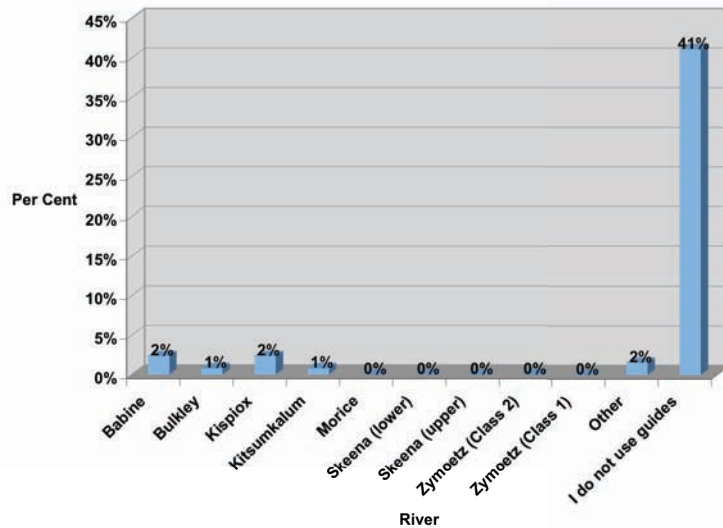


Figure 15. Fishing Experience in Past Two Years (BC Resident Responses)

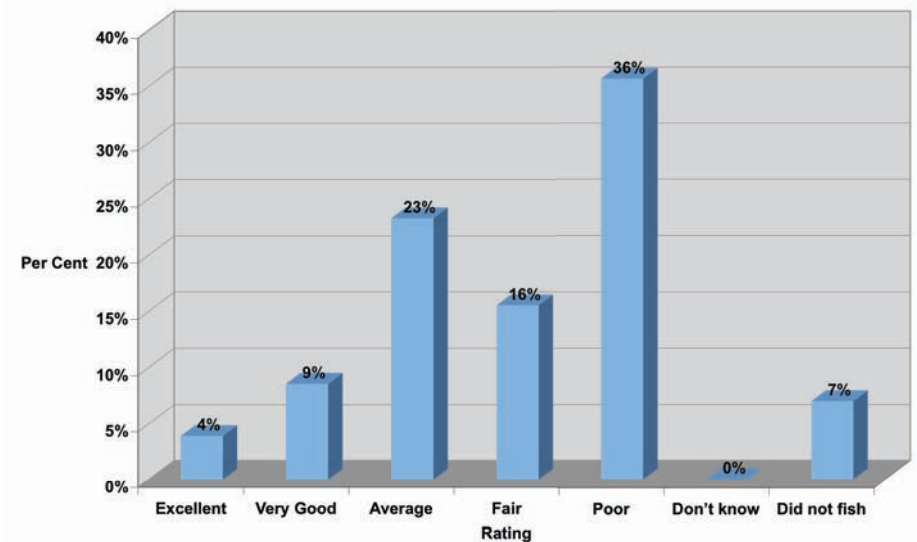


Figure 14. Use of Guide on Specific River (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

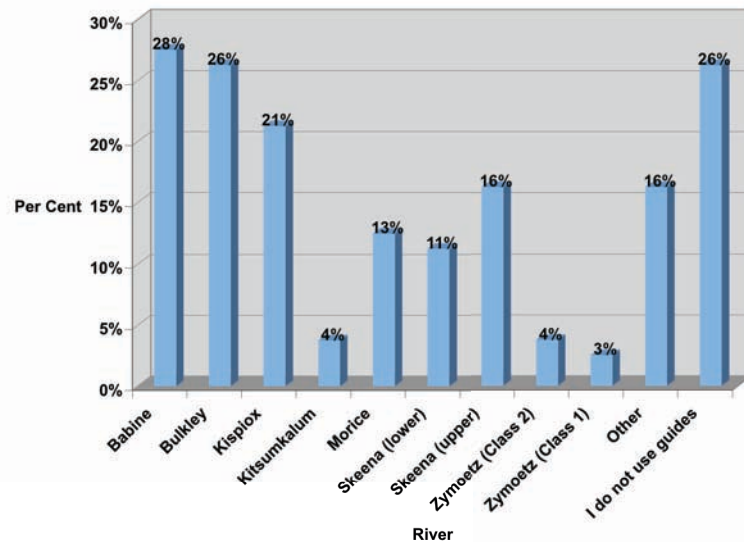


Figure 16. Fishing Experience in Past Two Years (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

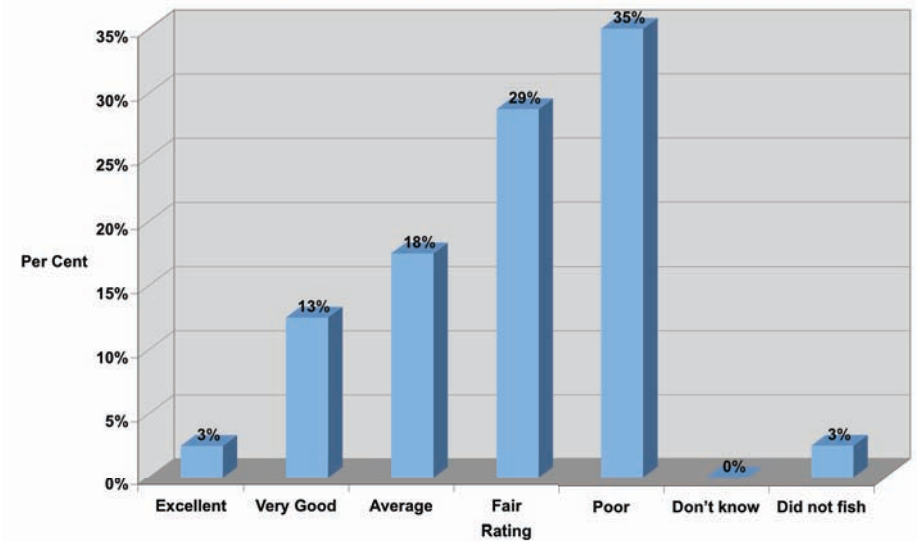




Figure 17. Conservation is High Priority

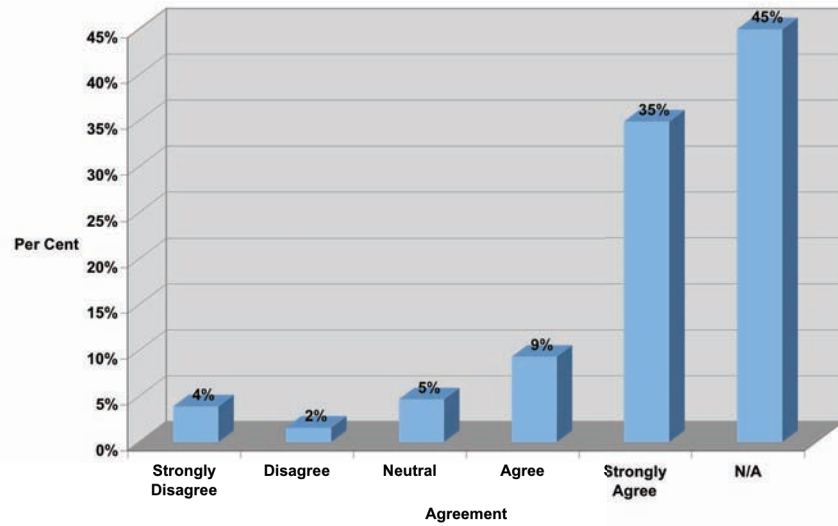


Figure 19. More Anglers in Last Five Years (BC Resident Responses)

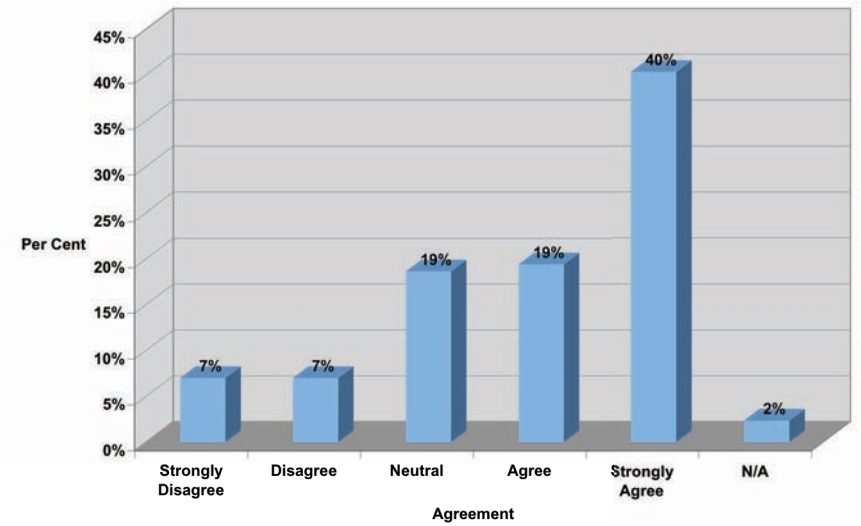


Figure 18. Skeena Watershed is World-Class (BC Resident Responses)

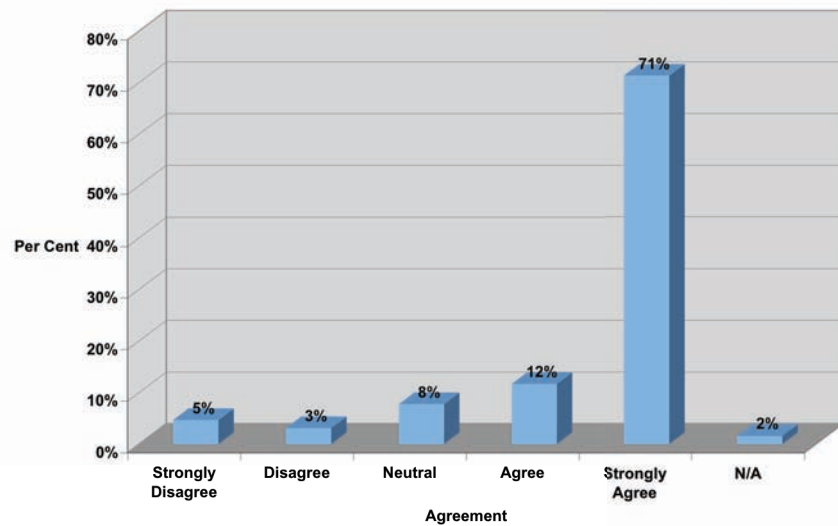


Figure 20. More Anglers in Last Five Years (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

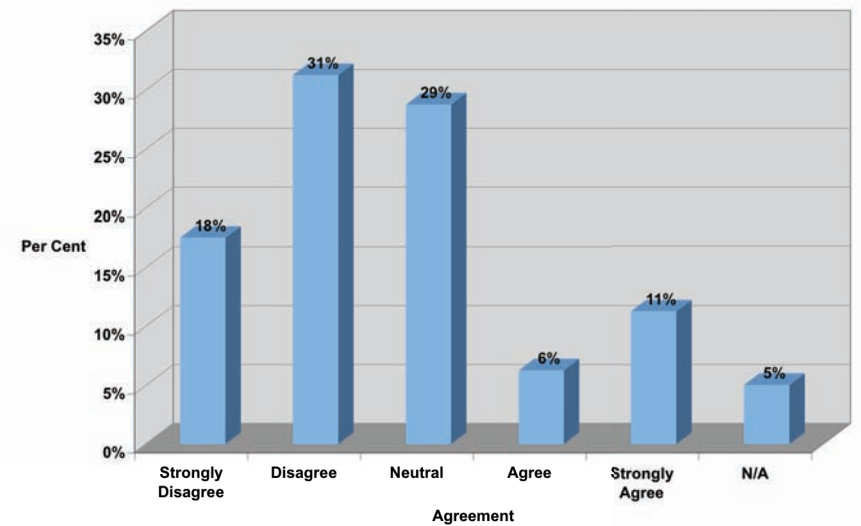


Figure 21. There is a Crowding Problem (BC Resident Responses)

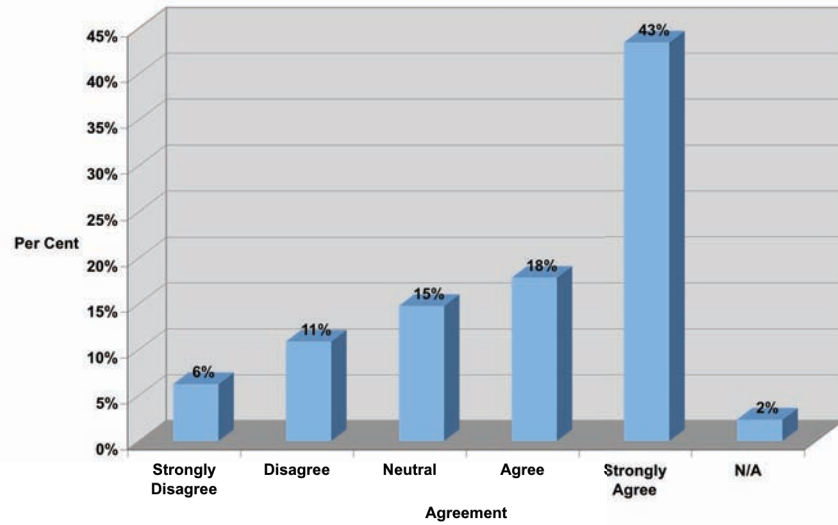


Figure 23. There is a Crowding Problem (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

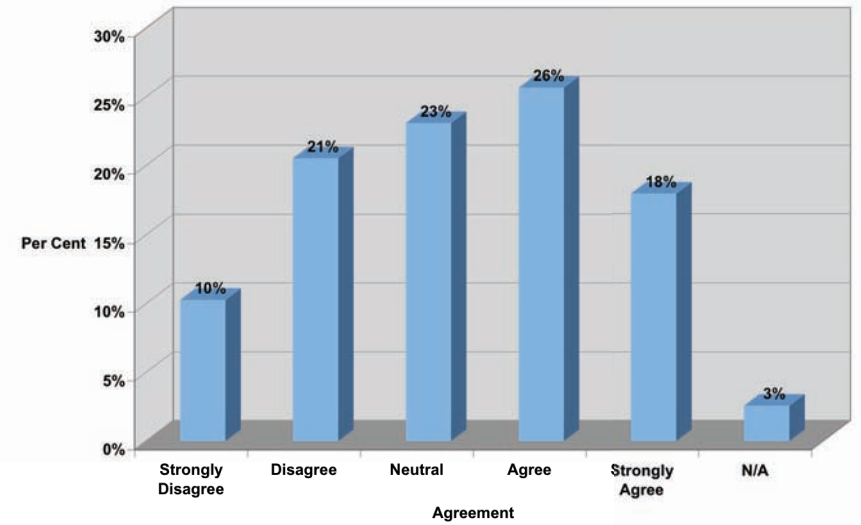


Figure 22. There is a Crowding Problem (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

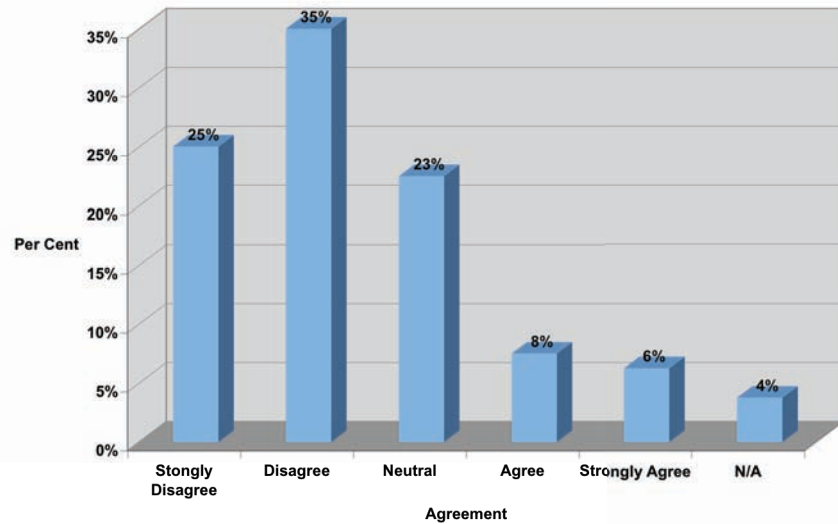


Figure 24. There is a Crowding Problem (Guide Responses)

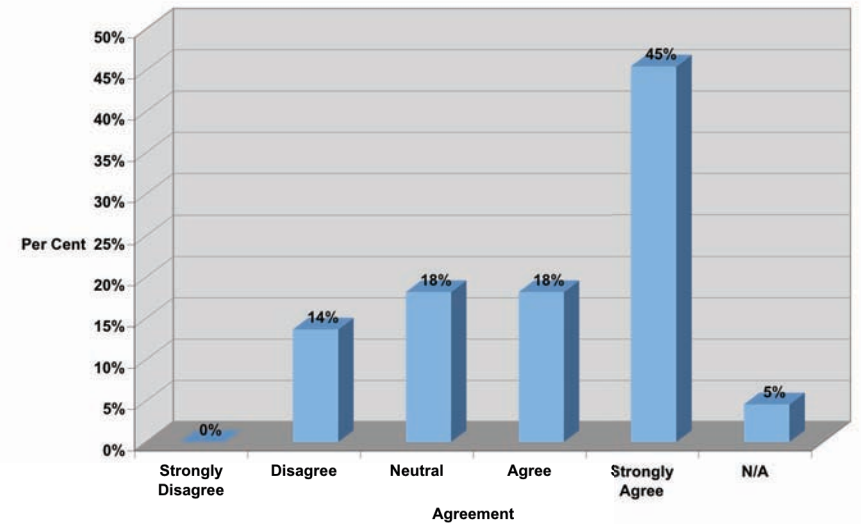


Figure 25. There is a crowding problem (Local Economy Responses)

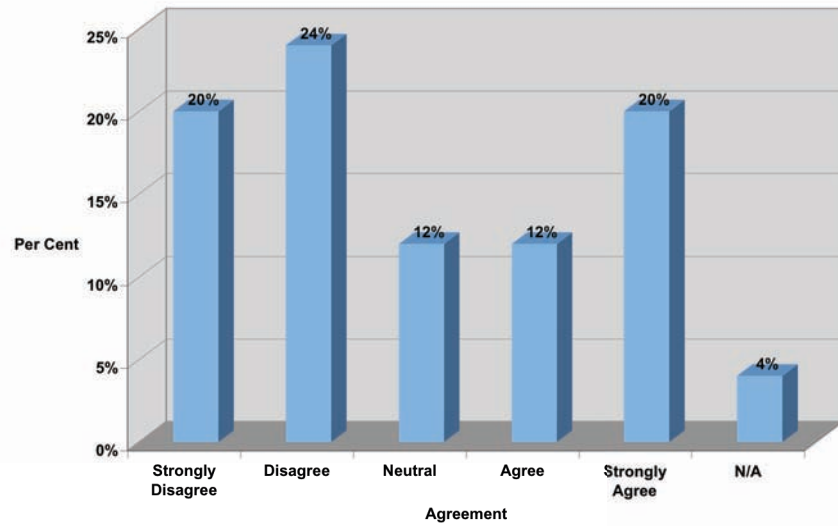


Figure 26. Too Many Guided Anglers (BC Resident Responses)

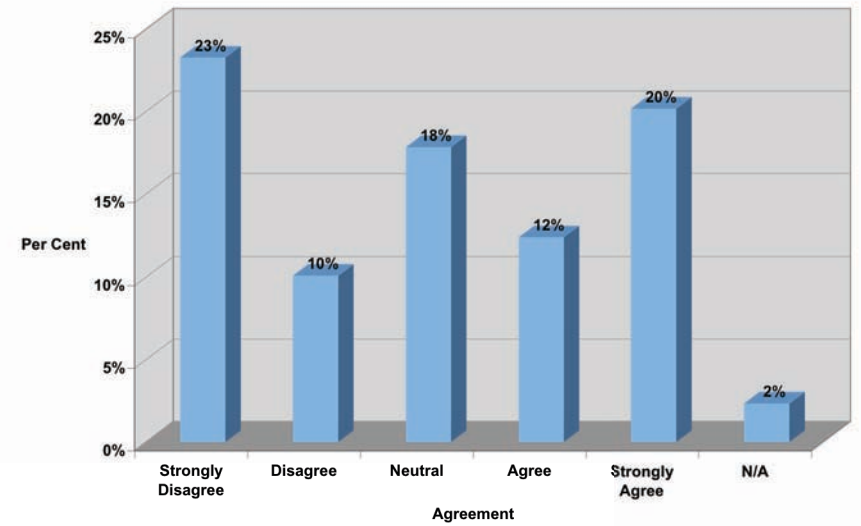


Figure 27. Too Many Non-Guided, Non-Resident Aliens (BC Resident Responses)

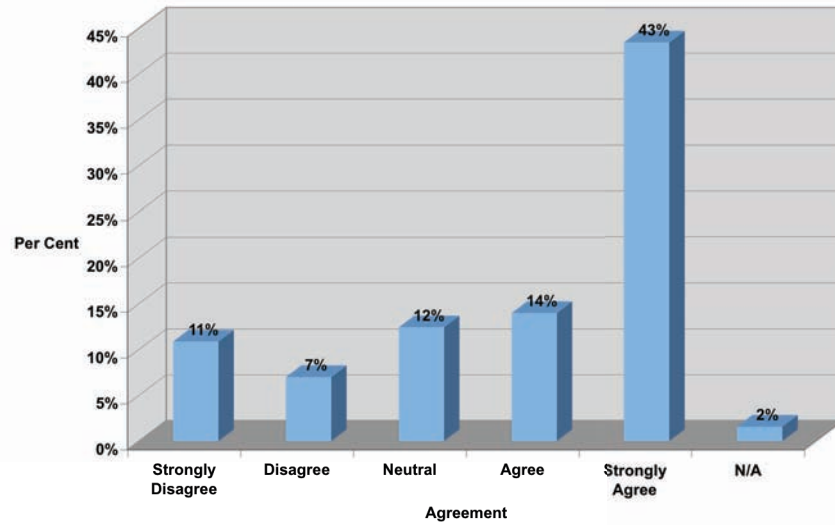


Figure 29. Too Many Non-Guided Residents (BC Resident Responses)

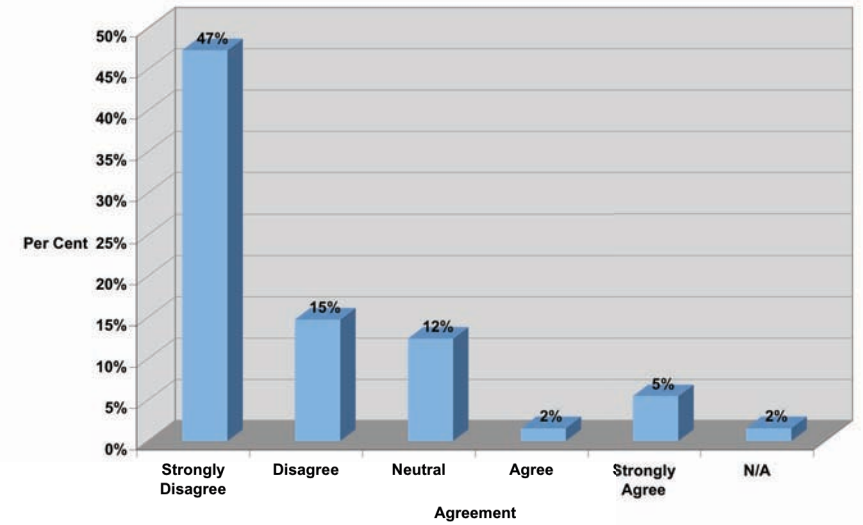


Figure 28. Too Many Non-Guided, Non-Resident Aliens (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

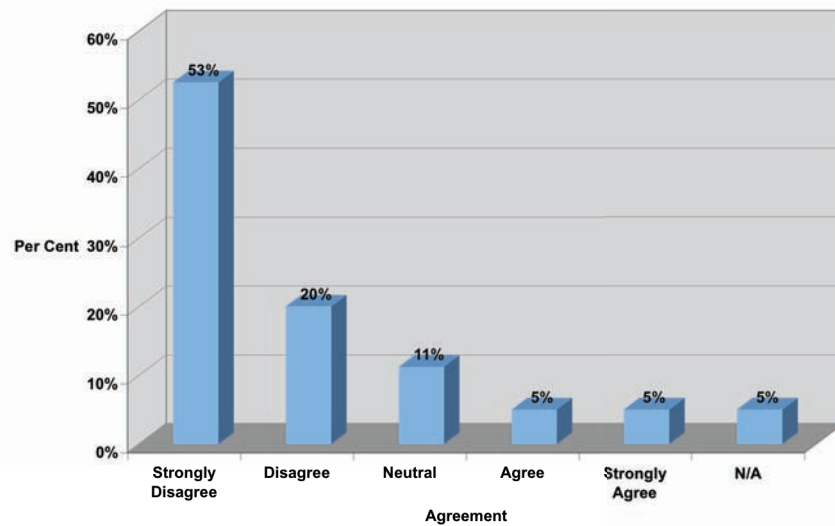


Figure 30. Illegal Guiding is a Problem (BC Resident Responses)

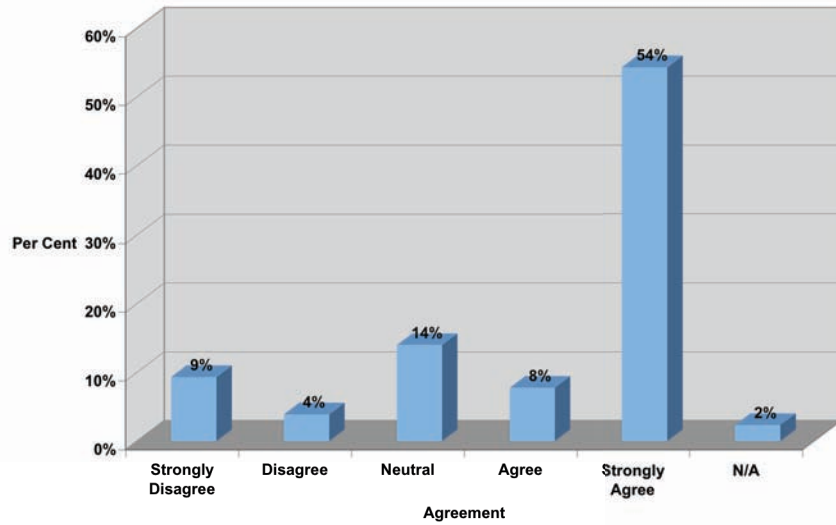


Figure 32. Too Many Power Boats (BC Resident Responses)

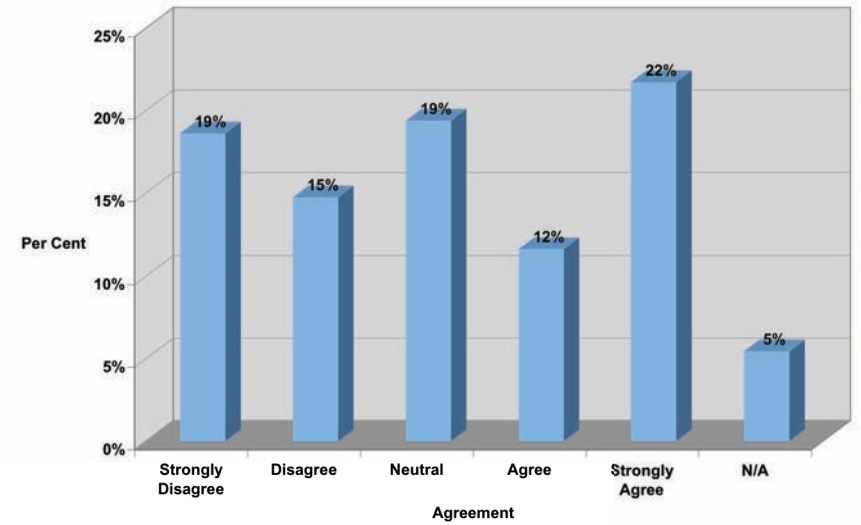


Figure 31. Illegal Guiding is a Problem (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

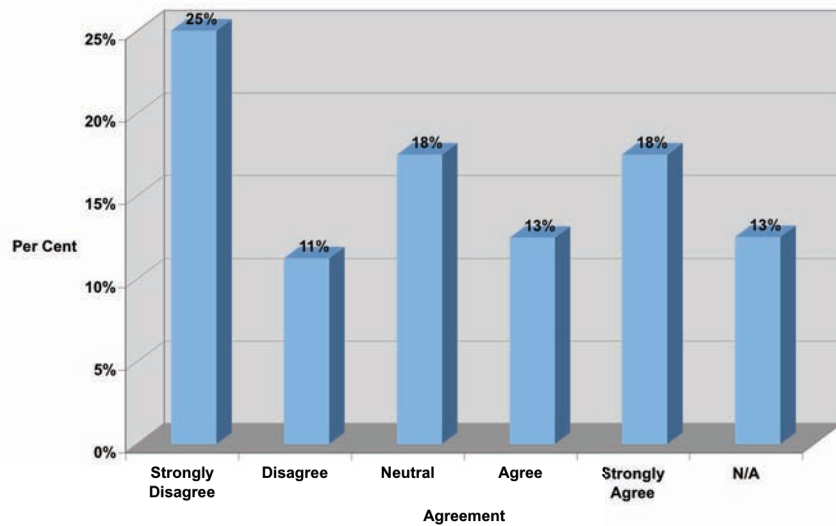


Figure 33. Angler Etiquette Declined in Past Five Years (BC Resident Responses)

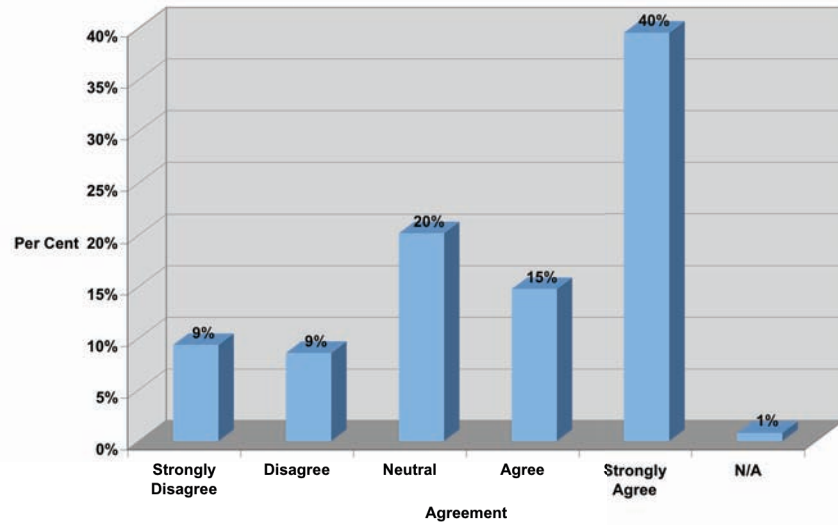


Figure 35. Sufficient Road Access (BC Resident Responses)

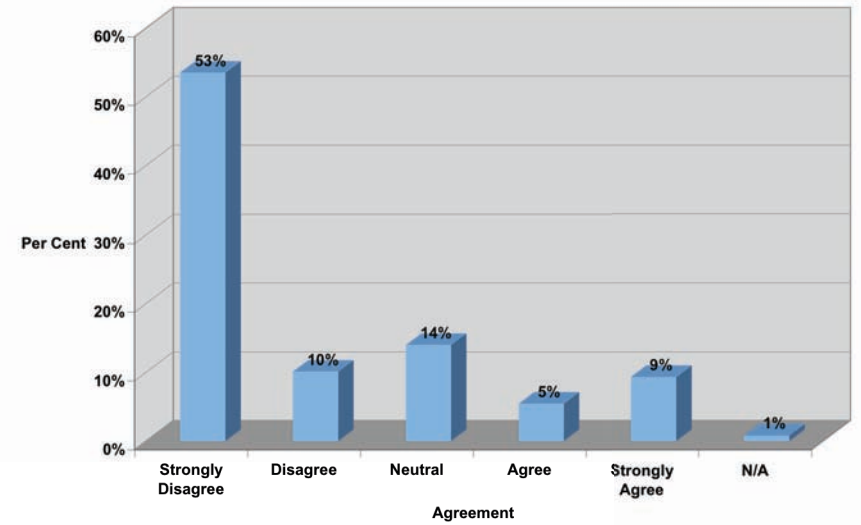


Figure 34. Angler Etiquette Declined in Past Five Years (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

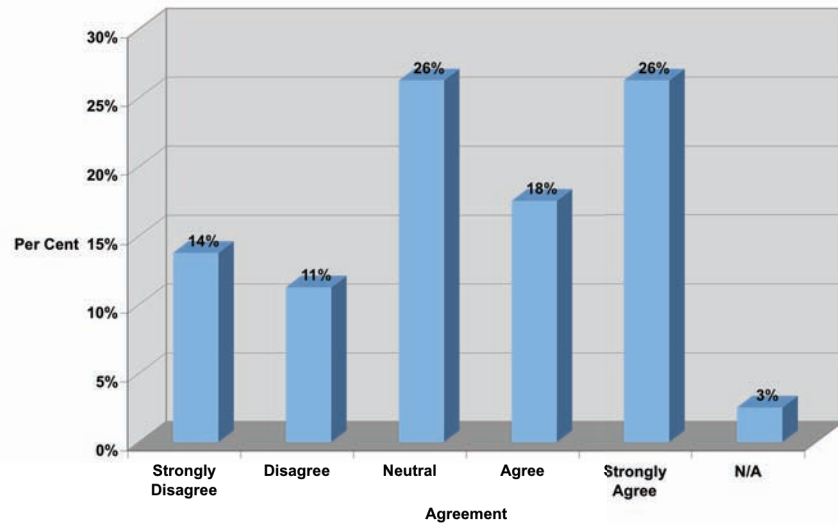


Figure 36. Increase Non-Resident Angling Fees (BC Resident Responses)

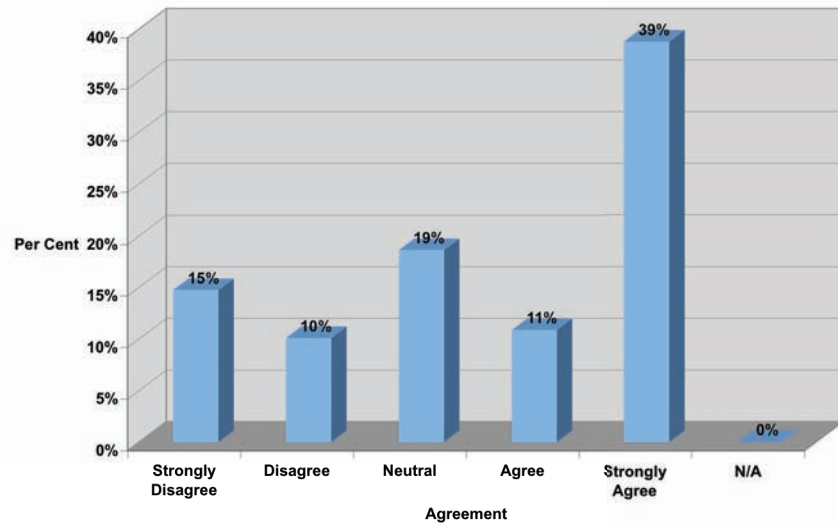


Figure 38. Increase Non-Resident Angling Fees (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

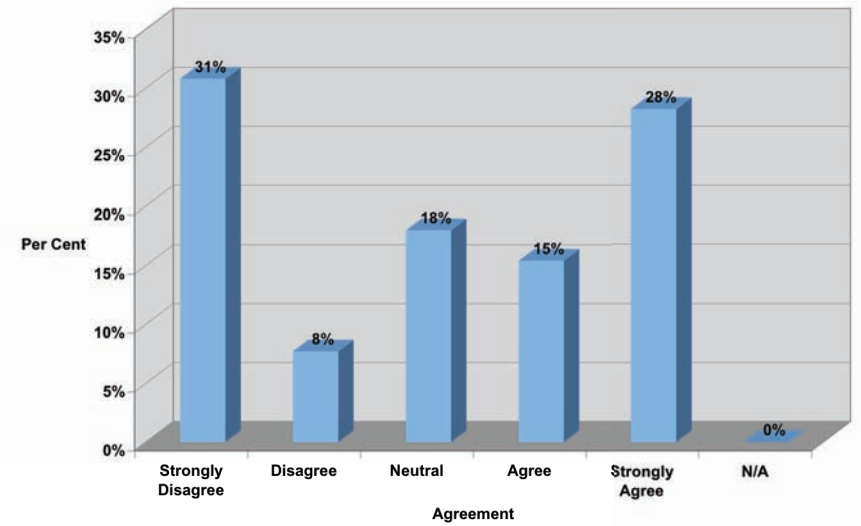


Figure 37. Increase Non-Resident Angling Fees (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

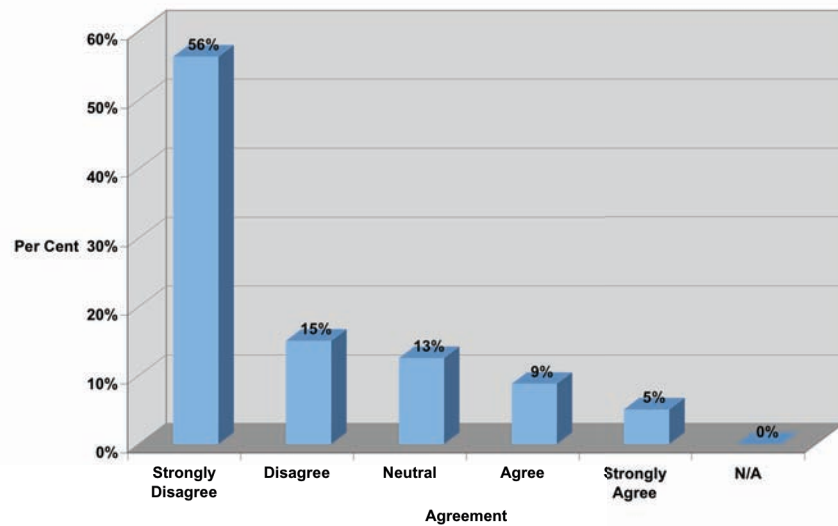


Figure 39. Increase Non-Resident Angling Fees (Guide Responses)

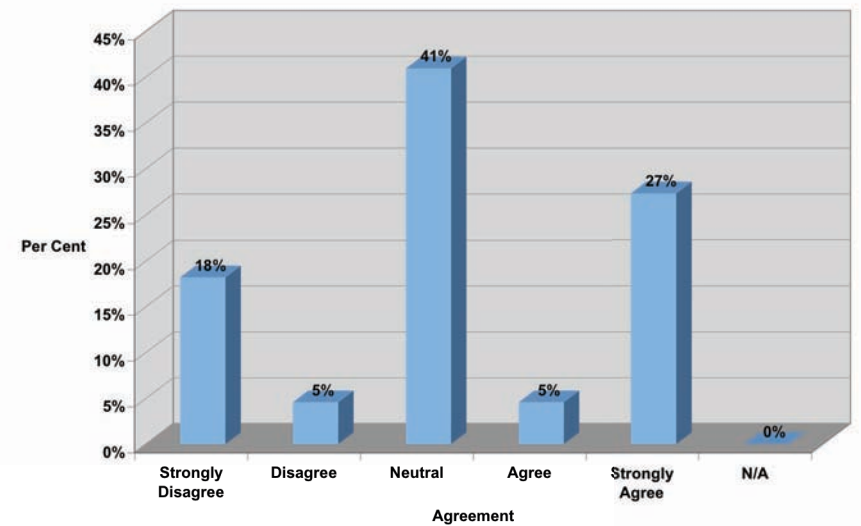


Figure 40. Increase Non-Resident Angling Fees (Local Economy Responses)

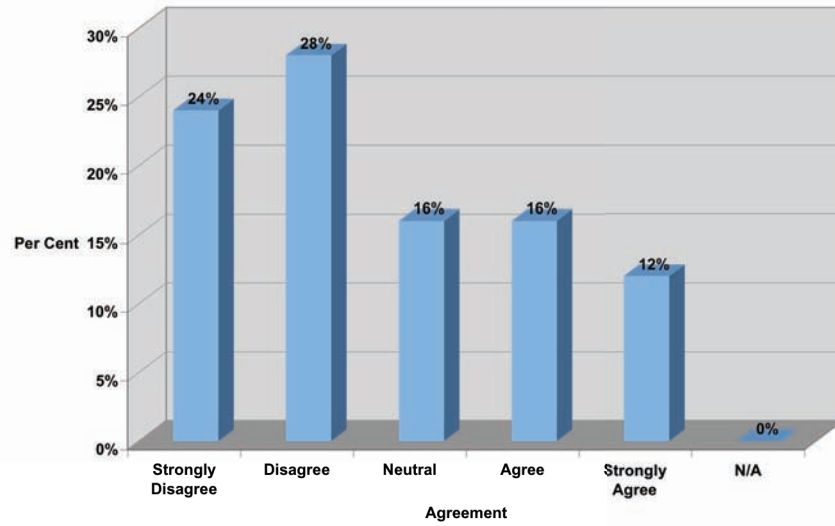


Figure 41. Reduce Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (BC Resident Responses)

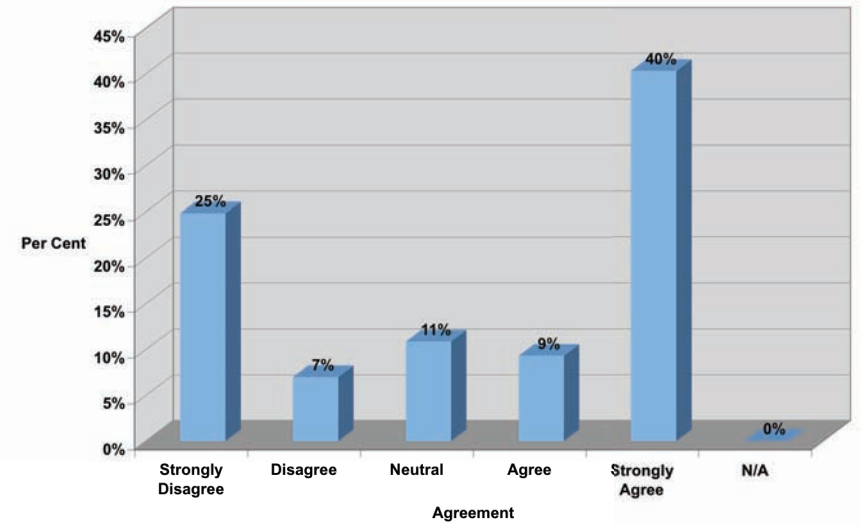


Figure 42. Reduce Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

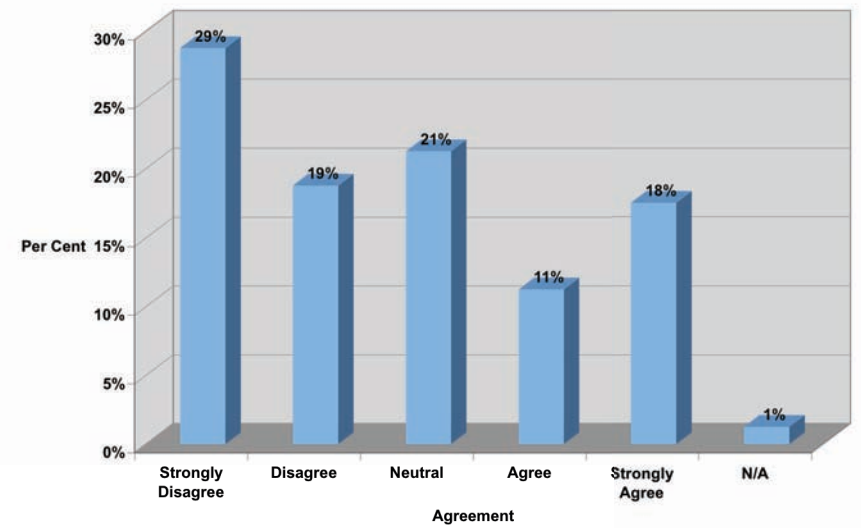




Figure 43. Reduce Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

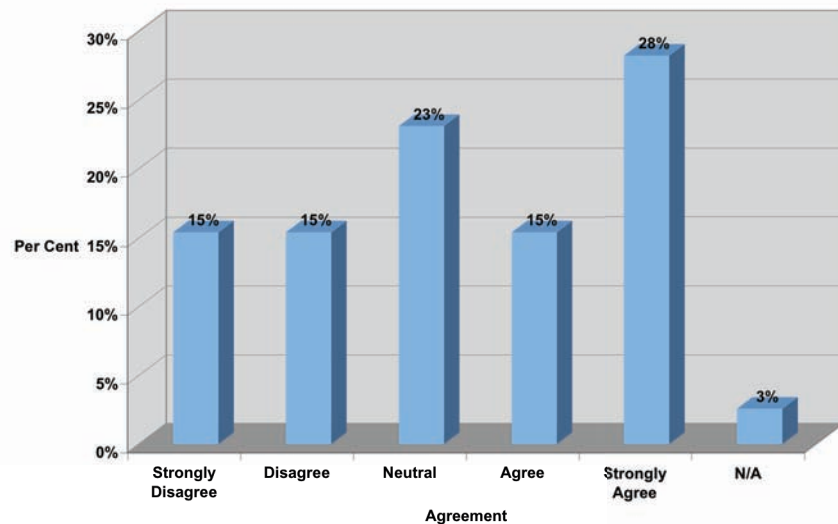


Figure 45. Reduce Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (Local Economy Responses)

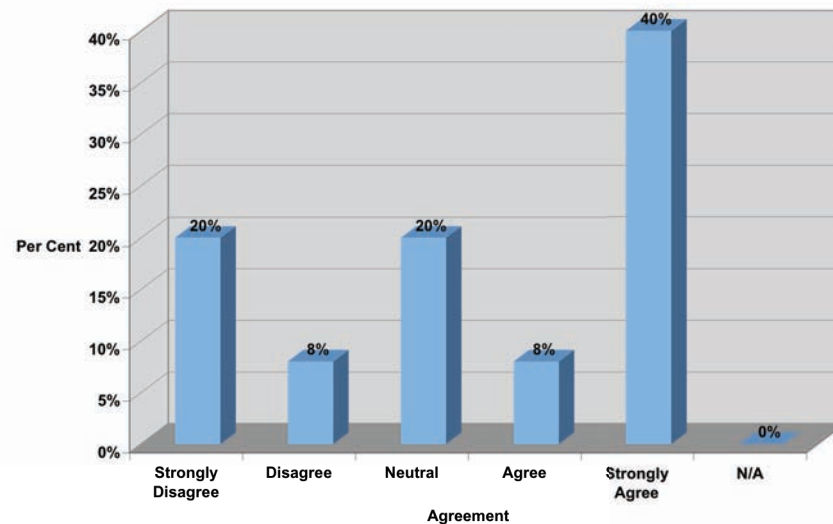


Figure 44. Reduce Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (Guide Responses)

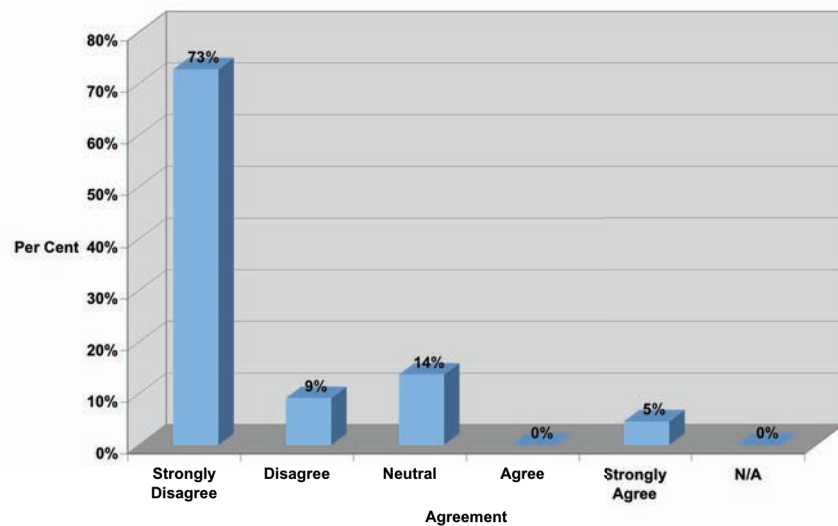


Figure 46. Increase Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (BC Resident Responses)

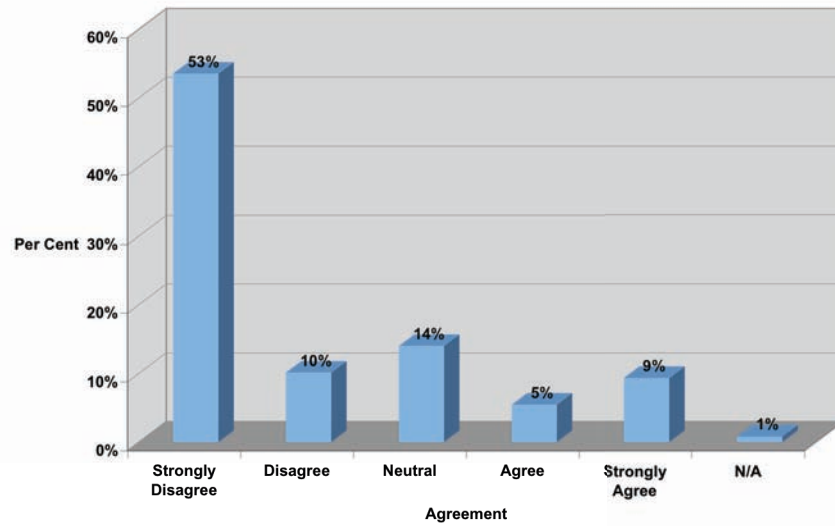


Figure 48. Increase Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

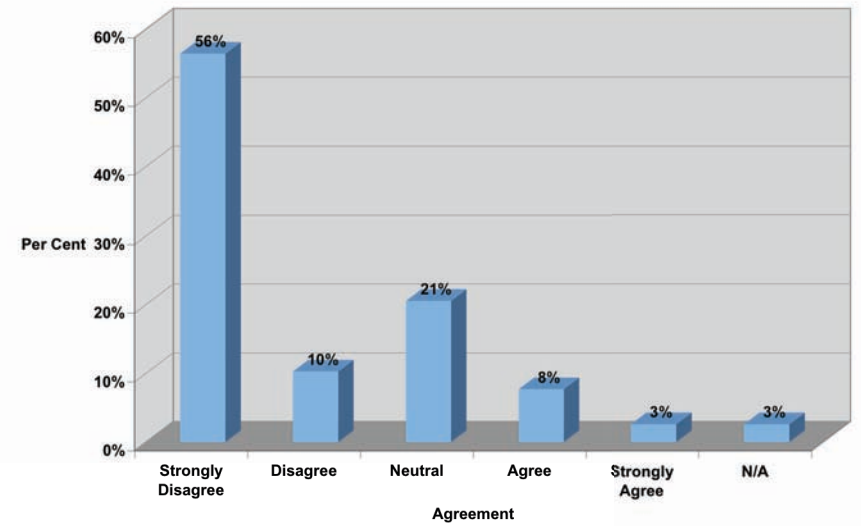


Figure 47. Increase Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

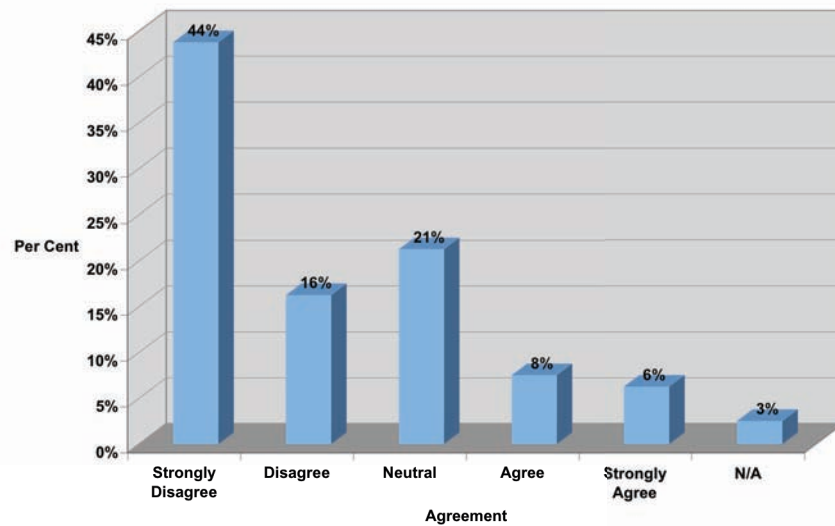


Figure 49. Increase Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (Guide Responses)

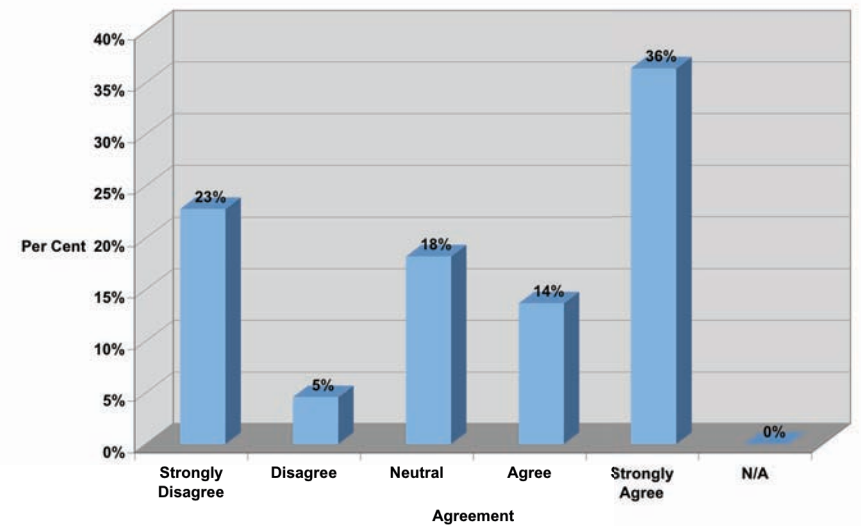


Figure 50. Increase Rod-Days for Licensed Guides (Local Economy Responses)

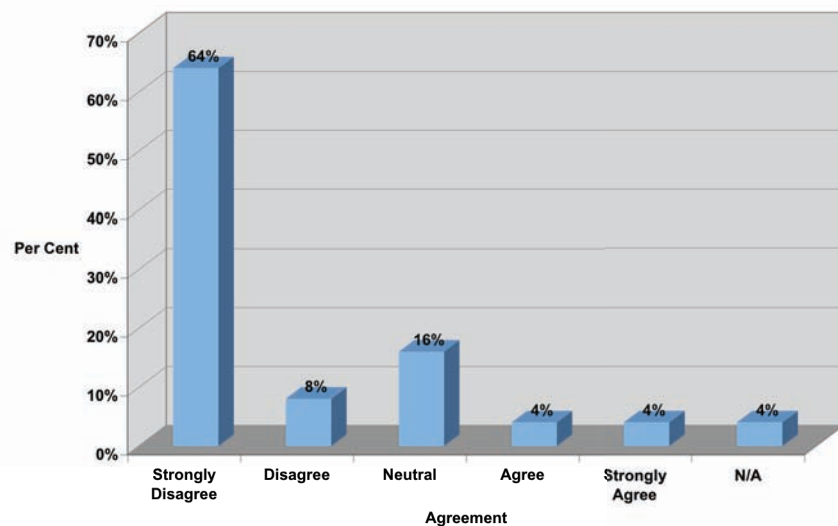


Figure 51. Non-Resident Aliens Should be Guided Only (BC Resident Responses)

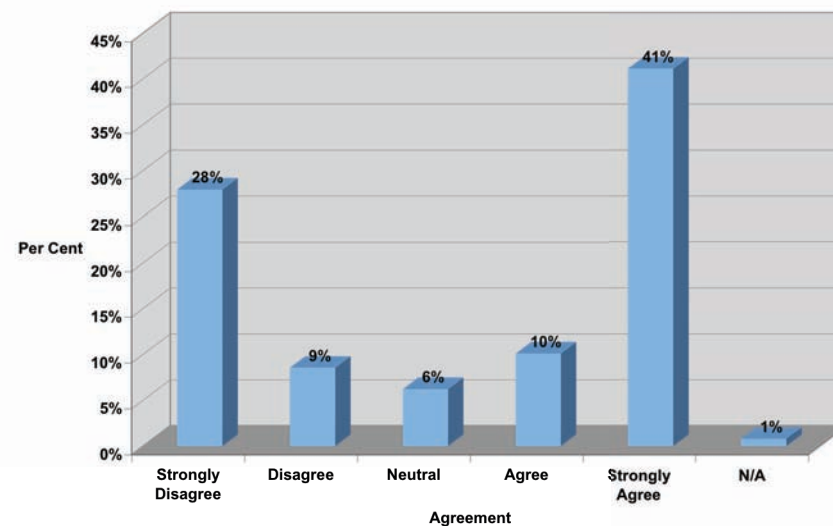


Figure 52. Non-Resident Aliens Should be Guided Only (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

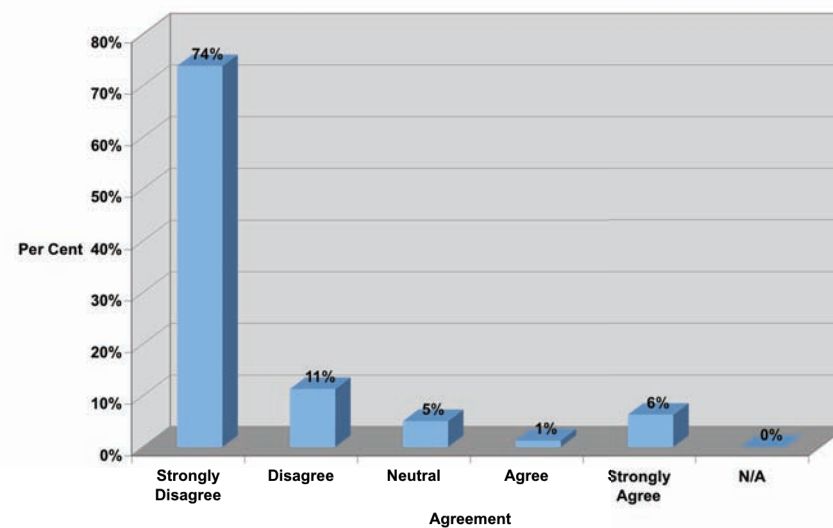


Figure 53. Non-Resident Aliens Should be Guided Only (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

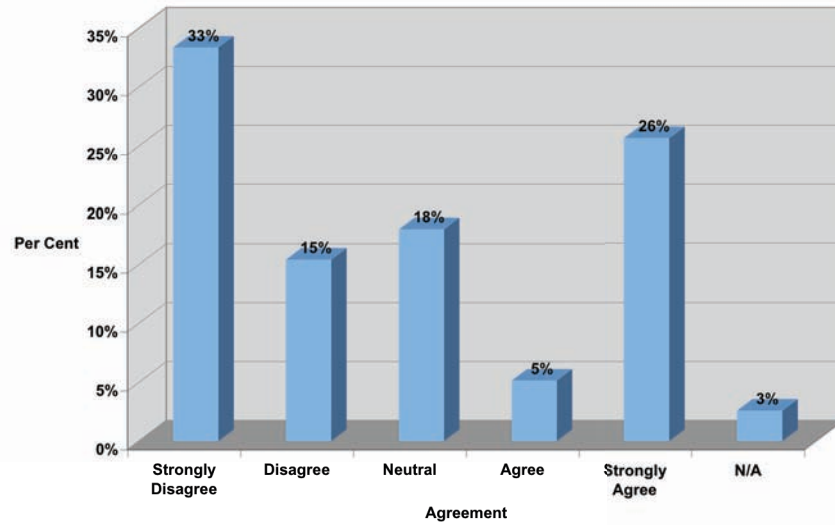


Figure 55. Non-Resident Aliens Should be Guided Only (Local Economy Responses)

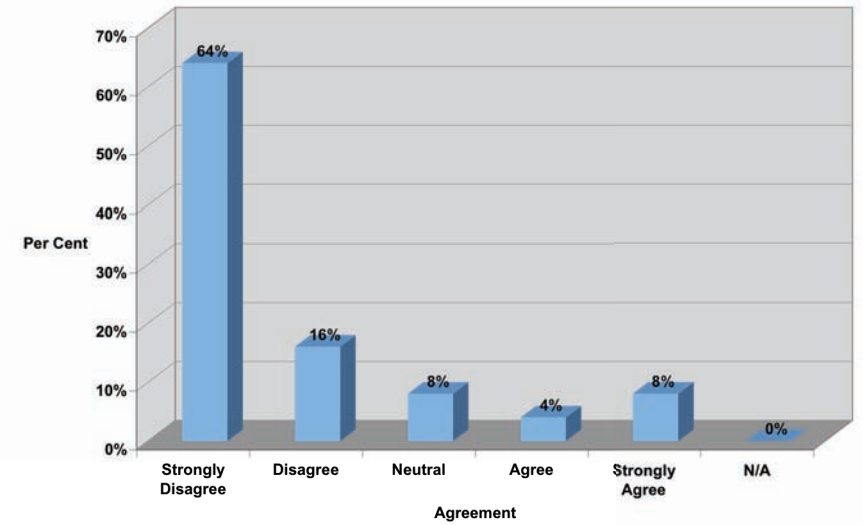


Figure 54. Non-Resident Aliens Should be Guided Only (Guide Responses)

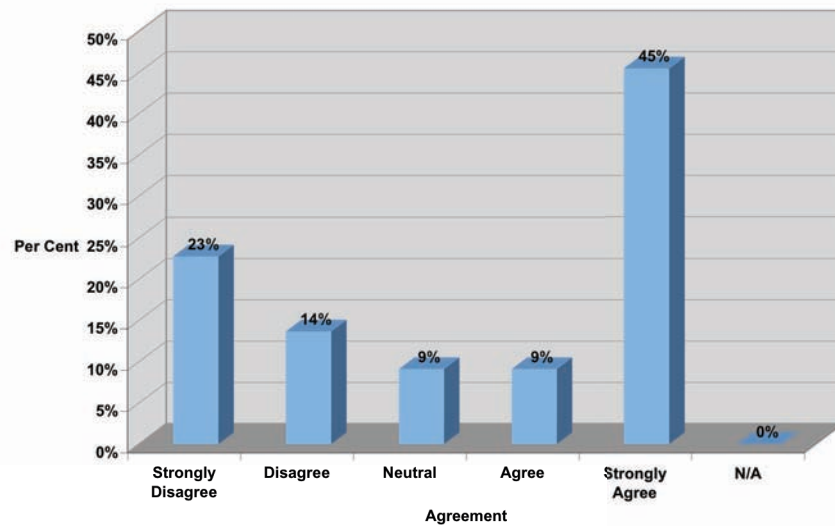


Figure 56. Designated Resident-Only Waters and Times (BC Resident Responses)

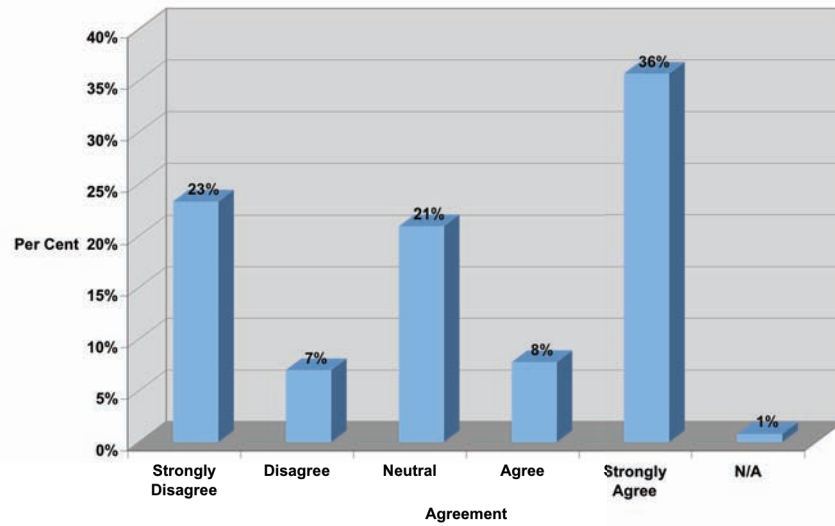


Figure 58. Designated Resident-Only Waters and Times (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

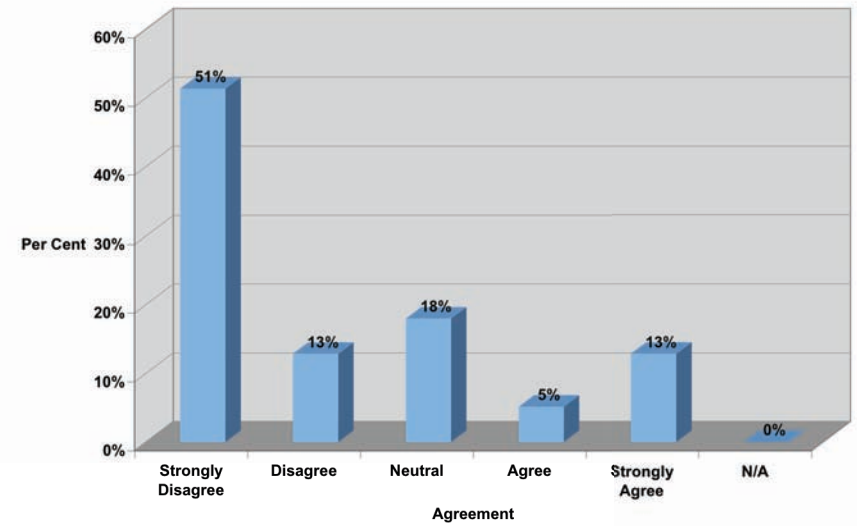


Figure 57. Designated Resident-Only Waters and Times (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

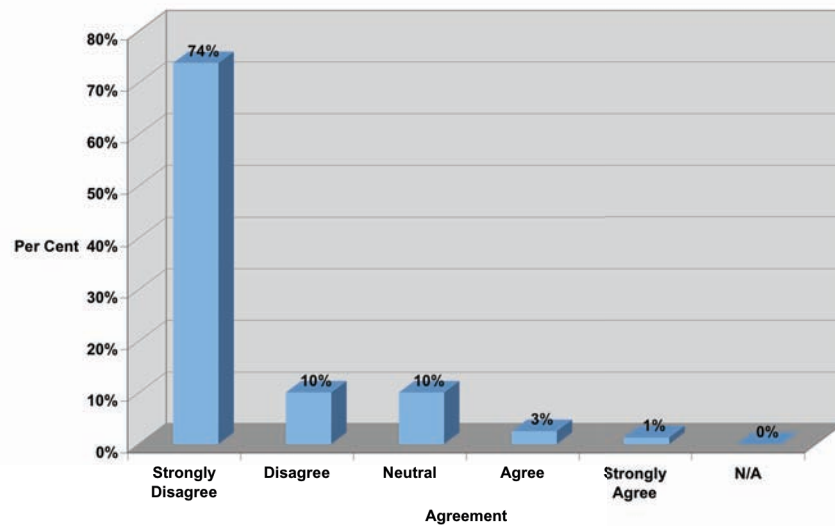


Figure 59. Designated Resident-Only Waters and Times (Guide Responses)

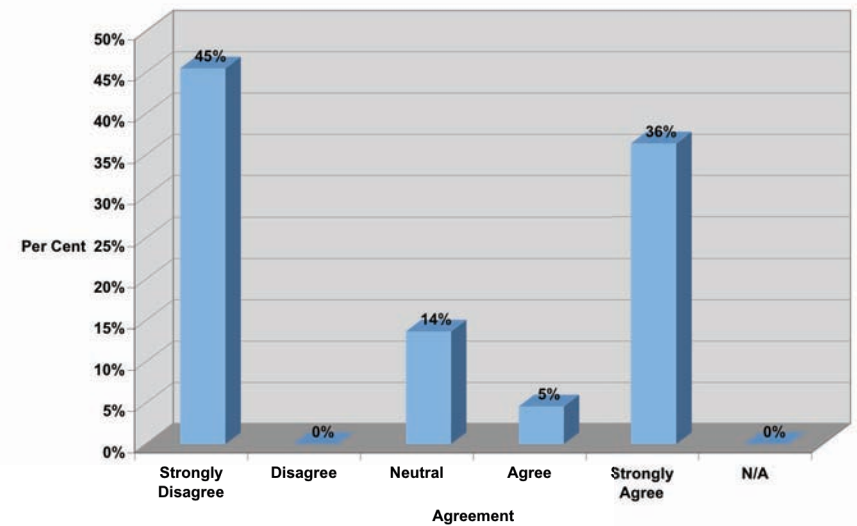


Figure 60. Designated Resident-Only Waters and Times (Local Economy Responses)

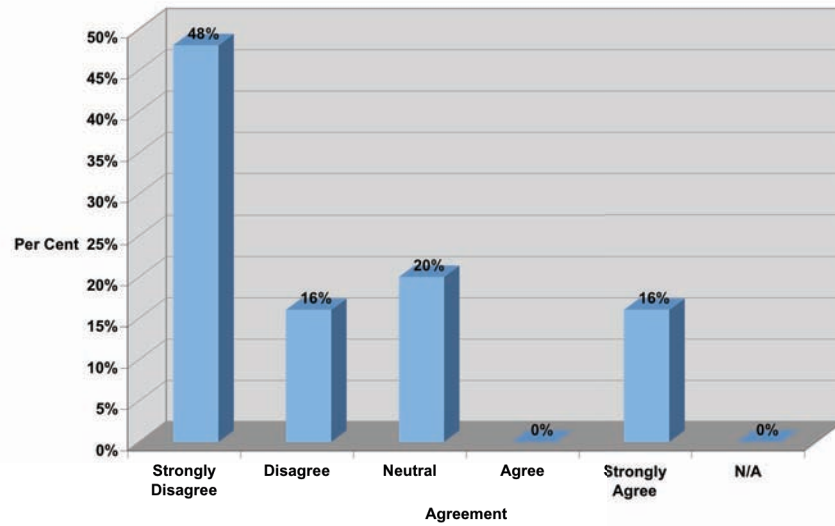


Figure 61. Restricted Time for Non-Resident Aliens (8-Day Licence) (BC Resident Responses)

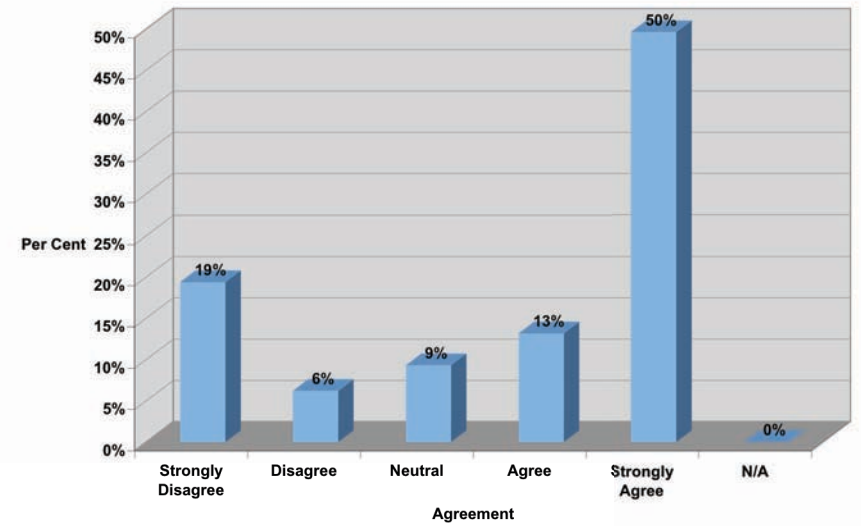


Figure 62. Restricted Time for Non-Resident Aliens (8-Day licence) (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

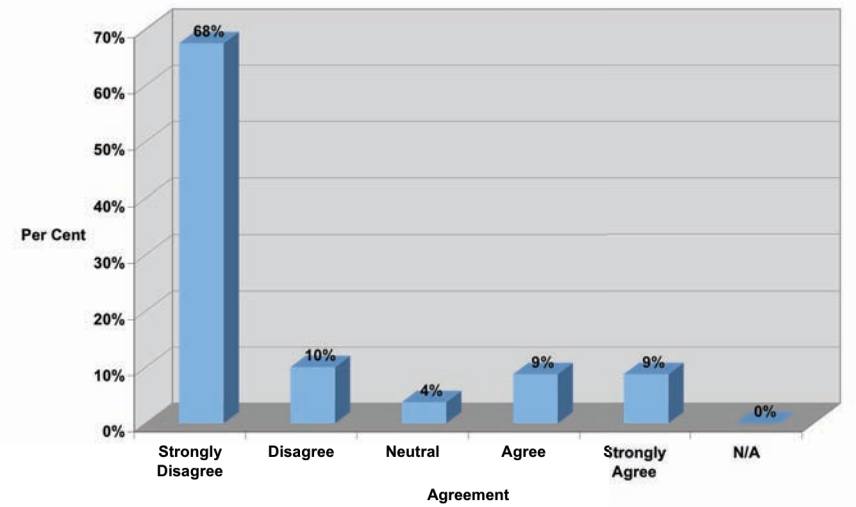


Figure 63. Restricted Time for Non-Resident Aliens (8-Day Licence) (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

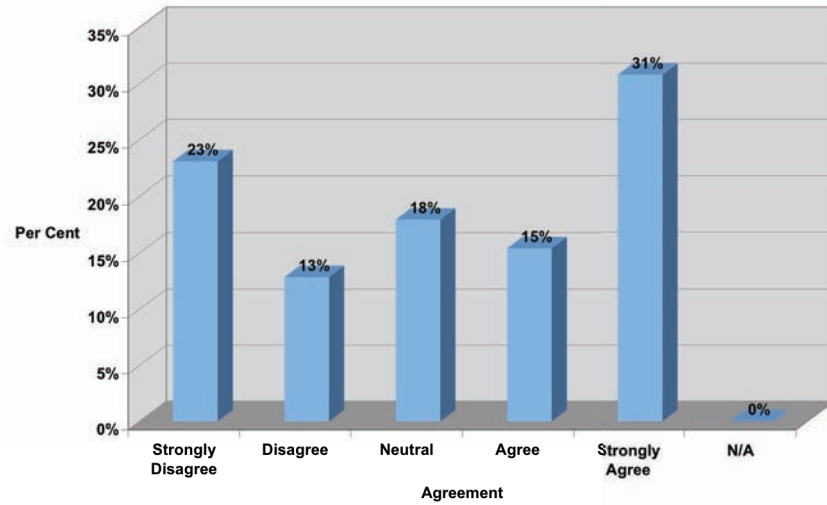


Figure 65. Restricted Time for Non-Resident Aliens (8-day licence) (Local Economy Responses)

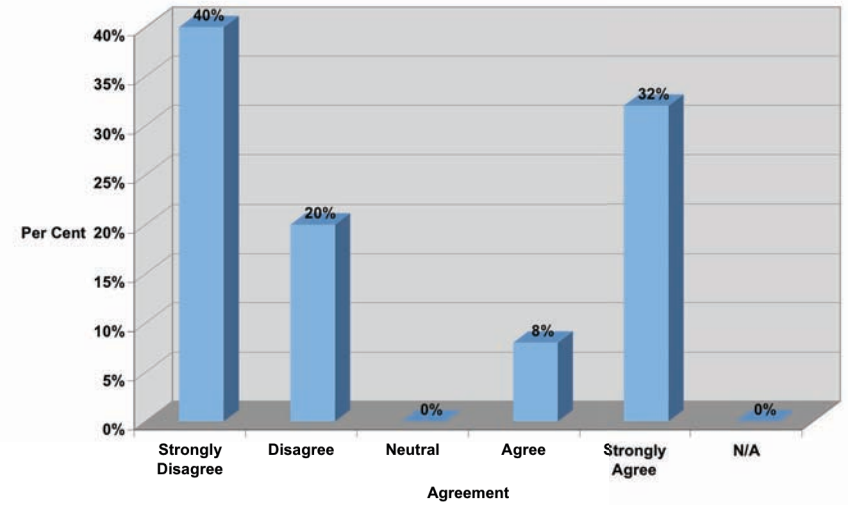


Figure 64 Restricted Time for Non-Resident Aliens (8-Day Licence) (Guide Responses)

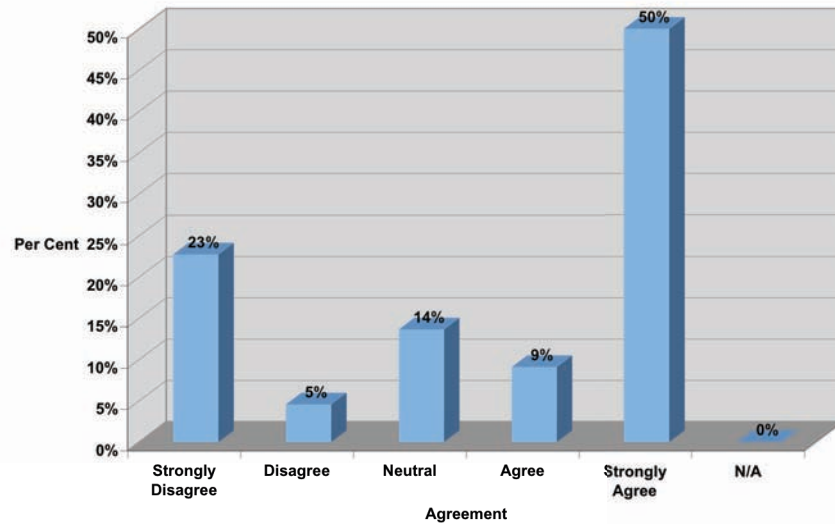


Figure 66. Lottery System for Non-Resident Aliens (BC Resident Responses)

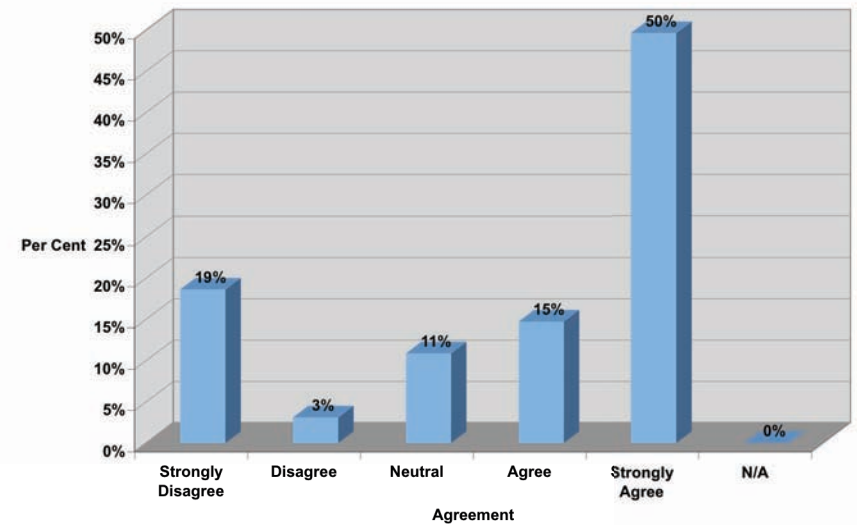


Figure 67. Lottery System for Non-Resident Aliens (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

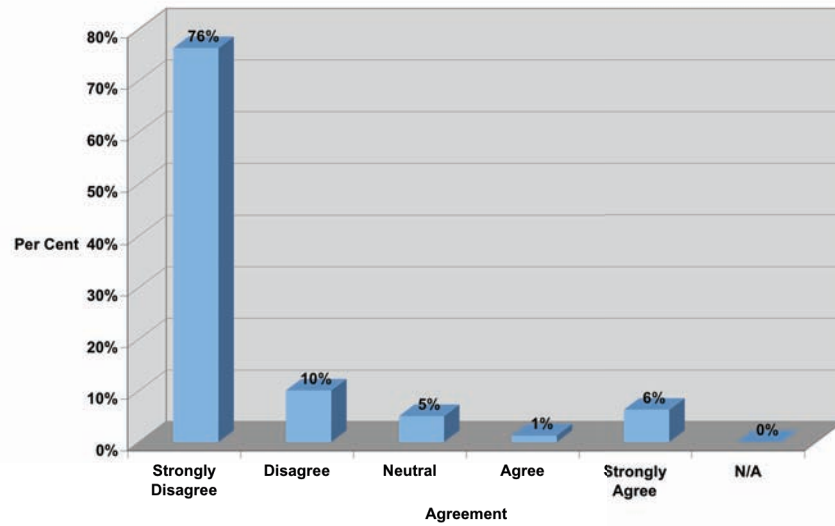


Figure 69. Lottery System for Non-Resident Aliens (Guide Responses)

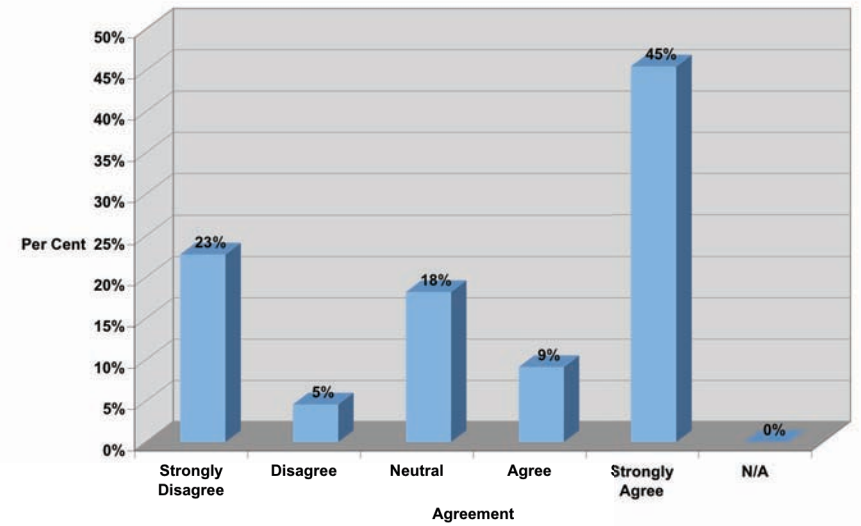


Figure 68. Lottery System for Non-Resident Aliens (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

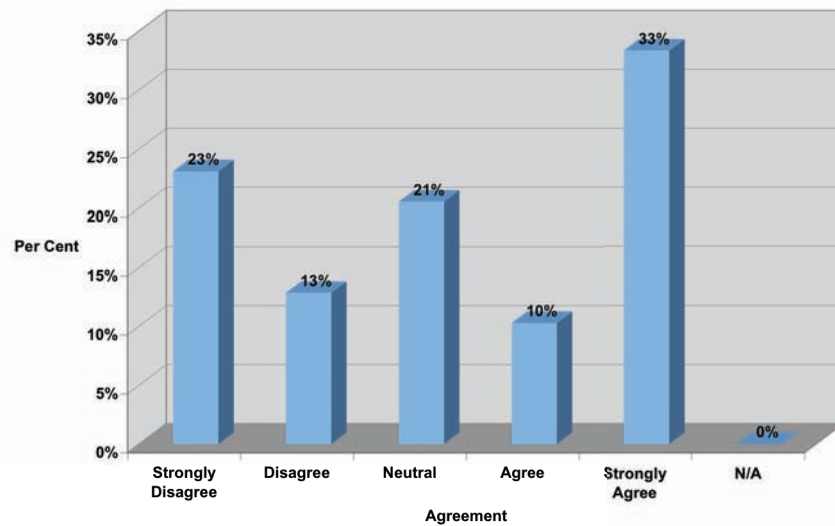


Figure 70. Lottery System for Non-Resident Aliens (Local Economy Responses)

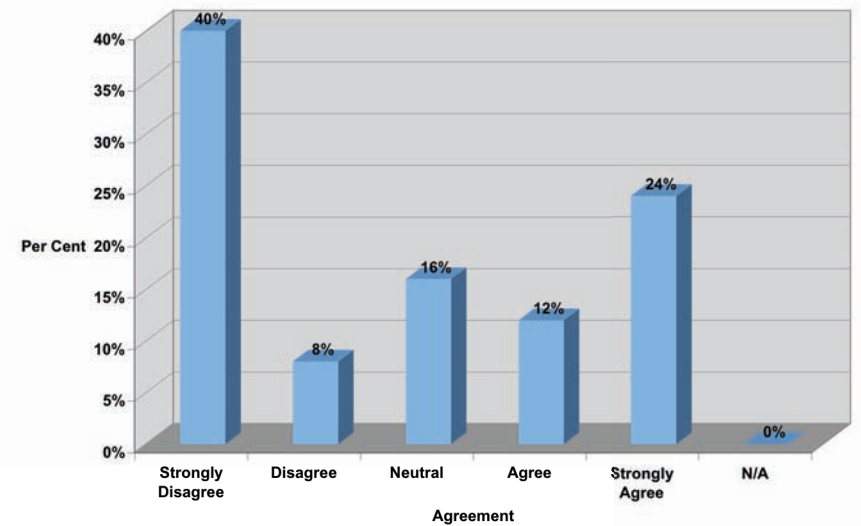




Figure 71. Tiered Licensing by Residency (BC Resident Responses)

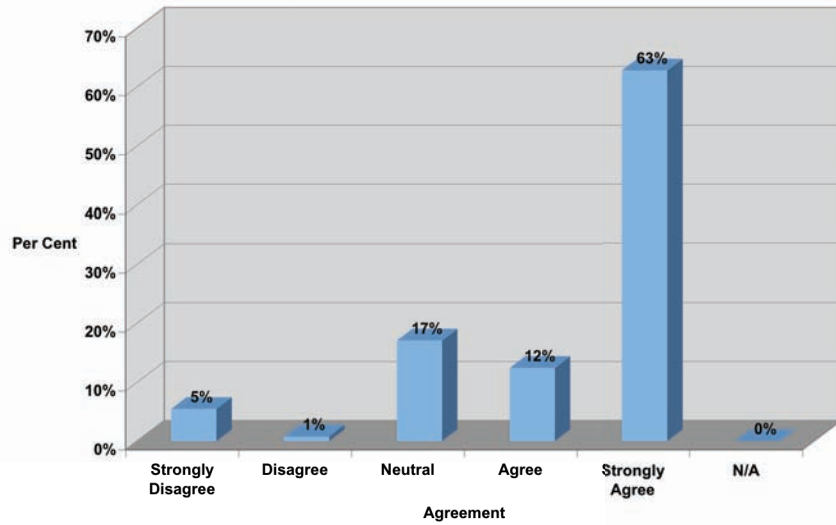


Figure 73. Tiered Licensing by Residency (Non-Resident Canadian Responses)

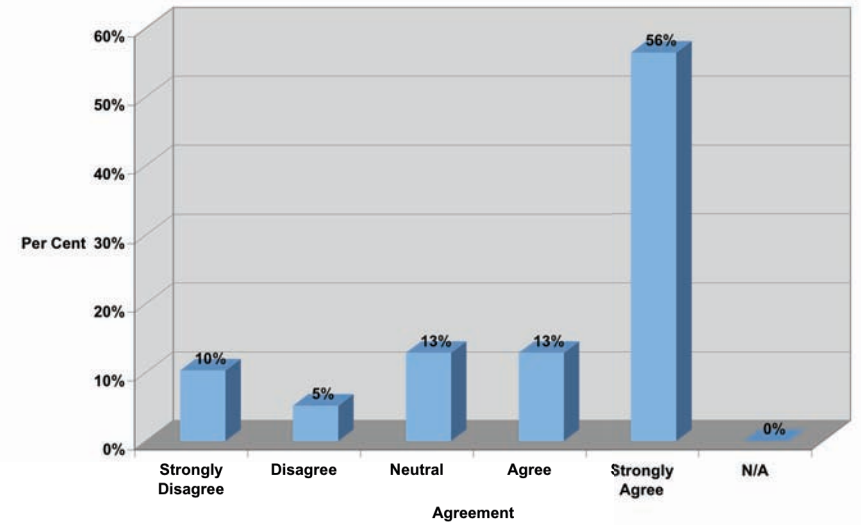


Figure 72. Tiered Licensing by Residency (Non-Resident Alien Responses)

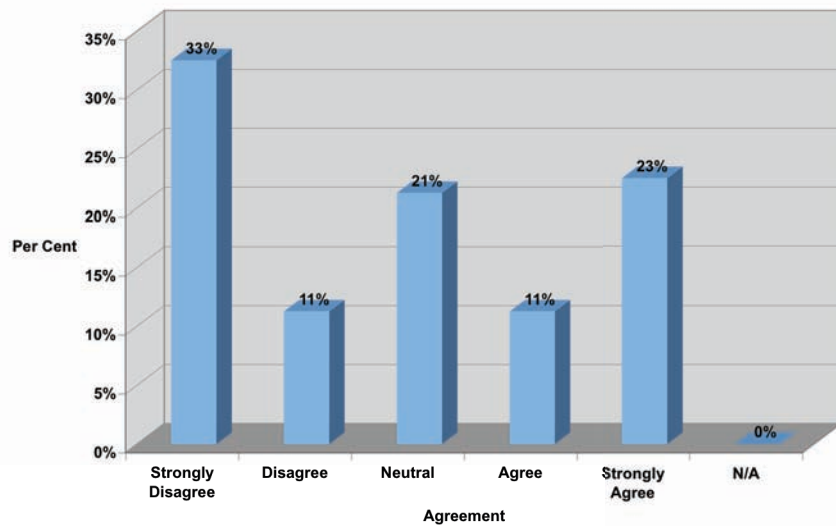


Figure 74. Tiered Licensing by Residency (Guide Responses)

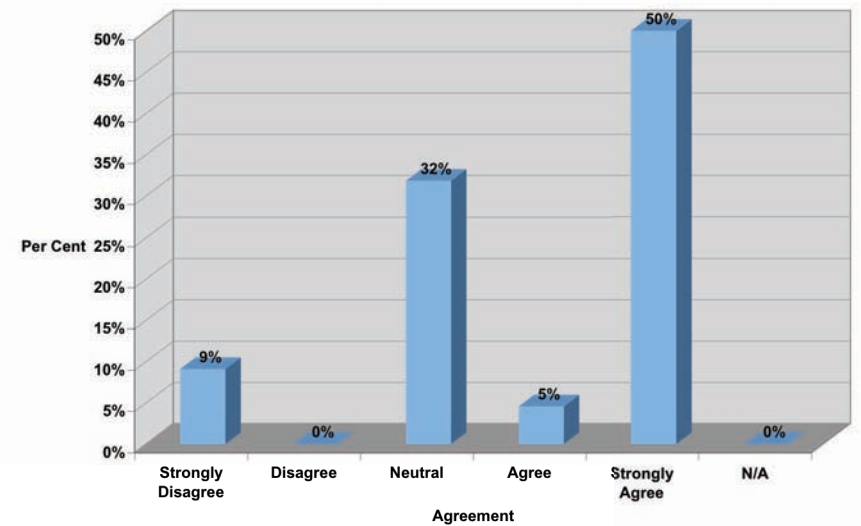
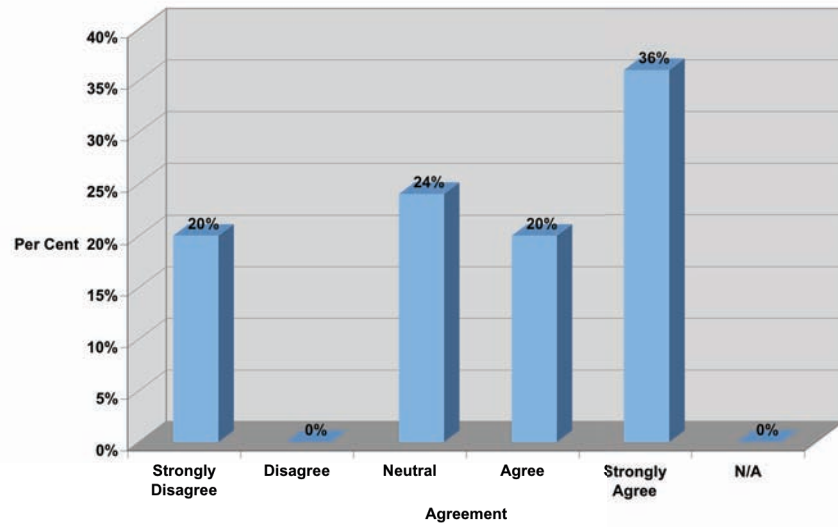


Figure 75. Tiered Licensing by Residency (Local Economy Responses)



**Table 7. Where did you fish for steelhead in the last two years? (BC resident responses)**

	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Totals
<b>Babine</b>	7	23	7	0	37 (5%)
<b>Bulkley</b>	25	53	25	0	103 (14%)
<b>Kispiox</b>	27	52	24	1	104 (14%)
<b>Kitseguecla</b>	2	4	0	1	7 (1%)
<b>Kitsumkalum</b>	9	16	24	34	83 (11%)
<b>Kitwanga</b>	1	8	1	0	10 (1%)
<b>Lakelse</b>	8	26	14	21	69 (9%)
<b>Morice</b>	6	14	7	0	27 (4%)
<b>Skeena (downstream of Kitwanga bridge)</b>	41	39	9	7	96 (13%)
<b>Skeena (upstream of Kitwanga bridge)</b>	19	32	10	0	61 (8%)
<b>Suskwa</b>	6	25	6	0	37 (5%)
<b>Zymoetz (Class 2)</b>	11	26	17	1	55 (7%)
<b>Zymoetz (Class 1)</b>	8	20	9	1	38 (5%)
<b>Other</b>	3	4	0	1	8 (1%)
<b>TOTALS</b>	173 (24%)	342 (47%)	153 (21%)	67 (9%)	735

**Table 8. Where do you think the crowding problem is? (BC resident responses)**

	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Totals
<b>Babine</b>	6	25	1	0	32 (6%)
<b>Bulkley</b>	8	53	5	0	66 (13%)
<b>Kispiox</b>	11	60	5	0	76 (15%)
<b>Kitseguecla</b>	1	4	1	0	6 (1%)
<b>Kitsumkalum</b>	12	12	6	12	42 (8%)
<b>Kitwanga</b>	1	4	1	0	6 (1%)
<b>Lakelse</b>	8	23	5	7	43 (8%)
<b>Morice</b>	3	20	1	0	24 (5%)
<b>Skeena (downstream of Kitwanga bridge)</b>	28	23	2	0	53 (10%)
<b>Skeena (upstream of Kitwanga bridge)</b>	6	20	2	0	28 (6%)
<b>Suskwa</b>	2	12	1	0	15 (3%)
<b>Zymoetz (Class 2)</b>	12	43	7	0	62 (12%)
<b>Zymoetz (Class 1)</b>	8	30	6	0	44 (9%)
<b>Other</b>	3	4	1	0	8 (2%)
<b>TOTALS</b>	109 (22%)	333 (66%)	44 (9%)	19 (4%)	505

**Table 9. Where did you fish for steelhead in the last two years? (Non-resident alien responses)**

	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Totals
<b>Babine</b>	0	25	6	0	31 (10%)
<b>Bulkley</b>	6	47	8	0	61 (20%)
<b>Kispiox</b>	2	36	9	0	47 (16%)
<b>Kitseguecla</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kitsumkalum</b>	3	1	1	2	7 (2%)
<b>Kitwanga</b>	0	1	0	0	1 (<1%)
<b>Lakelse</b>	0	2	0	0	2 (1%)
<b>Morice</b>	2	24	5	0	31 (10%)
<b>Skeena (downstream of Kitwanga bridge)</b>	5	17	1	3	26 (9%)
<b>Skeena (upstream of Kitwanga bridge)</b>	4	19	4	0	27 (9%)
<b>Suskwa</b>	0	11	1	0	12 (4%)
<b>Zymoetz (Class 2)</b>	5	13	1	0	19 (6%)
<b>Zymoetz (Class 1)</b>	0	7	1	0	8 (3%)
<b>Other</b>	0	25	6	0	31 (10%)
<b>TOTALS</b>	27 (11%)	228 (75%)	43 (14%)	5 (2%)	303

**Table 10. Where do you think the crowding problem is? (Non-resident alien responses)**

	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Totals
<b>Babine</b>	2	7	0	0	9 (11%)
<b>Bulkley</b>	1	25	0	0	26 (32%)
<b>Kispiox</b>	1	15	1	0	17 (20%)
<b>Kitseguecla</b>	1	0	0	0	1 (1%)
<b>Kitsumkalum</b>	1	1	0	1	3 (4%)
<b>Kitwanga</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lakelse</b>	0	1	0	0	1 (1%)
<b>Morice</b>	0	5	0	0	5 (6%)
<b>Skeena (downstream of Kitwanga bridge)</b>	1	2	0	0	3 (4%)
<b>Skeena (upstream of Kitwanga bridge)</b>	1	2	0	0	3 (4%)
<b>Suskwa</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Zymoetz (Class 2)</b>	1	8	0	0	9 (11%)
<b>Zymoetz (Class 1)</b>	0	4	1	0	5 (6%)
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	9 (11%)	70 (85%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	82

## 5. Discussion

The results of this first phase of the consultation process demonstrate that participants from all walks of life care passionately about the future of steelhead sport fishing on the Skeena River and its tributaries. This passion extends around the world, and clearly there is little doubt in most participants' minds that something needs to be done to preserve the quality of angling in this world-class fishery.

The primary role of this process is to document public comments on angler-use issues around steelhead sport fishing in the Skeena River watershed. For the most part, the documented results speak for themselves.

### Response Form results

It is important to note that those who filled out response forms do not in any way represent a random sample of the population. Results are biased in favour of those individuals who took part in the consultation process and chose to fill out a form.

There are some interesting differences in the patterns of responses from different groups, whether based on residency — BC resident, non-resident Canadian or non-resident alien — or based on activity — angling, guiding or local economy. Table 11 looks at some of those differences for selected questions in the Response Form. The wording of some questions has been simplified from the original form.

**Table 11. Comparison of responses for selected Response Form questions**

Response Form Question	Comments
4. How long have you been fishing for steelhead in the Skeena watershed?	74% of BC residents (Figure 6) fished for more than 10 years compared to 54% of non-resident aliens (Figure 7)
5. If you fished for steelhead in the Skeena watershed in the last year, how often did you go?	33% of BC residents (Figure 8) fished for more than 25 days compared to 10% for non-resident aliens (Figure 9); 31% of BC residents fished for fewer than 15 days compared to 49% for non-resident aliens
6. Where and when did you fish in the last two years?	47% of BC residents fished during the fall (Table 7) compared to 75% of non-resident aliens (Table 8); rivers where more than 10% of BC residents spent their time were the Bulkley, Kispiox, Kitsumkalum and Skeena (downstream from the Kitwanga Bridge), compared to non-resident aliens who spent their time on the Babine, Bulkley, Kispiox, and Morice
8. Do you use a guide when you fish?	78% of BC residents never use a guide (Figure 11); 29% of non-resident aliens always use a guide, 33% sometimes use a guide, and 39% never use a guide (Figure 12)

<b>Response Form Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
13. There are a lot more anglers in the last five years.	59% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement (Figure 19) compared to only 17% of non-resident aliens (Figure 20)
14. There is currently a crowding problem.	61% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement (Figure 21) compared to 14% of non-resident aliens (Figure 22); responses from non-resident Canadians (Figure 23) are mixed; 63% of guides agree or strongly agree (Figure 24); local economy responses are mixed (Figure 25)
15. Where and when is the crowding?	66% of BC residents say that crowding occurs in the fall (Table 8) compared to 85% of non-resident aliens (Table 10); More than 10% of BC residents note crowding in the Bulkley, Kispiox, Skeena (downstream from Kitwanga Bridge) and lower Zymoetz, compared to non-resident aliens who note crowding in the Babine, Bulkley, Kispiox and lower Zymoetz
17. There are too many non-guided, non-resident alien anglers.	57% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement (Figure 27), and 73% of non-resident aliens disagree (Figure 28)
19. There is a problem with illegal guiding activity.	62% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement (Figure 30) compared to 31% of non-resident aliens (Figure 31)
23. Increase non-resident angling fees	50% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement (Figure 36); 71% of non-resident aliens strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 37); non-resident Canadians showed mixed responses (Figure 38); Guides have mixed responses (Figure 39); 52% of respondents in the local economy strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 40)
24. Reduce number of rod-days for licensed guides on specific rivers.	49% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement but 32% strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 41); there is no clear pattern in the non-resident alien and non-resident Canadian responses (Figure 42 and 43); 82% of the guides strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 44); 48% of the local economy respondents strongly agree or agree (Figure 45)
25. Increase number of rod-days for licensed guides on specific rivers.	63% of BC residents strongly disagree or disagree with this statement (Figure 46); 60% of non-resident aliens strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 47); 66% of non-resident Canadians strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 48); responses from guides are mixed (Figure 49); 72% of respondents in the local economy strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 50)



<b>Response Form Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
26. Non-resident aliens should be guided only.	51% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement while 28% strongly disagree (Figure 51), 74% of non-resident aliens strongly disagree (Figure 52); non-resident Canadians have a range of responses (Figure 53); 54% of guides strongly agree or agree (Figure 54); 80% of respondents from the local economy strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 55)
27. Designate certain waters or times as resident-only angling.	BC residents have a range of responses to this statement with 36% strongly agreeing (Figure 56); 74% of non-resident aliens strongly disagree (Figure 57); 64% of non-resident Canadians strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 58); 45% of guides strongly disagree while 36% strongly agree (Figure 59); 64% of local economy respondents strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 60)
28. Restrict the length of time that a non-resident alien can fish (8-day licence)	63% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement (Figure 61); 78% of non-resident aliens strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 62); non-resident Canadians have a range of responses (Figure 63); 59% of guides strongly agree or agree (Figure 64); local economy responses were variable (Figure 65)
29. Consider a lottery system for non-resident aliens	65% of BC residents strongly agree or agree with this statement (Figure 66); 86% of non-resident aliens strongly disagree or disagree (Figure 67); non-resident Canadians have a range of responses (Figure 68); 54% of guides strongly agree or agree (Figure 69); 40% of local economy respondents strongly disagree while 24% strongly agree (Figure 70)
30. Hierarchy of licence fees (resident < non-resident Canadian < non-resident alien)	75% of BC residents agree with this statement (Figure 71); the response from non-resident aliens is mixed (Figure 72); 69% of non-resident Canadians strongly agree or agree (Figure 73); 55% of guides strongly agree or agree and 32% were neutral (Figure 74); responses from the local economy are mixed (Figure 75)

### **Establishing a dialogue**

The first objective of this consultation process was to establish a dialogue on steelhead angler-use issues. Clearly this happened and the 255 people who took part in six Public Meetings combined with the 113 stakeholders who I met with in January and early February at 25 meetings had much to say about the subject.

The engagement of this broad community, in particular the residents of British Columbia who live, work and fish in the Skeena River watershed, was challenging because my terms of reference were very clearly focused on steelhead angler-use issues and everyone else was concerned with other issues.

While I spent considerable time trying to frame the issue and focus the attention of participants on angler-use issues and the quality of the steelhead fishing experience from that point-of-view, it was impossible to ignore other issues that were raised. Moreover, it would have been disrespectful and unprofessional of me not to include documentation of those issues in this report.

Given the Ministry of Environment has not held a public and stakeholder consultation process as comprehensive as this in many years, participants were eager to bring up issues they had previously been unable to communicate to the ministry or that they felt the ministry had not heard or acknowledged.

Many issues directly related to the ecology and health of steelhead populations were felt by the public to be pivotal to a “quality angling experience.” These issues included: steelhead conservation, steelhead population management, impacts of the commercial salmon fishery, mortality from catch and release.” When it was clear that these issues were not within the terms of reference of this consultation process, anger and confusion resulted.

Other issues, including the allocation of rod-days to guides, the licensing system for guides, boat regulation issues, and private and public land access issues, were also articulated.

Broader environmental issues were brought forward as important to consider in the overall future of the Skeena River and its fisheries. These included: coal bed methane and other mining projects, salmon farming, independent power proposals, and potential effects of climate change.

The dialogue that took place was both stimulating and exhausting. This dialogue is of course just the beginning of an ongoing process leading to the eventual development of management plans that recommend regulation changes for angler-use in the steelhead sport fishery.

### **What are the problems?**

The second objective of the consultation was to hear what participants and respondents thought the angler-use issues and problems were. First of all, it was very clear that the vast majority of participants in the community consultation process believe that there is a crowding issue and that the quality of fishing in terms of angler use, is in need of improvement. The most definitive evidence of this was in residents’ answers to the Response Form crowding question (Figure 21).

Interestingly, the results of the crowding question for non-resident alien respondents are

quite different (Figure 22). There are two main reasons why this group may not see crowding as a problem. The first is that many of these people fish in their own countries and all over the world and relatively speaking, they may not see the Skeena as crowded. The second reason is that this segment of respondents is not supportive at all of the Quality Waters Strategy process and feels threatened by the possibility that their fishing may be constrained in some way. As a result, they just wanted the whole process to “go away.” In addition, there was an active phone, email and letter campaign led by some Skeena watershed residents to alert non-resident alien anglers of the Quality Waters Strategy. This campaign contained a great deal of misinformation and “scare tactics” that could have contributed to this situation.

Key problems with the steelhead angling experience were raised at all meetings. These included:

- Too many non-resident aliens
- Illegal guiding
- Not enough resident opportunities, no sense of the resident-priority of the Quality Waters Strategy
- Angler etiquette issues — working pools inappropriately; fly versus gear conflicts, both logistical and ideological; actual interpersonal conflicts, unacceptable boating practices
- Too many guided anglers in certain waters
- Access issues (lack of boat ramps, public land access, remote areas)
- No women, children and families
- Too many boats — jet boats and individual boats

### **What are the solutions?**

The solutions identified most often included:

- Need for proposed regulations to balance the angling experience with the guiding industry and the local economy, which is dependent on steelhead in so many ways
- Establishing an overall cap, both daily and seasonally, on the density of anglers for a particular river and then allocating the available “spaces” to the different user groups
- Re-establishing priority for residents through
  - Resident-only zones or times (weekends)
  - Cheaper licences
  - Free licences for youth 16-19
- Controlling non-resident alien usage
  - Shorter-term licences (8-day)
  - Lottery system
  - Guided only
- Reassessing guiding on each of the rivers
  - Rod-day allocations
  - Number of clients per guide
- Addressing illegal guiding
  - Public education campaigns (media, on licences, signage)

- High-profile “sting” operations
- Better identification of legal guides
- Dealing with etiquette problems
  - Public education in Angling Synopsis, on licence
  - Video or DVD available
  - Angler test similar to hunter exam

### **Comment on the process**

Despite considerable mistrust and anger around what is perceived as inaction and broken promises in the past, particularly in the eastern part of the watershed, I would describe the overall atmosphere in the meetings as cautiously optimistic.

The biggest process concern was with the stakeholder composition of the Working Groups — four resident anglers, three guides, and one ministry. Many people felt that the local economy should be at the table on these Working Groups.

A number of people commented on the absence of First Nations in the process and the need for adequate consultation with those communities.

### **Value-added**

The consultation process provided a wealth of other side-benefits to the Ministry of Environment and the management of fisheries in the Skeena River watershed. A large database of email addresses of interested public and stakeholders has been developed, which will be a useful communications tool for the rest of this Quality Waters Process, but also in other management initiatives involving the ministry.

Many people came together to talk to each other and listen to one another at both Public Meetings and stakeholder meetings. The dialogue involved a broad cross-section of sectors.

Prior to the consultation process, there was a sense that some of the meetings might be quite confrontational. That was not the case. Many different ideas were brought forward, but for the most part they were talked about in a respectful way. Participants recognize that though they may come from different places, do different things, and have different ideas, in the end they are all neighbours, and are all part of a community.

### **Next steps**

The Working Groups tasked with developing the Angling Management Plans will need to read this report in order to understand the range of public sentiments on these issues. The report may also flag certain areas that require further investigation. The results of this consultation process are in many ways, very “broad brush.” In the fall, the draft Angling Management Plans will be taken to the public and stakeholder groups for comments. That consultation process will be finer tuned and more specific.

## 6. Appendices

### Appendix A. Email Communications

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**January 10, 2008 Stakeholder Email**

**Subject: Skeena Quality Waters Strategy**

Dear stakeholder,

I am writing to you as an individual or member of a group that may have an interest in steelhead angling on the Skeena River and its tributaries.

Over the years, anglers and angling guides have noted an increase in angler-use issues such as crowding on many Skeena region rivers during the steelhead fishery. I am working with the provincial Ministry of Environment (Smithers regional office) to facilitate a community dialogue on angler-use issues to find solutions and improve the quality experience that steelhead fishing has traditionally offered.

The dialogue, which is part of the Quality Waters Strategy (QWS), involves both stakeholders - anglers, guides, lodge and resort owners, retailers providing licences, bait, tackle, and other supplies, fish and wildlife groups, conservation groups, tourism organizations, and others - and the general public.

Over the next six weeks, I am hoping to meet or talk with as many stakeholders as possible to discuss the issue, including:

- Where, how and when you fish for steelhead
- What the quality of fishing is like and what some of your issues and concerns are
- What you think some of the solutions to those issues are
- What our proposed community engagement process will look like
- How this engagement will assist in the development of Angling Management Plans

The consultations will cover six communities, which I will visit at two different times. Tentatively I have set the following dates:

Houston	January 17, February 7
Smithers	January 18, February 8
Hazelton	January 19, February 9
Terrace	January 20, February 10
Kitimat	January 21, February 11
Prince Rupert	January 22, February 12

Meetings will be held during the day and the early evening.

I need to know the following from you:

1. Do you want to be involved in the stakeholder meetings in your community or would you rather give us feedback through other channels (website, email, Public Meetings at

the end of February in each of the six communities, response form, etc.)?  
2. Which of the two dates would work for you in your community?  
3. Could you provide us with your telephone number so we can contact you directly if necessary?

If you need any further information, please contact me.

I look forward to meeting you.

Alan

Alan Dolan BSc, MSc  
Facilitator, Skeena Quality Waters Strategy  
Alan Dolan & Associates  
250-478-8056  
[adolan@islandnet.com](mailto:adolan@islandnet.com)

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**January 31, 2008 Stakeholder Email**  
**Subject: Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Update 1**

Dear stakeholder,

Thanks to all of you who met with me at stakeholder meetings or contacted me by phone and email during this past month.

I appreciate all your comments and ideas and the passion that you have for all aspects of Skeena River steelhead angling.

Next week I will be back in your communities to meet with additional individuals and groups. During our January meetings, many of you suggested additional people I should talk to and I am in the process of contacting them. If you know of anyone else, please let me know.

The Open House / Public Meeting venues and times are now set and are listed below. Notices will appear in area papers before these events.

I will notify you as soon as the website goes live.

Alan

Alan Dolan BSc, MSc  
Facilitator, Skeena Quality Waters Strategy  
Alan Dolan & Associates  
250-478-8056  
[adolan@islandnet.com](mailto:adolan@islandnet.com)

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy

Many waters in the Skeena River system have been cited as having persistent steelhead angler-use issues — crowding, illegal guiding, etc. — and a degraded quality of angling experience.

In response to these concerns, the Ministry of Environment is implementing the Quality Waters Strategy on the Skeena River. The strategy is a community engagement process, utilizing input from provincial, regional and local recreational angling sectors to identify waters of concern that require new or revised regulations.

The end product of the engagement process will be Angling Management Plan(s) (AMPs) that will recommend revisions to current sport fishing regulations as they pertain to steelhead angler-use issues on the Skeena. The AMPs do not address steelhead populations and conservation issues.

The following table outlines the public and stakeholder involvement process.

### Community Engagement Timeline

<b>Phase 1</b> Jan 17-22/08	<b>Stakeholder meetings</b>	Informal sectoral meetings to identify problems and suggest solutions (Smithers, Houston, Hazelton, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert)
Feb 7-12/08	<b>Stakeholder meetings</b>	Same as Jan 17-22
Feb 25/08	<b>Public Meetings</b> Houston – Seniors' Centre	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 25/08	Smithers – Hudson Bay Lodge	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 27/08	Hazelton – Kispiox Valley Hall	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 28/08	Terrace – Coast Inn of the West	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 29/08	Kitimat – Kitimat River Lodge Community Centre	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
March 1/08	Prince Rupert – Highliner Plaza	Open House: 12–2 pm; Public Meeting 2–4 pm
Mar 31/08	Consultation report	Summary of public and stakeholder meetings
April-August/08	<b>Draft AMPs</b>	Developed by stakeholder-based Working Group

<b>Phase 2</b> Sept-Nov/08	<b>Stakeholder meetings</b>	Same as Phase 1 but to review draft AMPs
Nov 2-8/08	<b>Public meetings</b>	All six communities
Nov 30/08	Consultation report	Summary of public and stakeholder meetings
Early 2009	Finalize AMPs	Working Group
Mid 2009	Approval of regulation changes	Minister of Environment
2010	Regulation changes	Reflected in Synopsis

The Skeena Regional Quality Waters Management Committee, a local group of resident anglers and licensed guides, has been meeting for the past two years with the Ministry of Environment to oversee the Quality Waters Strategy, the community engagement process and the development of AMPs. The committee has identified the following rivers as a priority for dealing with angler-use issues:

Babine  
Bulkley and Morice  
Kitsumkalum  
Kispiox  
Kitsequecla  
Kitwanga  
Lakelse  
Skeena IV (downstream from Kitwanga)  
Skeena IV (upstream from Kitwanga)  
Suskwa  
Zymoetz I and II

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## **February 18, 2008 Stakeholder Email**

### **Subject: Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Update 2**

Dear stakeholder,

Thanks to all of you who met with me at stakeholder meetings or contacted me by phone and email during the past two months.

I have learned an incredible amount about steelhead angling and its importance to the communities that live along the Skeena River.

The Skeena Quality Waters Strategy website is now live. Visit:  
<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/>

Take some time to inform yourself about the issue and download and read the brochure, which will also be available in your community and at Public Meetings.



The Open House / Public Meetings will be held between February 25 and March 1, 2008. Notices are appearing in area papers and there will be media coverage. For a schedule of the meetings, go to:

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/engagement.html>

or see below.

As part of the consultation process, we urge you to become informed and then fill out a Response Form that can be found at:

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/feedback/>

Printed copies of the response form will be available at the Open House / Public Meetings.

Following consultation with public and stakeholder groups, Working Groups, composed of local resident anglers and angling guides will develop Angling Management Plans, which will be brought back to the public for review in the fall of 2008. There will be three groups for different parts of the Skeena River watershed -- Terrace/Prince Rupert/Kitimat, Hazelton, and Smithers/Houston. To be eligible, group members must show:

- knowledge of the waters under discussion
- endorsement by their angling peers
- ability to focus on local-level planning
- agreement with the principles, goals, rules of engagement and timeline for the process

I strongly encourage you to consider getting involved in these Working Groups. For more information, go to:

[http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/planning/working\\_groups.html](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/planning/working_groups.html)

If you need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alan

Alan Dolan BSc, MSc  
Facilitator, Skeena Quality Waters Strategy  
Alan Dolan & Associates  
250-478-8056  
[adolan@islandnet.com](mailto:adolan@islandnet.com)

**PLEASE ATTEND THE SKEENA QUALITY WATERS STRATEGY OPEN HOUSE / PUBLIC MEETINGS!**

Open House 5-7 pm, Public Meeting 7-9 pm  
Feb 25, 2008                      Houston - Seniors' Centre, 3250 14th St

Feb 26, 2008	Smithers - Hudson Bay Lodge, 3251 Highway 16
Feb 27, 2008	Hazelton - Kispiox Valley Hall, Kispiox Rd
Feb 28, 2008	Terrace - Coast Inn of the West, 4620 Lakelse Ave
Feb 29, 2008	Kitimat - Kitimat River Lodge Community Centre

Open House 12-2 pm, Public Meeting 2-4 pm  
March 1, 2008 Prince Rupert - Highliner Plaza, 815 1st Ave W

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**March 8, 2008 Stakeholder Email**  
**Subject: Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Update 3**

Dear stakeholder,

Thanks to all of you who attended the Public Meetings at the end of February.

I continue to be amazed at the passion and dedication that everyone shares around steelhead angling in the Skeena River system and the importance of this fish species to the economic well-being of the area.

As part of the consultation process, we urge you to become informed and then, if you have not already, fill out a Response Form at:  
[wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/feedback/](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/feedback/)

The deadline for completing Response Forms is March 15, 2008.

The results of consultations with the community, Ministry of Environment data on angler use, and other information, will be used to develop draft Angling Management Plans that will make recommendations on regulation changes in specific waters. Those draft plans will be brought back to the public in the fall of 2008.

We are still seeking people to get involved in stakeholder-based Working Groups and develop the Angling Management Plans. There will be three groups for different parts of the Skeena River watershed and each group will be responsible for specific local waters:

1. Smithers-Houston Working Group  
Babine  
Bulkley  
Morice
2. Kitimat-Prince Rupert-Terrace Working Group  
Kitsumkalum  
Lakelse  
Skeena IV (downstream from Kitwanga Bridge)  
Zymoetz I and II

3. Hazelton Working Group  
Kispiox  
Kitseguecla  
Kitwanga  
Skeena IV (upstream from Kitwanga Bridge)  
Suskwa

Working Group members, who are from either the resident angling or guiding communities, will be chosen for their intimate knowledge of steelhead fishing in their local waters.

I strongly encourage you to consider getting involved in these Working Groups. For more information and application forms, go to:

[wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/planning/working\\_groups.html](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/planning/working_groups.html)

The deadline for Working Group applications is also March 15, 2008. Please mail, fax or email applications to:

Paddy Hirshfield, PAg  
Quality Waters Biologist  
Ministry of Environment  
PO Box 5000  
Smithers, BC  
Canada V0J 2N0  
Phone: 250 847-7346  
Fax: 250 847-7728  
Email: [paddy.hirshfield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:paddy.hirshfield@gov.bc.ca)

The challenge for Working Groups will be to create draft Angling Management Plans that are consistent with the fundamental overarching principle of the Quality Waters Strategy -- that they will balance resident angling, the guiding industry and the local economy, which benefits from steelhead sport fishing in so many ways.

If you need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alan

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[wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)

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**March 27, 2008 Stakeholder Email**  
**Subject: Get involved in the Working Groups!**

There is still an opportunity to get involved in the stakeholder-based Working Groups that are developing the Angling Management Plans for the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy. The deadline has been extended to April 1, 2008.

Please consider putting an application forward or let us know if you need more information. To apply or for more information, go to:  
[http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/planning/working\\_groups.html](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/planning/working_groups.html)

Working Group members are from either the resident angling or guiding communities, and will be chosen for their intimate knowledge of steelhead fishing in their local waters. There will be three Working Groups for different parts of the Skeena River watershed and each group will be responsible for specific local waters:

1. EAST - Smithers-Houston Working Group  
Babine, Bulkley, Morice
2. WEST - Kitimat-Prince Rupert-Terrace Working Group  
Kitsumkalum, Lakelse, Skeena IV (downstream from Kitwanga Bridge), Zymoetz I and Zymoetz II
3. CENTRAL - Hazelton Working Group  
Kispiox, Kitseguecla, Kitwanga, Skeena IV (upstream from Kitwanga Bridge), Suskwa

There will be three weekend meetings of the Working Groups:  
April 19-20 Terrace (all three groups -- EAST, WEST, CENTRAL)  
May 10-11 Smithers (EAST), Terrace (WEST), and Hazelton (CENTRAL)  
June 7-8 Smithers (EAST), Terrace (WEST), and Hazelton (CENTRAL)

The ministry will reimburse expenses for travel, food and accommodations for participants.

I strongly encourage you to consider getting involved in these Working Groups. For more information and application forms, go to:  
[http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/planning/working\\_groups.html](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/planning/working_groups.html)

Or please contact:

Paddy Hirshfield, PAg  
Quality Waters Biologist  
Ministry of Environment  
Phone: 250 847-7346  
Fax: 250 847-7728

Email: [paddy.hirshfield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:paddy.hirshfield@gov.bc.ca)

The challenge for Working Groups will be to create draft Angling Management Plans that are consistent with the fundamental overarching principle of the Quality Waters Strategy -- that they will balance resident angling, the guiding industry and the local economy, which benefits from steelhead sport fishing in so many ways.

I am in the final stages of writing up my consultation report for the first phase of the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy. It will be available on the website in early April.

Alan

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Alan Dolan & Associates  
250-478-8056

[adolan@islandnet.com](mailto:adolan@islandnet.com)

[wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)

## Appendix B. Stakeholder meeting notes

**Note: Acronym and abbreviation legend page 9**

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 17, 08** Time: **6:00 pm**

Number attending: **6**

Location: **Houston**

Stakeholder group(s): **Mostly angling plus one guide and one former assistant guide**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “It is all dollars and cents” – it’s all about money and residents don’t seem to matter</li> <li>• The Morice is very restricted and the fish are coming later and later.</li> <li>• Babine does not cater to residents. It is not easily accessed and has poor signage.</li> <li>• Why do NRA hunt with a guide, but don’t fish with a guide?</li> <li>• “One American came up here, learned the river and then guided his friends.” (NRA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “If we treat the resource with respect, then all others will treat the resource with respect”</li> <li>• All NR should be guided whether from Canada or outside.</li> <li>• More boat launches to spread people out (85 km to Morice Lake and only 3 boat launches).</li> <li>• People who come from other parts of Canada should not have to pay as much as NRA.</li> <li>• River could be marked better. (no sign where Bulkley and Morice come together. Also no sign at Lamprey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steelhead society disbanded in Houston area.</li> <li>• Good fishing is in December when boat traffic is gone.</li> <li>• AUI (angler use issues) occur at walk in</li> <li>• More people guided, means more business</li> <li>• Shorter season in the Morice and Bulkley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to have dates for Public Meetings</li> <li>• Question – Which rivers are selected for priority planning? What does this mean?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant harassment of fish reduces their chance of survival over the winter. There is &gt;40% mortality. Need for more assessment here.</li> <li>• Don’t like buying CW licenses.</li> <li>• Concerns about roe and bait allowances and restrictions (SH and chinook)</li> <li>• One guide using an area as his personal boat launch. At 50 km on the Morice FSR. There is also a fuel tank beside the river. Questions about if this is allowed or not.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>and illegal guiding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are rarely physical altercations but they do happen.</li> <li>• Mom and Pop? holes are being continually fished?</li> <li>• Walk-in locations are extremely limited.</li> <li>• Early part of the season is gone. Used to be able to catch in July, now you are lucky if you can catch in August.</li> <li>• Illegal guiding</li> <li>• Lot's of people in walk-in areas- Canoe Point is most popular walk-in.</li> <li>• More access needed.</li> <li>• Good holes being fished many times in a day.</li> <li>• Can always find a place to fish — crowding is over time</li> <li>• No young SH anglers</li> </ul>	<p>creek).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to see clearer regulations.</li> <li>• Would like to see actual words on angling boundary signs (symbols used right now).</li> <li>• General agreement that all NRAs should be guided.</li> <li>• Guide's job is education.</li> <li>• Need to regulate number of anglers a day</li> <li>• NRAs should pay more than NRCs</li> </ul>			<p>Enforcement issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (It is not a problem between gear and fly fishers) - There are not enough fish.</li> <li>• Not much revenue is generated from non-guided anglers</li> <li>• We need to have a better idea of how many fish we are getting into the system.</li> <li>• There could be a SH hatchery in the Bulkley/Morice.</li> <li>• "What value do we get for \$100 licence fee?"</li> <li>• If you have a smaller boat you will have problems. You are forced to have a larger boat if you drift.</li> <li>• Fish identification problem</li> <li>• Native commercial fishery in river is a problem.</li> <li>• There aren't enough fish.</li> </ul>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 18, 2008** Time: **9 am**

Number attending: **3**

Location: **Smithers**

Stakeholder group(s): **Guides**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish availability – if there are more fish, then people do not move around as quickly. When there are fewer fish, people get more “bossy”. If there are not many fish, etiquette goes out the door. People show up to a run, fish a pool from wrong end instead of entering the run at the rear.</li> <li>The price of licences should go down.</li> <li>General discussion of 40 to 50 year olds coming for 8 weeks at a time and “creaming” the holes. (homesteading)</li> <li>Businesses have expanded based on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E licensing will need to limit or control the NRC/NRA use.</li> <li>Controlling angler use through price is no longer an option. Either decrease price or put more money back into the resource.” If we are charging high licensing fees then there needs to be lots of fish”</li> <li>“When the CW first started, guides where restricted, now it’s time for the NRC/NRA to be restricted.”</li> <li>There needs to be “an appetite” for government to manage fishery.</li> <li>Questions about how</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There has been a decrease in angler use from Smithers downstream. (no fish)</li> <li>The SH community is very connected via Internet, email and other communications. If there are fish, they will show up.</li> <li>Angler use is very fluid with increased communication.</li> <li>Very difficult to book early season due to fish uncertainty (bycatch) and later in the season due to weather.</li> <li>White paper, 1988 CW document explains how to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second round of stakeholder meetings does not work. Late August to Early November is busy time for guides. (one guide states end of season as Nov 11, another says end of Oct).</li> <li>Concern over how long it takes to create AMP – 5 months is too long.</li> <li>We have done this before, “no appetite for hashing this out again”.</li> <li>The process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guides were promised that increase in RDs would change</li> <li>Past increase of licence fees was done very poorly – guides were not given notice. Bookings happen in early spring, many operators “ate” the increase themselves.</li> <li>Where does licence money go? Should go back into Skeena SH management</li> </ul>



Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>angler tourism – government cannot prevent NRC/NRA from coming here or limit their opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of “product” is going down hill</li> <li>• People not coming on shoulder seasons — uncertainty of fish in early season; bad weather in late season</li> <li>• Bad fishing brings out worst in everyone</li> <li>• Non-resident, non-guided is a problem area</li> <li>• Fishing too close to you</li> <li>• Poor angler etiquette</li> <li>• Going to be a saturation point for local businesses relying on SH fishery</li> </ul>	<p>the AMP will be monitored/ how will it be ensured that the plans are working?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding making all NRA/NRC guided, guides commented that this is extreme. It would be great for the guides, but would require an increase in RDs as everyone is already full.</li> <li>• Guided only may apply to Upper Zymoetz but will not work for places like upper Kispiox.</li> <li>• Most likely area to cut back: non-guided, non-resident anglers</li> <li>• Price should not be used as a tool.</li> <li>• Dean River management system works – good example</li> <li>• Need policy — fish pools from the rear</li> </ul>	<p>control angler use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing retailers do lots of business during SH season.</li> <li>• There needs to be a commitment from government to implement toolbox.</li> </ul>	<p>needs to be open and sincere about addressing problems.</p>	

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 18, 2008** Time: **10:30**

Number attending: **5**

Location: **Smithers**

Stakeholder group(s): **Mostly Anglers but one guide and one former assistant guide**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economics should not override protecting quality experience. If we protect resource, create quality experience, then resource is worth more.</li> <li>Non-licensed guides operating in area. COs busy with hunting concerns in fall, so no one watching rivers.</li> <li>Uncontrolled use from NRA is big problem.</li> <li>Quality fishing does not exist in this region – could not fish for SH until November this year.</li> <li>No children, families or women on rivers.</li> <li>People scared to go</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cited example of fishing on Gaspé Peninsula for Atlantic Salmon as a system that works quite well.</li> <li>Full-blown lottery system.</li> <li>Through Bulkley AUP, the following was recommended:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Guide-free day</li> <li>2) Non-CW section on a CW river.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Allocation – should be 60% resident/ 40% guided and non-guided. There should be a cap on total number of angler days.</li> <li>If you increase the number of RDs for resident anglers, this will increase the guardianship of the river by residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When CW was created in 1990, there was a huge emphasis on resident priority.</li> <li>Information from Bulkley AUP important to consider.</li> <li>NRA can come here for 2 months for \$4000-\$5000.</li> <li>When CWs were created, there was the agreement that guides would have limited RDs with the understanding that non-guided component would also be capped but resident access would be maintained.</li> <li>E-licensing – will resident anglers have to claim where they</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are many more stakeholders now than previously.</li> <li>The definition of a stakeholder has changed from AUP times.</li> <li>Working groups will need to have geographical representation.</li> <li>Need to reflect the CW system during 1990 adequately. AUPs were created, white paper and this needs to be indicated.</li> <li>Not comfortable with the opening piece in Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jet boat traffic is excessive.</li> <li>There should be more opportunity for folks who wish to conduct casual guiding.</li> <li>Licensing money has not gone back to the river. The money has been collected by the province illegally.</li> <li>All enforcement is seemingly done by the guides</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>fishing because regulations too complicated and they are unsure of appropriate etiquette.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRA come as guided, learn river and teach everyone else.</li> <li>Kispiox very crowded.</li> <li>RDs for NRA is unlimited. CW only controlled guided RDs, not RDs for NRA/NRC</li> <li>If there is a cap on rod days, a single booking agent could book all the days for a particular river.</li> <li>General concern that NRAs are staying too long; no limit to their stay and many who are camping are putting little into the local economy</li> <li>Residents don't want NRAs to see them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a resident RD allocation for residents who can offer a trip at a low price.</li> <li>Tourism is valuable and need to be reflected in the AMPs</li> <li>Need to better identify guides when they are on the river (sign, decal)</li> </ul>	<p>are fishing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crowding is not a local issue — locals don't fish</li> <li>There is a need to put a higher value on the SH resource. Many NRAs refer to the Skeena as the "cheapest and best place to fish in the world."</li> <li>Would pay more for licences if more enforcement, more regulations on numbers and more management of the SH fishery</li> </ul>	<p>Waters hand-out. Different than CW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern that the process is too far behind. If we limit NRA to 1 week, then everyone who has purchased property will raise considerable noise in Victoria.</li> <li>Need to review QWS white paper.</li> <li>Everyone was on-side with Bulkley AUP – Ministry of Environment has a lack of credibility. There is questioning if this process will be different?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforcement issue</li> <li>Guides should be truly local</li> <li>Rod days should not be a commodity on the international market.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>catch a fish, because they will give their secrets away.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents are leaving the rivers.</li> <li>• Illegal guiding exists because cost for legal guides is so high.</li> <li>• “The residents have a jewel of a resource and no one would allow a stranger to mess with their resource.”</li> <li>• Resident priority has been downplayed since CW established</li> <li>• Too many boats</li> <li>• Quality fishing experience does not exist anymore and has not for long time</li> <li>• Resident angler costs too high</li> </ul>				

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 18, 2008** Time: **1:00 pm** Number attending: **2**

Location: **Smithers**

Stakeholder group (s) **Retail**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you develop specific AMPs and regulations, you need to assess how effectively these regulations are from an enforcement standpoint.</li> <li>Store has not been able to get good information on e-licensing</li> <li>Crowding commonly occurs between Sept 15 and Oct 15.</li> <li>NRA make up a large amount of retailer's business.</li> <li>Making all NRA guided would be "a brick in the teeth" to retailers. Guides would effectively become the retailers of gear, food, accommodation etc.</li> <li>Concept of "all NRC guided" is not socially acceptable.</li> <li>Confusion over licensing,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 day maximum for each Skeena river area.</li> <li>Allocate RD for a river. i.e., 8 days left on the river.</li> <li>Offer an angling synopsis in different languages — German, Italian, French and Japanese</li> <li>Create another class of licence for NRAs who have purchased property here</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If limit NRA who own property here, could result in decrease in property values</li> <li>Converse is that demand for riverfront property by international buyers has put land prices up out of reach to most locals.</li> <li>Need for an economic impact study — where does the money come from, where does it go.</li> <li>Everybody's experience of crowding is different.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desire for WG to understand the implications of their decisions. "How will the pain be shared?"</li> <li>Desire for representative from business community on RC and on WG.</li> <li>Can new e-licensing be showcased on the QWS website?</li> <li>Who else should we be talking to? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Chamber</li> <li>2) Lodges, Resorts</li> <li>3) Town of Smithers</li> <li>4) Bed and</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish are the biggest impact on the fishing industry. Need to manage commercial fishery to benefit everyone.</li> <li>How flexible is MoE to add increased enforcement to select rivers?</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>regulations, difficult to understand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all NG NRA will be keen to be guided as they are passionate, knowledgeable etc.</li> <li>• “How would you implement an 8-day restriction? i.e., for Bulkley when NRA have bought property etc. How do you accommodate this person’s interests? – a “too bad” answer is not good enough”</li> <li>• If you do limit NRA to 8 days, the WG/MoE needs to provide strong rationale to those who have purchased property as to why they will have limited opportunity.</li> <li>• People who are currently considering buying property need to know that things may change.</li> <li>• Guided NRAs not good for business</li> </ul>			<p>Breakfasts</p> <p>5) Car rental agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sooner we can make decisions the better – to help people manage their businesses.</li> <li>• Need for transparency in planning process.</li> </ul>	

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 18, 2008** Time: **2:30 pm** Number attending: **1**

Location: **Smithers**

Stakeholder group(s): **Guide/Accommodation**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Skeena is on the verge of losing its international reputation for SH.</li> <li>The crowding issue will become less of a concern because fishing is poor so fewer people will come.</li> <li>The only place this guide has seen crowding is on the Kispiox.</li> <li>“Sustut” does not have a crowding issue, it is a fish supply issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crowding is a self-limiting problem, if fish decrease, then anglers decrease.</li> <li>Sell a lifetime fishing license for \$100,000. There would be people to buy them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CW system is good; Kamchatka River in Russia is using same system</li> <li>Fishing has dropped off considerably in the last 3 years.</li> <li>The Dean is the single most crowded river in the province (this is a true summer SH river, they enter in June)</li> <li>Guiding clientele has shifted to young clients who will travel all over the world to find good fishing.</li> <li>One fish a day keeps people happy; now it's one fish a week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews have been conducted with NRAs – (we should find out about this).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Money from the licences needs to come back to the area. Need money for conservation.</li> <li>Lost 40 to 50% of his groups because the fishing was so bad this year. People are not coming back, he needs to market to “new blood.”</li> <li>Province needs to put more money into conservation.</li> </ul>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 8, 2008** Time: **9:00 am** Number attending: **3**

Location: **Smithers**

Stakeholder group (s) **Guides**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General sentiment that there is no support for anglers who come and camp for &gt; 2 months.</li> <li>Illegal guiding is a problem. COs cannot enforce this because they cannot show that money has changed hands.</li> <li>A guide did not see any COs on Skeena IV last year.</li> <li>People meet half way through the day and switch licences and continue fishing the other river. Right now, there is a \$100 fine. A \$100 means nothing, the fine should be \$1,000 or more.</li> <li>One guide does not</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not support the idea of guided only because of impacts on local economy.</li> <li>Lottery does not work for European clients because they need to plan 1 to 2 years in advance.</li> <li>Dean lottery works well for Americans.</li> <li>Clients from Europe are okay with the 8-day licence, but they want to select their 8 days. They want the ability to fish other rivers as well.</li> <li>Could have limit on number of anglers for each river and each day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One guide has been on the Skeena IV since 1980. Is a shareholder in lodge on Sustut and Suskeena. Guides from June to November.</li> <li>The Europeans eat and do everything locally – they come only with a suitcase.</li> <li>Price increases of riverfront land because of Americans buying it up. This creates a poor situation for locals. 90% of these people are fly fishing.</li> <li>One guide is booked until 2010. Business is good.</li> <li>SH runs have decreased by 1/3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In last process, information was gathered but was not used, so who do you trust?</li> <li>Include a definition of guiding in the synopsis. There are too many grey areas in the definition of guiding.</li> </ul>	



Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>go out fishing with friends to avoid appearing like he is illegal guiding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General consensus that the most crowded time is the last week of September and the first week of October.</li> <li>• If restrictions to licences (i.e., 8-day) Americans who own land may leave.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding how to change the definition of guiding – suggestion that it has to do with transportation. If you are moving people around, you are guiding.</li> <li>• A way to control illegal guiding is to control the use of boats by NRAs.</li> <li>• Create a licence for using different types of boats.</li> <li>• Change definition of guiding in Wildlife Act.</li> <li>• Public education on illegal guiding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most Americans do not like the cold.</li> </ul>		

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 8, 2008** Time: **10:30 am** Number attending: **6**

Location: **Smithers**

Stakeholder group (s) **Accommodation and local economy (and one angler)**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very poor river access.</li> <li>• RDs are a commodity – you will force people into illegal guiding. The system in place is not working.</li> <li>• There is a disconnect between guides who own RDs and the local communities.</li> <li>• If NRA pressure increases, this means that no one will ever be able to keep a fish.</li> <li>• If all clients are guided only, this limits accommodation use.</li> <li>• There is congestion at boat launches.</li> <li>• Unfairness with RDs, some people have to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It does not matter what regulation changes you make, you need the COs to enforce the regulations.</li> <li>• RDs should not be treated as a commodity.</li> <li>• More boat launches.</li> <li>• Disagreement that all NRA should be guided.</li> <li>• There needs to be a cap on angler use for a river.</li> <li>• There should be a cap on total use for a river per year.</li> <li>• E-licensing is a poor idea. Anglers should travel to venders.</li> <li>• General consensus that a move to guided only would be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing in BC is very cheap for NRA.</li> <li>• Support for residential priority.</li> <li>• NRAs find it a huge pain to buy their licences every year.</li> <li>• Crowding is relative.</li> <li>• Americans are very conservation-minded but that does not extend to welfare of our community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why are we considering the interests of NRA?</li> <li>• The Bulkley Valley AUP in 1998 – the government would not implement the recommendations.</li> <li>• NOTE – “BC’s Recreational Freshwater Fishery – Setting Direction for the Future. – Is this the white paper?”</li> <li>• Feeling that resident anglers are not supported on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government has been collecting money unjustifiably.</li> <li>• There is no enforcement presence on the rivers. If you phone a CO, there is a general sentiment that you will get no response.</li> <li>• Rod-days owned by Americans with a Canadian on paper.</li> <li>• Original allocation of RD was unfair.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>buy them and others do not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lodges with RDs have an unfair marketing advantage over lodges without RDs.</li> <li>Locals being squeezed off river by NRAs.</li> <li>Guided only NRAs would hurt business.</li> <li>Fishing is very cheap here compared to Europe.</li> <li>No limit to number of licences sold — filling government coffers — “You can’t sell 1,000 tickets and then there’s only 100 seats.”</li> <li>Some people feel that if they pay a lot of money, they have a right to fish.</li> </ul>	<p>a bad move. It would restrict NRAs “who are just every-day people.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No non-guided NRAs on weekends</li> <li>Open up market for other kinds of more affordable guiding</li> <li>Cap on guided and non-guided days — “We can’t be the Walmart of the world with our rivers.”</li> <li>Local residents need to be a priority.</li> </ul>		<p>the regional committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be able to sell RDs.</li> </ul>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 8, 2008** Time: **1:00 pm** Number attending: **2**

Location: **Smithers**

Stakeholder group (s) **Anglers**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angler states that few of his friends fish for SH now. His son stopped fishing for SH because of retention issue.</li> <li>• It has gotten to the stage where NRAs “turn their nose up” to resident anglers who use lures — There is a fly fishing elitism.</li> <li>• There are not enough young anglers these days.</li> <li>• Concern that fishing in the Bulkley Valley will turn elitist.</li> <li>• There are no sanctuaries for resident anglers.</li> <li>• “Why is there such a divide between hunting and fishing management? i.e.,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain sections of the river should be de-classified to allow for Coho fishing. “Why should a resident angler have to buy a CW licence in order to fish for salmon?”</li> <li>• To create a system that is guided only, you could create a “class B” guide system, where you have a list of local resident guides who could offer guiding at a more reasonable price.</li> <li>• “If we create regulations that cannot be enforced or do not address illegal guiding, then we have done</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the Bulkley AUP asked for was to have the MoE preserve certain regulation changes — i.e., residents only on weekends.</li> <li>• This whole process is to protect resident angler priority.</li> <li>• Emphasized that fishing is the reason for living in the Bulkley Valley.</li> <li>• Many fish conditioned to avoid flies and now gear is more effective.</li> <li>• There are lots of fish in the river. On the lower Skeena in late July, you can’t keep a fish off the hook.</li> <li>• “Fishing for SH out of a boat is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation changes will be implemented in 2009, which is an election year. If any of the changes are controversial, this process will fall through the cracks.</li> <li>• Problem with the 3-tier management system of the QWS. Provincial and RC members hand picked by the MoE, so how can you say that these groups are representative?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angler feels that there are lots of fish. There is not a conservation concern, so why catch and release?</li> <li>• Would like to see a study linking escapement to catch.</li> <li>• Need accurate population estimates.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
youth hunting times, weapons restrictions.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem with going guided only because NRAs spend a “pile of money in this valley.”</li> <li>• Too late to make changes because too much infrastructure built up.</li> <li>• Can’t separate conservation from angler use.</li> <li>• Illegal guiding big problem.</li> </ul>	nothing.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “If the MoE was to give a carrot to the resident anglers, it would create some trust.”</li> </ul>	sacrilegious” (although at least they would not be walking on redds).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be consulting FNs because there is a mortality associated with catch and release.</li> </ul>	

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 8, 2008** Time: **3:00 pm** Number attending: **3**

Location: **Smithers**

Stakeholder group(s) **Economic Development/Tourism**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small pontoon boats allow anglers to get to new areas, can</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We could treat all NRA as we do NR hunters – they must be guided.</li> <li>• “We need to get over the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing in Bulkley Valley has changed in past 40 years. Now, wild SH fishing is a large economic</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If we don’t maintain quality of fishery, we will lose the</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
take them in on helicopters.	<p>sentiment of ownership.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other resource users are limited (i.e. rafting and hunting), so maybe we need to look at fishing in the same way.</li> <li>• There has to be compromise at the planning tables.</li> <li>• Whatever we do, we need to promote small business associated with the SH fishery.</li> </ul>	<p>stimulus to this community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People don’t realize economic value of SH.</li> <li>• Price of river front property has skyrocketed.</li> <li>• BC Assessment will be conducting a review of all riverfront property. This is driving property prices up. Land is being bought by non-residents.</li> <li>• Americans are buying land for peace and quiet.</li> <li>• Also seeing more blue collar NRAs.</li> <li>• Increase in pontoon boat rentals etc.</li> <li>• The commercial guiding industry operates under the radar to some degree. There is little community recognition of the value of SH angling.</li> <li>• The NG NRA is a very important economic driver.</li> <li>• Feeling that the NG NRA component has exploded in the last year.</li> <li>• There is a strong feeling of “ownership”, meaning that the residents feel that the</li> </ul>		economic base.

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
		<p>river is their own. “By birthright, my ownership is greater than anyone else from abroad.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “It is one playground, and we all want to play.”</li> <li>• Questions – How many BV residents own boats? Has this increased? How many people who fish are coming to Smithers via Air Canada flights?</li> <li>• We could look at increased sales in hotels in Sept and Oct to assess the economic worth of the SH.</li> <li>• Fall is peak — 100% occupancy, extra airline flight, etc.</li> </ul>		

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 19, 2008** Time: **10:00 am** Number attending: **5**

Location: Houston: **Hazelton**

Stakeholder group (s) **Guides**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illegal guiding – guys with their</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a steam guardian is used, that person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazelton anglers are not aligned. There is</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guides who fish multiple</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>“buddies,” don’t contribute anything to local economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stream guardians were a good idea, but this was poorly executed.</li> <li>Many people will fish for months when they have only purchased for 1 or 2 days because there is no enforcement.</li> <li>No “teeth” in regulations to enforce illegal guiding.</li> <li>Only the guides are controlled, non-guided NRAs and NRCs are not.</li> <li>Fewer SH streams, more anglers.</li> <li>Residents used to fish Oct 15 – Nov but now the NRA are staying later and later.</li> <li>Even resident pressure has increased as folks</li> </ul>	<p>must know the river and where the pressure is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One guide recommends an 8-day consecutive licence.</li> <li>No NRA drift boats on rivers.</li> <li>Desire for increase in guide days</li> <li>A fly-fishing only section on the Kispiox.</li> <li>A non-motorized section on the Bulkley (i.e., from Trout Creek to Chicken Creek).</li> <li>Would like to see the Kispiox as fly fish only. Doesn’t want to limit people who can’t fly fish though. i.e., “old fellows who can’t fly fish should still be allowed to fish.”</li> <li>To have general buy-in from angling community, you need to offer diversity of</li> </ul>	<p>no group, they are only loosely aligned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One guide has almost all NRA clients.</li> <li>Kispiox gets a lot of unguided NRAs</li> <li>Example offered where COs prosecuted the town of Hazelton that was offering guiding services.</li> <li>Jet boats are increasing on the Bulkley and the Skeena.</li> <li>Every year, there is another B&amp;B to capitalize on NG NRA. The longer we wait to implement regulations, the more difficult it will be for change.</li> <li>70% of angling pressure is non-guided NRAs</li> <li>Guides are about 18%</li> <li>Residents tend to</li> </ul>		<p>rivers need to fill out the CW licence for each river, which creates a tremendous amount of work. Also guides are supposed to fill out licences in a building, not on the river, which is extremely difficult.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CW licence reports are overwhelming. It is hard to justify doing these reports when there is no application for the data.</li> <li>No enforcement; never saw a CO this year</li> </ul>



Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>from down south (Vedder River) are now fishing here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone feels that the Kispiox has too many anglers.</li> <li>• B&amp;Bs and campgrounds have lost business due to decreased quality of fishing experience.</li> <li>• As you regulate certain waters, it will put pressure on other waters, often smaller more sensitive systems</li> <li>• Can't have new regulations without more enforcement</li> <li>• Individual boats exacerbates problem because people take up more of the river (used to be all in one raft and fish a hole together)</li> <li>• "Potato patch" important spot on Kispiox subject to crowding</li> </ul>	<p>experiences (through zoning).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General agreement on resident priority.</li> <li>• Extend CW period rather than grant extra rod-days to guides.</li> <li>• If RDs are removed from one river, then other undersubscribed rivers should be open for increased RDs.</li> <li>• We may need to determine an appropriate density of anglers /km which would reflect a quality experience. Angler density range may vary according to the river.</li> <li>• Quality experience needs to be defined in our eyes not NRs</li> <li>• Should be non-motorized in canyon in Bulkley</li> <li>• Zoning – fly only above Mitton Bridge</li> </ul>	<p>fish later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e-licensing will be great for regulations</li> <li>• Investigate 2003 Creel Survey on Kispiox (RA/NRA may be switched)</li> </ul>		

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too many jet boats on Bulkley</li> <li>Access issues on Babine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend classified period into August and November</li> <li>Make fishing on Kispiox one side only</li> </ul>			

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 19, 2008**      Time: **1:00 pm**      Number attending: **14**  
Location: **Hazelton**  
Stakeholder group (s) **Anglers** (plus some guides)

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal guiding is a huge problem — problems with definition.</li> <li>RD holders pay a lot of money, but none of this money is coming back.</li> <li>Illegal fishing</li> <li>Angling etiquette – when groups of anglers occupy a hole without rotational angling, this ruins fishing experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Someone local needs to be hired for enforcement.</li> <li>Provide shuttle service for NRAs to combat illegal guiding.</li> <li>A “sting” operation is the only way to enforce illegal guiding.</li> <li>If guides were “deputized” and were able to check licences, this would help enforcement. (These guides are on the river every day).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angler effort will switch very quickly depending on where the fish are.</li> <li>General discussion of instances in Holland and Germany etc. where guiding is advertised, but the money changes hands before they leave the country.</li> <li>Since 1989, angling has decreased 40%. (For all of BC? Source?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder meetings in Sept-Oct difficult for guides and accommodation providers to attend.</li> <li>Native representation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish retention quotas are too large. 10 Chinook are too many.</li> <li>Gill netters were catching 2-3 SH/set and throwing them overboard. The guys at commercial fishing are not making a living fishing, they are only making</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anglers may not understand angling etiquette because they are angling according to where they are from.</li> <li>• SH showing up late compresses fishery (as it is limited to winter).</li> <li>• Foreigners are paying a lot of money, but they are not getting a good experience.</li> <li>• Campground perspective – guests had the worst fishing in 20 years.</li> <li>• Once etiquette is broken, it ruins the resident angler's day.</li> <li>• It is very frustrating to hike into a spot and then have a helicopter land beside them (Upper Zymoetz, Upper Kispiox). "When they fly in, they are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General sentiment that river guardians were beneficial. (There were 2 women who conducted river guardian program with kayaks)</li> <li>• River guides with an everyday presence would assist to decrease illegal guiding. These folks could help assist in educating about proper river etiquette.</li> <li>• Strong sentiment that the implementation of a lottery on the Kispiox would be a tragedy.</li> <li>• If you increase licence fees, you have to have an increase in enforcement.</li> <li>• More boat launches on the Skeena system i.e. Bulkley/Skeena. Folks who want to go to Kitwanga all put in there.</li> <li>• Can anglers take a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there is lots of crowding, it is much more acceptable if there are lots of fish.</li> <li>• If there are lots of fish, there is not a problem with crowding.</li> <li>• It was acknowledged that everyone will have to make sacrifices because fish numbers are so low.</li> <li>• Fishing is cited as very poor this year on the Kispiox River.</li> <li>• There were few fish caught, but the ones that were caught were a very large size.</li> <li>• Common feeling that before you address crowding, you need to address fish supply.</li> <li>• When the commercial fishery was shut down in 1998, the fishing was excellent in the Kispiox.</li> <li>• SH arriving later.</li> <li>• Tourism – what do we</li> </ul>		<p>enough to get UI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Babine River area near the weir needs to be closed during the winter as SH are holding in this area.</li> <li>• An attendee did not see a single CO last year.</li> <li>• General agreement that if you fix the commercial fishing industry, you fix the problem.</li> <li>• A fly-only section on the Kispiox, or designate the whole river as such. (Not everyone agrees on this – many feel that anglers should not be restricted on style of fishing.)</li> <li>• Would be nice to eat a SH once</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>immune from being checked by COs".</li> <li>General agreement that SH fishing should not become a rich man's sport.</li> <li>Close Babine by bridge — angler and bear issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>course on etiquette?</li> <li>River etiquette brochure or video.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>offer besides fish?</li> <li>Lots of discussions on impact of gear versus fly.</li> <li>Not allowed to use a helicopter for hunting.</li> <li>SH more susceptible to mortality in winter.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and a while.</li> <li>Where is licence money going?</li> <li>Confusion about DFO's test fishery</li> </ul>

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 9, 2008** Time: **10:00 am** Number attending: **1**

Location: **Hazelton**

Stakeholder group (s): **Retailer, Guide**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The scene" was quite tense last year because of low fish numbers.</li> <li>"Potato patch" area very crowded.</li> <li>Guides will put many people on the river for a short period of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit guides to the number of people that they can guide per day.</li> <li>The only way that you can solve the problem is by determining the carrying capacity for the number of anglers per day.</li> <li>Reference to the Quebec fishery model (Matapedia River).</li> <li>Disagreement with 8-day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism has remained a constant economic driver in the Hazelton area.</li> <li>The SH fishery is a "boost in the arm" for the Hazelton area.</li> <li>NG NRA are a big stimulus to the economy.</li> <li>Tertiary economic impacts of the SH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Whatever is done with the QWS, it needs to be done in a fair and equal manner."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many people use poor release methodology.</li> <li>Would like to see a retention fishery for SH.</li> <li>When RDs were allocated on</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>time, creates crowding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowding on Kispiox especially because of “squashed” season.</li> <li>• Pressure on guides to produce</li> <li>• Guided clients fish river hard — long hours.</li> </ul>	<p>maximum if it is by water, by year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to remove the word “alien” from licensing. “We want people to come here!”</li> <li>• If you limit the number of people on the river, you solve the problem.</li> <li>• Would like more presence from the government on the river. i.e., a guardian program.</li> <li>• All NRA should be guided, but NRA very important to economy.</li> <li>• Need for hi-profile “sting” to get illegal guides.</li> </ul>	<p>industry. i.e. selling pottery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early in the season, SH are lower in the river. This creates crowding.</li> <li>• Feeling that illegal guiding concerns have been blown out of proportion.</li> <li>• Every year, fish seem to be attracted to the same lies. When there are lots of fish, there will be some in secondary lies.</li> <li>• There is a lot of pressure for guides to supply fish. It is very frustrating to come to a good lie and find 4-5 anglers already there.</li> <li>• Guides want to offer people the perception that they are first to a pool.</li> <li>• Because fly fishing is not as effective as gear fishing, fly</li> </ul>		<p>the Kispiox, some people were allocated more than they should have been.</p>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
		fishers want to be first at the pool.		

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 9, 2008** Time: **11:30 pm** Number attending: **1**

Location: **Hazelton**

Stakeholder group (s) **Retailer**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't fish anymore, too crowded.</li> <li>Etiquette is a problem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All guided NRA would be best.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would still like to be able to catch a SH once and a while (In Washington, locals can eat, non-residents cannot).</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for better enforcement.</li> </ul>

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 9, 2008** Time: **1:00 pm** Number attending: **6**

Location: **Hazelton**

Stakeholder group (s) **Anglers (one guide)**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More enforcement. Most people would be willing to pay more for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many guests are not returning – not because of overcrowding, but due</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOE and DFO must address mismanageme</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
	<p>more enforcement presence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A training workshop similar to that offered for hunters should be implemented for fishing — fish identification, etiquette, properly conducting catch and release (Put more and better information in regs too).</li> </ul>	<p>to lack of fish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guides are asking for more RDs.</li> <li>• Some people want lower licence fees.</li> <li>• Comment that fishing is very inexpensive compared with other recreational activities.</li> <li>• Increase of pontoon boats has increased problems. Each person is in one boat vs. several people in one.</li> <li>• Whatever regulation changes result from the QWS, they should be done in a way that benefits all BC residents.</li> <li>• Separate licence for NRAs who own property.</li> </ul>		<p>nt of fisheries.</p>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 20, 2008**

Time: **2:00 pm**

Number attending: **5**

Location: **Terrace**

Stakeholder group(s) **Guides**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skeena 2 needs to be a priority</li> <li>Guides are overregulated. They are supposed to be second priority after resident anglers according to QWS (Appendix J of QWS document).</li> <li>Poor definition of guiding allows for cheating. River tour operators are becoming illegal guides.</li> <li>Illegally guided anglers are a huge problem. French, Italian and German. Planet Fly-Fishing (French) – collect money to take people fishing. (Catchmorefish.com)</li> <li>E-licensing needs to capture angler use trends.</li> <li>Increasing fees for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skeena IV should remain together.</li> <li>General agreement that there is no difference between Skeena IV, US or DS of Kitwanga.</li> <li>Limit NRA before guides (general support for this).</li> <li>Limited access for NRA.</li> <li>Resident-only rivers, or rivers where they can go and it will not be crowded.</li> <li>Avoid monopolies on rivers.</li> <li>Kitwanga and Kitseguecla should be left non-guided.</li> <li>At some point, the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRA use on Zymoetz II exceeds all other groups.</li> <li>NRA use by 1 angler over a 3-month period could be greater than the total use by a guide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DS or US folks commenting on rivers not in their area does not make sense.</li> <li>A member feels that WG representation should not be altered. A resident angler could double as a retail.</li> <li>Disappointment with the slow progress of the QWS.</li> <li>Huge problems with Skeena IV being broken up into US/DS of Kitwanga – this is not fair. Guides feel that they will have limited opportunity.</li> <li>Frustration that the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guides need to give up their guiding licence if they want to fish with out-of-province friends. (Guides end up feeling like criminals when they just want to take their friends out fishing.) Examples are cited of being harassed by COs. Guides are frustrated because they are treated differently; they see it as a double standard.</li> <li>Guides end up “paying twice”,</li> </ul>



Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>licences. “Why are guides paying more for a degraded product?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guides do not feel that the licensing fees are allocated back to the resource/community.</li> <li>An increase in licence fees is “not fair.”</li> <li>Illegal guides are making a bad name for everyone because people do not know the difference between legal and illegal guides.</li> <li>Some of the worst offenders are from BC.</li> <li>If the MoE is taking all of this money from CW licences, there should be more enforcement.</li> <li>Sentiment that \$21/day is an absolute give away for the quality of the angling experience.</li> <li>Crowding on Zymoetz August –December</li> <li>Kitsumkalum sometimes has problem with too many guided anglers</li> </ul>	<p>NG NRA need to be limited. Use a lottery or 8-day limit for all NRA. Also/or through e-licensing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 day licence would be advantageous to move people around. This would limit people camping on the river.</li> <li>There should be similarity between what a guide has to pay for an angler and what a NG NRA pays for himself.</li> <li>The ZEC in Quebec is a good way to manage angler use on a river.</li> <li>Lodges should be limited to 2 boats to control use on a river. i.e., Kitsumkalum River.</li> </ul>		<p>Dean River has been the province’s “pet project.”</p>	<p>for both licences and RDs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disagreement with allotments of RDs being based on historical use. Would like to see no guide owning more than 50%.</li> <li>A guide should not have to spend &gt; 500 K to purchase RDs.</li> <li>There should be a cap on what a RD is worth. (Disagreement with this).</li> <li>Guides should not have RDs taken away just because they don’t use them one year. (because of high water etc.)</li> </ul>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 20, 08**

Time: **4:00 pm**

Number attending: **1**

Location: **Terrace**

Stakeholder group(s) **Guide**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality angling experience has to do with more than just crowding.</li> <li>COs are busy with bear problems during CW period because public safety is paramount.</li> <li>Feels that the MoE has been giving away the experience.</li> <li>Many tackle vendors etc. have indirectly become illegal guides.</li> <li>Was in a situation where he was fishing with a friend and was prosecuted for illegal guiding. (There is a permit to accompany in the instance of where a family friend comes to fish.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are going to manage the number of anglers, you need to manage on a daily basis.</li> <li>The 8-day licence will not work because all of those anglers will fish at the same time.</li> <li>There is a general statement that the Dean River is the province's pet fishery. Regulations such as lotteries and 8-day limits should not be limited to the Dean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handout was provided on the following 3 points:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Education</li> <li>2) The hierarchy of exclusion</li> <li>3) Daily management of anglers.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Quality angling = scenic value and angler ethics (giving everyone their room. etc.)</li> <li>Planet Fly Fishing – Operate out of Northern Inn, are illegal guiding.</li> <li>Quality fishing experience depends on many factors. i.e., a helicopter access area will have different numbers of anglers or could support different numbers of rivers than a highway accessible location.</li> <li>Hierarchy of exclusion model. As it stands, NRA is</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It does not make sense to collect money from SH licences and then have it go to the other parts of the sports fishery.</li> <li>Fish in the Nass were on time, but light in numbers.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a select group of NRA “who really beat the hell out of the water.” They are primarily from the Midwest. They are not trying to abuse the system, it is just what the regulations allow.</li> </ul>		<p>next to resident anglers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winter SH usually run up small coastal rivers, whereas summer runs are travellers, they will travel up a river when water is high to access their natal streams.</li> <li>Kitsumkalum river is very important to resident anglers during the winter months.</li> <li>Spends a great deal of his money in the community.</li> <li>Guided angler spends a lot more money in the community than a non-guided angler.</li> <li>SH anglers spend a lot less at a retailer than salmon anglers.</li> <li>When the East Kootenay AMP was created, many of the restrictions came down on guided anglers, while only a few restrictions applied to NG anglers. “This is total BS – why should guides be restricted when they are the stewards of this resource?”</li> </ul>		

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 20, 2008**      Time: **7:00 pm**      Number attending: **6**  
 Location: **Terrace**  
 Stakeholder group (s) **Anglers (one guide)**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zymoetz is crowded. You may get one hole, but that is it for the day. The Zymoetz River is easy to figure out, especially once you have been guided. There are two roads along both banks.</li> <li>• If we do not control the number of anglers, the Skeena situation will evolve into something like Quebec (crowded and costly).</li> <li>• General agreement that Lakelse is busy – Coho, trout and SH.</li> <li>• Kitsumkalum River has access issues (increased access might help spread people out). Jet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRA could all be guided.</li> <li>• An angler stated that you can have higher licence fees, you just need more COs.</li> <li>• More education on etiquette and handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Zymoetz has an early run of SH that gets “hit hard.”</li> <li>• A mounted police officer can enforce the wildlife act. i.e., they can tag.</li> <li>• Crowding issue a bit confused by salmon fishery although time of year sorts most of it out.</li> <li>• Disabled, elderly, families can’t necessarily follow proper etiquette on pools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both SH fishers and hunters will be busy in the fall.</li> <li>• It will be very difficult to get working men and women to the WG meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gear restrictions should only be implemented if there is a biological rational. “You don’t mess with a man’s tackle box.” Doing so will create a lot of hard feelings.</li> <li>• No faith in BC MoE to manage fisheries.</li> <li>• Not enough enforcement by conservation officers.</li> <li>• Illegal guiding also happens on the Yakoun River (Haida</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>boats can get to upper reaches, others cannot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Ethics have departed from mainstream fishery culture.”</li> <li>• Angler does not feel he should have to pay for a SH licence because he is not able to keep the fish.</li> <li>• Zymoetz hit hard in August because not classified.</li> <li>• How do you ensure resident priority?</li> <li>• Too many guided anglers on Kitsumkalum</li> <li>• NRA come and stay a long time, sometimes camping on river</li> <li>• Regulations hard to understand – “have to be a Boston lawyer.”</li> <li>• Would like to keep the odd SH</li> </ul>				<p>Gwai)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General feeling that DFO should not be involved in BC salmon management.</li> <li>• Need to know more about catch and release mortality</li> <li>• Fly only on Lakelse</li> </ul>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 21, 2008** Time: 11:00 am Number attending: 2

Location: **Terrace**

Stakeholder group (s) **Retail**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illegal guiding by licensed guides is occurring.</li> <li>• Hard to tell if guide is renting days (?) from someone else or if they have used up all their days.</li> <li>• Big crowding problem on Zymoetz</li> <li>• Pressure is from non-resident, on-guided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To control crowding, you need to deal with:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Number of anglers</li> <li>2) Fish supply</li> </ol> </li> <li>• To control crowding, you need to limit the number of days per angler. i.e., 8 days.</li> <li>• If good access, more people can fish the river.</li> <li>• Deciding to go “guided only” and increasing RDs will diminish the quality of experience for locals.</li> <li>• Increase cost of licences for NRA to control crowding.</li> <li>• If you go to an 8-day maximum, you cannot plan a trip in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SH licence sales have decreased over the last 10 years. People will not pay \$40 to fish for SH. Retailer himself does not like to have to buy an extra stamp to fish for SH.</li> <li>• “All the noise is being made by guides and elitist fisherman.”</li> <li>• Fishing is good during high water.</li> <li>• One retailer feels crowding is not a problem in the Terrace area.</li> <li>• Many SH fishermen go to Bulkley.</li> <li>• The Zymoetz is closed during the winter.</li> <li>• There are a lot fewer SH fisherman than there used to be.</li> <li>• Zymoetz at km 32/34 has good holes. Now the river is closed?</li> <li>• “Every guide licence should be pulled due to infractions.”</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakelse should be designated as “no fishing” from March to June to protect spawning fish. “During this time, anglers are catching SH – does this make sense?”</li> <li>• Lakelse should be closed for ice fishing. SH are being caught through the ice.</li> <li>• If</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
	<p>advance. If you buy your days in advance, the weather may be poor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Zymoetz Class 1 all year round</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel that guides have poor ethics.</li> <li>• “When guides are issued an infraction, why are their licences re-issued or not revoked?”</li> <li>• The Kitimat River is a haven for anglers who do not want to pay CW licences.</li> <li>• There are many more good fishermen out there these days.</li> <li>• The Sustut is cited as an example of where fish returns are poor.</li> <li>• Overcrowding only happens during certain times.</li> <li>• The internet is a good tool for NRA to find the good fishing spots.</li> <li>• Most of the Germans who come here are targeting salmon.</li> <li>• You can fish the Zymoetz in August and NRA do not have to buy a CW licence or a SH tag.</li> <li>• Retailers witness an increase in licence sales once people find out where the fish are.</li> </ul>		<p>conservation concerns exist for SH, then roe should not be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the commercial fishery wipes out the Zymoetz, they will move elsewhere.</li> <li>• Access problem – cannot cross RR tracks from highway to get to Skeena (CN Police will fine you)</li> </ul>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 10, 2008**      Time: **1:00 pm**      Number attending: **3**

Location: **Terrace**

Stakeholder group (s) **Guides**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zymoetz River has problems</li> <li>• Hierarchy of exclusion is cited and comment made that NR, NG need to be controlled.</li> <li>• There is a hidden fee to guide anglers (\$26). There should be equality with guided and non-guided anglers.</li> <li>• Illegal guiding a problem on Skeena II and Zymoetz.</li> <li>• Illegal guides will go to non-guided rivers like the Lakelse because the legal guides are not there.</li> <li>• No annual quota for anglers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There needs to be a daily limit for anglers — that is the key.</li> <li>• Need to establish what is an appropriate density in any river.</li> <li>• Get rid of RD quotas and instead set a maximum number of days / guide.</li> <li>• Extend the CW period for a river, this will increase revenue for the government.</li> <li>• If you allow guides access to a river for so many anglers per day, then you have to get rid of the annual RD quota. Many guides would favour this option.</li> <li>• Make the river guided only. Not interested in the revenue generated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every river will have a different carrying capacity for anglers.</li> <li>• You have to have RDs during the CW period of a river to guide during the non-CW period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You need to describe what a quality angling experience is. What is the definition?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should create catch and release video that all NRA must watch to inform them of proper techniques.</li> <li>• Some guests are bringing SH back to the lodge to request them to be smoked.</li> <li>• Guides should pay for their RDs as they use them.</li> <li>• Need for an enforcement presence, river guardians.</li> <li>• Amount of money guides have to pay out</li> </ul>



Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
	<p>by NR/NG – those business owners do not pay into the fishery as guides do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is general approval for guided only in Terrace area.</li> <li>• Having guides be the ones to check for licences could create a tense situation.</li> <li>• If we move to “guided only,” there will need to be daily controls to check for NG NRs.</li> <li>• Based on the hierarchy of exclusion, there should be no more than 117 NG NR on the river (Zymoetz).</li> <li>• “Guide as your licence” would make guided angling more attractive.</li> <li>• Classify Zymoetz all year round.</li> <li>• Guided only for NRA in certain waters.</li> <li>• Consider 8-day licence on different waters.</li> </ul>			for licences, insurance etc.

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 10, 2008** Time: **3:00 pm** Number attending: **2**

Location: **Terrace**

Stakeholder group (s) **Accommodation**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowding. (Zymoetz, mouth of Kitsumkalum, Kitsumkalum)</li> <li>• Bad etiquette.</li> <li>• Angling has lost much of its relaxing element.</li> <li>• Zymoetz is a problem – people stay there for &gt; 2 months.</li> <li>• There are too many guides in the pre-CW period on the Zymoetz.</li> <li>• Kitsumkalum and Zymoetz are crowded.</li> <li>• Kitsumkalum is not enjoyable to fish because there are boats running by every 10 minutes.</li> <li>• If you limit use, this will have far-reaching implications for the business community.</li> <li>• Would like to be able keep the odd fish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to limit the number of people on the river per day, especially NRAs.</li> <li>• People should be able to come and fish but not for too long a time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a significant pressure when a river “blows out” and everyone moves to another area.</li> <li>• Receive many SH fisherman as guests. Also sell licences and tackle.</li> <li>• Estimate that 10% of guests are there exclusively for angling.</li> <li>• Many guests are from Europe, US, and eastern Canada.</li> <li>• Europeans are not able to take back fish because of EU laws.</li> <li>• More guests are SH anglers vs. salmon anglers.</li> <li>• General consensus that SH fishers are a different class of angler from salmon fisherman.</li> <li>• People from all over the world come to fish the Zymoetz River.</li> <li>• Property and the cost of fishing has been cheap for years.</li> <li>• What does it take to be a resident of BC? What type of information do you have to show to prove that you are a resident?</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COs are too slow to respond to complaints or tips.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal guiding is issue.</li> </ul>				

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 10, 2008**      Time: **7:00 pm**      Number attending: **8**  
 Location: **Terrace**  
 Stakeholder group (s) **Anglers**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rivers that are not classified are receiving more pressure than they can support.</li> <li>We cannot ignore the Exchamsiks River.</li> <li>The Gitnadoix is not indicated for priority planning and it receives considerable pressure.</li> <li>There are only several places on the Bulkley where people can launch boats.</li> <li>Class 2 section (of Zymoetz) is where all of the problems are.</li> <li>Planet Fly Fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every bit of fishable water should be classified year round. (This acknowledges /addresses transfer of angler effort).</li> <li>The different users of a river need to have different regulations.</li> <li>Each river should have its own regulations – the regulations need to take into account the unique properties of each river.</li> </ul> <p>Much of following based on two presentations:</p> <p>Zymoetz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two sections of the Zymoetz River have worked really well. The</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ZECs (Zoned E Commission). Instituted by Parti Quebecois. All Atlantic salmon rivers were leased out, now control is given to local areas. You buy your licence from the fish hatchery and they keep a count of how many anglers are on the river each day. The decisions made on those rivers are made by the local communities.</li> <li>US anglers who own residences up here would be willing to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why develop the QWS when you could have taken the Dean model and applied it to the Skeena?</li> <li>Process is “achingly democratic.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern that list of waters that are protected is limited and does not include the Kitimat.</li> <li>SH are being caught inadvertently with Chinook fishery and subsequently being released poorly.</li> <li>Problem with resident anglers</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>illegal guiding is a big problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are too many guides and RDs on the Kitsumkalum River.</li> <li>• The NRA are not a problem on the Kitsumkalum, it is the guides.</li> <li>• There is no opportunity for resident angling on the Kispiox.</li> <li>• Kispiox dominated by guides.</li> <li>• The Babine river has “become the epitome of rich American anglers.” This whole river is unavailable to resident anglers.</li> <li>• Opportunities for resident anglers declining.</li> <li>• Etiquette issues.</li> <li>• NRA not moving from a pool.</li> <li>• No private or “secret” places anymore.</li> <li>• NRA not an issue on</li> </ul>	<p>class 1 section is good as it stands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Zymoetz should be guided only.</li> <li>• There should be no more than five guides on the Zymoetz.</li> <li>• Three options for Zymoetz management.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) There are currently &gt;1000 NG days on the Zymoetz – this should be decreased to 400.</li> <li>2) All anglers should be guided in upper.</li> <li>3) Implement a lottery system for all non guided</li> </ol> </li> <li>• A lottery system that grants you access to a specific section of river.</li> <li>• Many anglers may like the lottery system if they knew that they would have access to a pool without competition from anglers.</li> <li>• If you are going to increase licence cost, you need to do so in a</li> </ul>	<p>pay \$1,200 fee (for example) to be allowed to fish for the season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing and opening dates for guiding should stay the same.</li> <li>• Skeena IV does not see much guided or NRA traffic, but it will in the future.</li> </ul>		<p>walking on redds in the upper Lakelse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What about Nass, Douglas Channel, Kitimat</li> <li>• Province should buy back rod-days.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
the Kitsumkalum.	<p>way that acknowledges NRCs above NRAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All NRA should be guided.</li> <li>• We should limit the number of boats and clients per guide.</li> </ul> <p>Kitsumkalum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be a maximum of 2 clients per guide or per guide assistant on the Kitsumkalum.</li> <li>• Guides should alternate between upper and lower canyon.</li> <li>• No guided on weekends.</li> <li>• No guided from Kitseles Canyon downstream.</li> <li>• Should be a lottery system for</li> <li>• 7-day licences should be applied to Skeena.</li> <li>• The Lakelse needs to be classified all year.</li> <li>• The Kiseguecla should not be opened up to guided angling.</li> <li>• Skeena II suggested having Skeena I and III in with Skeena II. From</li> </ul>			

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
	tidewater to Kitsumkalum would all be one section of CW.			

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 11, 2008** Time: **1:00 pm** Number attending: **2**

Location: **Kitimat**

Stakeholder group (s) **Anglers**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depleting fish stocks compounds the angler use issues.</li> <li>If we do not have fish in the river, we do not have a quality experience.</li> <li>Illegal guiding on the lower Zymoetz is a problem, Kispiox too. They will use a bus to load pools and then rotate them around.</li> <li>NRAs on lower Bulkley.</li> <li>Poor guide etiquette can create a problem.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To solve illegal guiding, go to guided only or increase enforcement presence.</li> <li>Acknowledgement that illegal guiding is a difficult issue to address.</li> <li>The Zymoetz needs to be classified in August, many NRA are “getting a free ride.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dramatic increase in NG NRA.</li> <li>Many fish conservation movements came from American anglers.</li> <li>We have a high influx of BC residents from cities who may express concern over changes to CW.</li> <li>Feeling that our fishery is very undervalued.</li> <li>The first act of Canadian parliament was the Fisheries Act of 1867.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Book – River of the Angry Moon.</li> <li>Question over if this process will be useful or not.</li> <li>This process needs to address the DFO and look at how the province can work with the feds and the commercial fishery.</li> <li>“We need to focus on rivers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of fish in the Morice is due to the commercial fishery.</li> <li>Not enough fish.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because Skeena River classified, pushes anglers to the Kitimat.</li> <li>• Need to address transfer of anglers.</li> <li>• Many guides operating in August to establish a precedence of use.</li> <li>• People come down to Kitimat from Skeena if Skeena is crowded or water level is too high or because it's cheaper.</li> <li>• Sustut/Babine – proprietary attitudes of guides and NRAs.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original intent of guiding industry was as a cottage industry; all that has all changed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and fish.”</li> <li>• Are we sending the Chamber of Commerce information letters?</li> </ul>	

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 11, 2008**      Time: **3:00 pm**      Number attending: **1**  
 Location: **Kitimat**  
 Stakeholder group (s) **Tourism/Chamber of Commerce**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restricting NRAs with guided only or 8-day licences will affect local tourism both in terms of fewer people fishing the Skeena system and pushing people onto the Kitimat River.</li> <li>“Self-contained campers may not contribute much to local economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education about etiquette is important. Perhaps it could be stressed when the licences are purchased.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Most everyone comes to Kitimat for the fishing”</li> <li>Whatever is done on the Skeena will likely benefit the Kitimat system.</li> </ul>		

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 11, 2008**      Time: **6:00 pm**      Number attending: **8**  
 Location: **Kitimat**  
 Stakeholder group (s) **Anglers (Rod and Gun Club)**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal guiding.</li> <li>There is crowding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish management in the Skeena region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of a handout that</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern regarding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When RDs are allocated in the</li> </ul>



Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>created by guides who are trying to fill all their RDs in a short period of time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of waters selected for priority planning:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Babine – crowded at top end</li> <li>2) Bulkley/Morice – guiding not a problem. NRA crowding.</li> <li>3) Kitsumkalum – upper end is hit very hard during SH season.</li> <li>4) Kispiox – access is limited because so much land has been bought up.</li> <li>5) Kitsequecla – no comments</li> <li>6) Kitwanga –</li> <li>7) Lakelse – issues with anglers targeting SH on the redds. Solution: close fishing during spawning.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>needs to be based on science. This will ensure sustainable management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guide identification sticker on boats needs to be utilized. This would allow resident anglers to identify who is illegal guiding. You can also state the guiding company on the side of the boat. This system would also allow anglers to keep track of how many RDs a guide is using.</li> <li>Guided only for some waters. This would potentially create increased funds for HCTF.</li> <li>Limited entry fishery (LEF) as with hunting.</li> <li>Lack of support for “blanket regulations” because this does not commonly show resident priority. i.e.</li> </ul>	<p>spoke to Resident Angler Priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the Nisga’a able to control guiding activity on the Nass?</li> <li>Guides support non-retention because it is driving residents off the shores.</li> <li>Rod and Gun Club are residents and they want to eat fish!</li> <li>The Kitimat River needs to be visited soon. The regulation changes are implemented as part of the QWS.</li> <li>Mortality from catch and release is 6-10%.</li> </ul>	<p>resident angler representation on WGs. Need to ensure resident anglers do not have a conflict of interest. There needs to be a non-profitting resident angler representation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is resident angler priority demonstrated in the decision-making process?</li> <li>Question about how resident angler priority is</li> </ul>	<p>future, those RDs should be transferred but not sold. The local residents have been priced out of this system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial development in this region needs to be done in an environmentally safe manner.</li> <li>There has been acid rock drainage conditions draining into Buck Creek.</li> <li>Bait ban on the Kitsumkalum River is not right. If a bait ban is being implemented for conservation concerns, then why have RDs not been decreased?</li> <li>Is there any way</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>8) Skeena IV - crowding downstream.</p> <p>9) Suskwa – no issues.</p> <p>10) Zymoetz – overcrowding, illegal guiding.</p>	<p>catch and release regulations for wild SH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The guide should not be allowed to fish while guiding clients. Guides sometimes use their rod as an extra for guests.</li> <li>• SH anglers could be required to take a course or watch a video regarding ethics and catch and release practices.</li> <li>• Lessen restrictions on resident anglers.</li> </ul>		<p>demonstrated in the annual angling synopsis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kitimat Rod and Gun club has been a long time advocate for protecting fish and habitat. The Rod and Gun Club is also policing to some degree.</li> </ul>	<p>to offer seniors NRC (65+) a discount on CW licences?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are run-of-the-river power projects going to do to water temperature and oxygen? There are a lot of these “projects” and no one knows much about the impacts.</li> <li>• Why do we release SH even when we know they are going to die?</li> <li>• MOE does not have enough staff including COs to manage the fishery.</li> </ul>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Date: **Jan 21, 2008** Time: **6:30 pm** Number attending: **17**

Location: **Prince Rupert**

Stakeholder group (s) **Anglers (plus many from commercial fishing community)**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cited example on a river where a helicopter landed and anglers “jumped out” and ruined the experience.</li> <li>NRA will come, hire a guide and then return the next year without a guide.</li> <li>Guides claim that they cannot offer a quality experience because of the commercial fishery.</li> <li>The MoE has a policy to provide resident angler priority, but they are not enforcing it.</li> <li>Rafts have greatly decreased the quality of experience on the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make SH a big game fishery. This limits the number of people coming from abroad. It is important to allow access to residents.</li> <li>You need observers or similar to enforce AMPs or equivalent.</li> <li>Increasing RDs will solve the crowding issue.</li> <li>You need to have an allocation policy where effort is granted based on the availability of SH stocks. This</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to understand stock dynamics of SH to determine how quality of experience is affected.</li> <li>The commercial fleet should not have allocation limitations because a rich fisherman upstream wants a quality experience.</li> <li>Old Remo Lodge will not be rebuilt after flood.</li> <li>Saltwater fishing charters get business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many questions surrounding historical angler use data. Are there any surveys conducted from year to year?</li> <li>This process is having the MoE run around and put user groups against one another because someone has to go.</li> <li>Need to determine the hierarchy of exclusion for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will the commercial sector be shut down to protect the guided/ non-guided experience?</li> <li>Regarding jet boats on salmon redds. You need to collect info on stock numbers, number of angler boats on redds etc. This information is needed to help protect the fish.</li> <li>There needs to be better science on SH stock enumeration.</li> <li>There is no way to enumerate SH.</li> <li>The problem with the Sustut fence is that it is too late for the data to be used for application on the Sockeye commercial fish.</li> <li>“The quality of angling experience should not interfere with the livelihoods of &gt; 2,000 people in Prince</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>Kispiox River.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disagreement with guides who drop their clients off – this is a taxi service.</li> <li>Rafts lined up on the Kispiox (taken as supporting evidence of crowding problem).</li> <li>Limited way to describe quality angling experience.</li> <li>Crowding on China Bar – “elbow to elbow.”</li> <li>People camped out along the Skeena between Prince Rupert and Terrace stay a long time</li> <li>How many fish a day is a quality experience?</li> <li>Need limits on NRA, should also pay more.</li> </ul>	<p>incorporates science into the problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to increase education. i.e., so people don’t walk over pink salmon redds.</li> <li>Catch and release training for guides and clients.</li> <li>Education – pink salmon redds, jet boats on spawning beds, etiquette, catch and release methods.</li> </ul>	<p>when the fishing is poor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRA are not a threat to the fishery – these are the folks who pioneered SH fly fishing.</li> <li>1993/94 SH barge project, conducted through SH recovery program.</li> <li>Value of rod-days has skyrocketed.</li> <li>Some people keeping steelhead</li> </ul>	<p>Public Meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This process is an “allocation fight.” Objection that we are only collecting information so that the government can know how to implement an allocation policy.</li> <li>The last survey that was conducted on the Skeena has fisherman keeping SH because they felt that there were lots of fish.</li> </ul>	<p>Rupert (in the commercial fishery)”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guided RD quota is problematic.</li> <li>Need for an enforcement person.</li> <li>If the commercial fleet is cut back because of low returns, then the anglers upstream should have to be cut back as well.</li> <li>You need to tie the SH abundance to angler-use trends to determine what your effect on the SH population is.</li> <li>We need to know how the SH populations are doing. How can you pass judgment on quality of experience when it is not based on science?</li> <li>There used to be the “freezer index” of dead SH as a relative indicator of SH stock abundance.</li> <li>Fish caught over and over again – what kind of mortality from catch and release? Some suggest 6%.</li> <li>Rich guys should not end up with all the fish.</li> </ul>

## Appendix C. Stakeholder meeting handouts

### Stakeholder meeting handout 1 (First meetings in January 2008)

#### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy

Increased angler pressure has diminished the angling experience on parts of the Skeena River.

In 1990, the Classified Waters policy and regulations were developed to provide a diversity of angling opportunities, maintain quality fishing for anglers in BC, and improve regulations in the angling guide industry.

Currently, approximately 61 rivers are classified in BC and about one-third of those are part of the Skeena River system. The majority of rivers are classified during the peak of the steelhead angling season (fall).

Many Skeena waters have been cited as having persistent angler-use issues and a degraded quality of angling experience.

In response to these concerns, the province is implementing the Quality Waters Strategy on the Skeena River. The strategy is a provincial initiative that involves a partnership between commercial guides, resident anglers and the Ministry of Environment, designed to maintain and enhance British Columbia's world-class fisheries.

The strategy is a community engagement process, utilizing input from provincial, regional and local recreational angling sectors to identify waters of concern that require new or revised regulations.

The end product of the engagement process will be Angling Management Plan(s) that will recommend revisions to current sport fishing regulations as they pertain to angler-use issues on the Skeena.

#### Community Engagement Timeline

<b>Phase 1</b> Jan 17-22/08	Stakeholder meetings	Informal sectoral meetings to identify problems and suggest solutions (Smithers, Houston, Hazelton, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert)
Feb 7-12/08	Stakeholder meetings	Same as Jan 17-22
Feb 25-Mar 1/08	Public Meetings	All six communities
Mar 31/08	Consultation report	
April-August/08	Working Group develops draft	Working Group comprised of

	Angling Management Plan (AMP)	stakeholders
<b>Phase 2</b> Sept 22-27/08	Stakeholder meetings	Same as Phase 1 but to review draft AMP
Oct 14-18/08	Stakeholder meetings	Same as Sept 22-27
Nov 2-8/08	Public meetings	All six communities
Nov 30/08	Consultation report	
Early 2009	Finalize AMP	

The Skeena Regional Quality Waters Management Committee, which includes resident anglers and licensed guides from Skeena Region, identified the following rivers as a priority for dealing with angler-use issues:

Kitsumkalum, Zymoetz I and II, Skeena IV (downstream from Kitwanga), Lakelse
Kispiox, Suskwa, Kitwanga, Kitseguecla, and Skeena IV (upstream from Kitwanga)
Bulkley and Morice
Babine

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## Stakeholder Handout 2 (Meetings in late January – February 2008)

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy

Many waters in the Skeena River system have been cited as having persistent steelhead angler-use issues — crowding, illegal guiding, etc. — and a degraded quality of angling experience.

In response to these concerns, the Ministry of Environment is implementing the Quality Waters Strategy in the Skeena River watershed. The strategy is a community engagement process, utilizing input from provincial, regional and local recreational angling sectors to identify waters of concern that require new or revised regulations.

The end product of the engagement process will be Angling Management Plans (AMPs) that will recommend revisions to current sport fishing regulations as they pertain to steelhead angler-use issues on the Skeena. The AMPs do not address steelhead populations and conservation issues.

The following table outlines the public and stakeholder involvement process.

#### Community Engagement Timeline

<b>Phase 1</b> Jan 17-22/08	<b>Stakeholder meetings</b>	Informal sectoral meetings to identify problems and suggest solutions (Smithers, Houston, Hazelton, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert)
Feb 7-12/08	<b>Stakeholder meetings</b>	Same as Jan 17-22
Feb 25/08	<b>Public Meetings</b> Houston – Seniors' Centre	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 26/08	Smithers – Hudson Bay Lodge	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 27/08	Hazelton – Kispiox Valley Hall	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 28/08	Terrace – Coast Inn of the West	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
Feb 29/08	Kitimat – Kitimat River Lodge Community Centre	Open House: 5–7 pm; Public Meeting 7–9 pm
March 1/08	Prince Rupert – Highliner	Open House: 12–2 pm; Public

	Plaza	Meeting 2–4 pm
Mar 31/08	Consultation report	Summary of public and stakeholder meetings
April-August/08	<b>Draft Angling Management Plans (AMPs)</b>	Developed by stakeholder-based Working Group
<b>Phase 2</b> Sept-Nov/08	<b>Stakeholder meetings</b>	Same as Phase 1 but to review draft AMPs
Nov 2-8/08	<b>Public meetings</b>	All six communities
Nov 30/08	Consultation report	Summary of public and stakeholder meetings
Early 2009	Finalize AMPs	Working Group
Fall 2009	Approval of regulation changes	Ministry of Environment
2010	Regulation changes implemented	Reflected in Synopsis

The Skeena Regional Quality Waters Management Committee, a local group of resident anglers and licensed guides, has been meeting for the past two years with the Ministry of Environment to oversee the Quality Waters Strategy, the community engagement process and the development of AMPs. The committee has identified the following rivers as a priority for dealing with angler-use issues:

Babine  
Bulkley and Morice  
Kitsumkalum  
Kispiox  
Kitseguecla  
Kitwanga  
Lakelse  
Skeena IV (downstream from Kitwanga)  
Skeena IV (upstream from Kitwanga)  
Suskwa  
Zymoetz I and II

For more information, please contact: Alan Dolan BSc, MSc, Facilitator, Skeena Quality Waters Strategy

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Or visit [wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)



## Appendix D. Open House / Public Meeting notes

Note: Acronym and abbreviation legend page 9

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Public Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 25, 2008** Time: **7-9 pm**

Number attending: **16**

Location: **Houston**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jet boats</li> <li>• Guides and clients won't move</li> <li>• Decline in angling experience; Harder to get wilderness experience</li> <li>• Too crowded on weekends</li> <li>• Residents have been pushed out</li> <li>• Europeans don't speak English; foreigners seen handling fish, taking pictures and eating fish; illegal guides come over with them</li> <li>• Fear mongering about losing tourism dollars</li> <li>• Some individuals do the same things over and over (no education or enforcement)</li> <li>• Constant roll-over of anglers; non-residents come for a month or two and guide their friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit number of anglers per pool</li> <li>• Enforcement is key</li> <li>• More access points on Morice to spread people out</li> <li>• Need fisheries guardians</li> <li>• Want selective fishery, not commercial</li> <li>• Restrict the period of time on any river</li> <li>• Non-resident alien anglers should be guided (potential to educate and enforce)</li> <li>• Enforcement for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber being bombarded by email from abroad; aggressive emails to stop the plan</li> <li>• No enforcement visible</li> <li>• Retirees can pick days but workers only have weekends</li> <li>• Everyone had a different perception of crowding even when there were a lot of fish</li> <li>• Every river has its own reputation</li> <li>• Late in the fall a lot of Americans come for a few days</li> <li>• Non-resident alien hunters have to be guided</li> <li>• Haven't seen CO's in</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban boats</li> <li>• What is the sustainability of steelhead with inland commercial fishery?</li> <li>• Consider health of fish</li> <li>• Why is it taboo to use bait upriver when bait is used down river?</li> <li>• Lack of COs means you have to take things into your own hands</li> <li>• Enforcement</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few pools are accessible by foot</li> <li>Concern about how anglers are fishing a pool, gear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>residents too (80% of alien anglers are good)</li> <li>Increase fly fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>two years</li> <li>Heavy fishing pressure in PR (float fishing with rope)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>non-existent during hunting season</li> </ul>

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Public Meeting Notes

Date: **February 26, 2008** Time: **7-9 pm**  
Location: **Smithers**

Number attending: **75**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishery is a zoo</li> <li>Crowding of anglers around good pools occurs when there is a poor run</li> <li>Not guides but density of clientele in September (limit number rod-days in September)</li> <li>If you restrict non-residents, largest impact will be on non-resident, non-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need a plan in place for when numbers of fish increase again</li> <li>Need to cap number of anglers and value of fishery will go up</li> <li>Need to be on water to understand what's going on</li> <li>Need to limit number of fish to each angler (not unlimited catch and release)</li> <li>Saturday and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AUP developed on Bulkley in 1990s was problematic because they did not understand the problems</li> <li>Different perspectives on crowding</li> <li>Ministry data on number of anglers over the years by river</li> <li>September is the month for local business and economy</li> <li>Dean River as the most regulated steelhead river in BC is a good model; could work on Skeena</li> <li>Dean River (lottery)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why no hospitality industry on WGs?</li> <li>Limit representation of guides and anglers on WGs</li> <li>Guides have vested interest – how can they judge impact on hospitality industry?</li> <li>Should be independent panel</li> <li>First Nations left out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of fish has declined since 1998</li> <li>What is impact of catch and release fishery on steelhead?</li> <li>Single species approach doesn't work, bias to create one type of fishery</li> <li>Need numbers on fish and health</li> <li>Ministry ignores steelhead data that was gathered for 10 years, refused to</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>guided, older folks who stay longer but don't fish as much each day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guided-only for non-resident aliens would be a draconian approach to deal with illegal guiding</li> <li>80% of anglers used to be locals</li> <li>Illegal guiding robs local guides</li> <li>Fear mongering gets locals fighting</li> <li>What are people's expectations?</li> <li>Jet boats don't respect non-boating anglers</li> <li>Hard to tell who is an illegal guide and how many there are</li> <li>Quality of</li> </ul>	<p>Sunday for resident anglers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community needs to take control</li> <li>Business, guides, anglers, etc. should get back together and develop the plan</li> <li>Lots of people have useful knowledge</li> <li>Put more value on Kispiox</li> <li>New chamber and service industry need to take charge</li> <li>We all have different needs, everyone needs to come up with a plan we can own</li> <li>Put financial value on length of time</li> </ul>	<p>model would end illegal guiding, works for everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catch and release has been shown to affect spawning (marked fish), too much stress</li> <li>When fish runs are good, the fish are spread out; when there are fewer fish, they congregate in best pools</li> <li>Unclear data, number of angling days dropping, are rivers being abandoned? (Data on number of anglers suggests there is not a crowding problem)</li> <li>Steelhead anglers can keep fish on many other rivers in BC (Thompson, Squamish)</li> <li>Observed (everyday in September) when an angler gets a fish, he makes a cell phone call, soon a car arrives</li> <li>CO's don't pay any attention to complaints;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why do anglers have more rights than citizens and landowners (on WG)?</li> <li>Don't underestimate value of tourism</li> <li>Lodge owners are being discriminated against, not fair</li> <li>There has been fear mongering; lobbying is dooming the process</li> <li>Ministry has commitment to 2010 but what is the commitment after that?</li> <li>Don't divide and conquer at the table, all need to own the plan</li> <li>Cynicism about Ministry-led consultation; need to have hope</li> <li>Making social,</li> </ul>	<p>implement reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal fishing on Babine – gottrout.com</li> <li>What is the impact of commercial gill nets?</li> <li>What is the impact of mode of transport to access rivers (helicopter drops, jet boats)?</li> <li>Need to know the carrying capacity</li> <li>No one is gathering data on numbers of resident and non – resident anglers</li> <li>Need baseline data, guided and non-guided (licences?)</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
experience has decreased for residents, whether it's perceived crowding or guiding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No women, children, families fishing anymore</li> </ul>		can't get convictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly non-residents, come every year at same time and place</li> <li>Times have changed, more people are looking for experience</li> </ul>	not biological decisions	

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Public Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 27, 2008**  
 Location: **Hazelton**

Time: **7-9 pm**

Number attending: **55**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hardly any fish last fall; cyclical problem</li> <li>Single boat can take up four fishing holes</li> <li>River etiquette has declined</li> <li>Capitalization of resource by outfitters, guides, etc.</li> <li>Pontoon boats fish every pool quickly (expensive)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need plan for all groups when fish numbers are up</li> <li>Need to manage (see Quebec model on salmon)</li> <li>To overcome frustration of residents, guides should use weekends for non-angling activities</li> <li>Need designated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most people know how to fish</li> <li>Lack of confidence in new regulations enforcement</li> <li>Angling practices have changed</li> <li>Decline in anglers but they all go to same rivers, fishing holes</li> <li>Some stakeholders aren't concerned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business should be on WG (impacted by restrictions on non-residents)</li> <li>Political will wasn't there in the past</li> <li>Chance for fair and just process; must consult with chiefs, not band office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish numbers is the most important issue</li> <li>Etiquette and crowding relate to fish populations; basis of problem is "no fish"</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
vacations need to maximize experience) • No controls on jet boats	wilderness, walk-in only • Need regulations for specific area at specific time (fair access) • Try lottery as pilot on one river • We are stewards (like First Nations, protecting for our grandchildren) • Need to put a cap on non-residents (watershed context) • Need to determine triggers for plan • Plan should be on a watershed basis; can't be short-term • Print river etiquette on back of licence • Anglers will fish harder if you restrict the number of days (8 days) • How can you check a limit on a river? • If we go to electronic licences, can we have half-days? • Need sting operation	with angler experience • 20 years ago First Nations were included as stakeholders; now foreign clients/tourism are stakeholders • Kispiox is different from Bulkley • First Nations haven't had an opportunity for guiding • "World class" fishery is underrated compared to wildlife • Peak season is crowded but October is not • Number of anglers dropping because there's no fish • Website advises people not to come • Guides have pressure to show clients a great experience; fish long and hard • Illegal guides in Europe, money	• Does WG give its thoughts to FNs? Are there two processes? • What guarantee is there that anyone in government will take notice • Committee needs to represent community	• Need to establish capacity (like Dean) • What is causing the low fish numbers? How can we address? • Determine carrying capacity and then apply lottery • Money for QWS better spent on conservation and enforcement • Need gear restrictions in certain rivers • Need to manage and enforce like Colorado and Montana (shuttle buses)

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for illegal guides</li> <li>• Print penalties for illegal guide and client on licence (i.e., Confiscation of equipment, jail term, lose right to fish in Canada)</li> <li>• Need river guardians; get people on the water; pay First Nations youth; volunteers from community</li> <li>• Put cap on the number of jet boats</li> <li>• Need money to stay in the community; need to be in control</li> <li>• Need to make it affordable for local families; not fish for the rich</li> <li>• Consider higher angler densities to meet a variety of needs; lower densities for other zones</li> <li>• Should be about “community first”; non-residents must</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>exchanged on websites</li> <li>• Haven’t seen CO is five years</li> <li>• Perception of FNs that this process does not affect them</li> <li>• FNs are also frustrated about low fish numbers</li> <li>• These are different times; too many aliens who come today don’t care; aliens weren’t a problem in 50s and 60s</li> <li>• Nowhere in the world do they give away their fish to the rich; we are undervaluing</li> <li>• River brings communities and FNs together</li> <li>• Need data to compare the number of hours spent angling by guided versus non-guided</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should fund more CO’s to talk softly but threaten stiff penalties for illegal guiding</li> <li>• Need a process for conservation ; vehicle to be good stewards</li> <li>• Enforcement is the real issue</li> <li>• Compensate commercial fishers to keep their nets up</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
	be guided; more opportunities for guides, campgrounds and B&Bs			

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Public Meeting Notes

Date: **February 28, 2008** Time: **7-9 pm** Number attending: **65**  
Location: **Terrace**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boats with non-residents hit accessible pools early in day and then move on</li> <li>Illegal guiding is a real problem</li> <li>Overcrowding during sockeye and chinook season; fishing for salmon</li> <li>It's annoying for walk-ins to see guides in boats</li> <li>Rare to go fishing without being stomped on by non-residents; people casting over you</li> <li>Most of the problem on Skeena is salmon</li> <li>Saw a guide kicking a fish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrict guides on weekends</li> <li>Locals can fish at 5 pm when tourist go for supper</li> <li>Need a better distribution of guides; limit guides to sections</li> <li>Guides should not be on Skeena II: save Skeena IV</li> <li>Option for guides to transfer upriver (Skeena)</li> <li>Need solutions for Zymoetz (be specific)</li> <li>No increase in guiding until there is a code of ethics;</li> <li>Resident anglers shouldn't be restricted</li> <li>All non-residents need to have local guides; this</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big change: most residents are weekend anglers; when you walk in you see 4 guides</li> <li>Everyone is a cause of the problem; river belongs to everyone (not just anglers)</li> <li>Hard to separate salmon and steelhead fishing</li> <li>Zymoetz River (700-900 non-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned about narrow scope of panel; why are non-anglers excluded?</li> <li>Need to include local residents in process</li> <li>Need to deal with big picture and not cater to certain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the ministry doing to restore steelhead populations?</li> <li>Need numbers on who is fishing; no creel census on resident and non-resident angling days</li> <li>How many guides on upper Skeena II</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some guides/clients not prepared to wait till a run is open</li> <li>Money and jobs are going out of community; taking our jobs and fish</li> <li>Road and walk in access overcrowded (out of province licence plates and rental cars)</li> <li>Not everyone will want to be guided</li> <li>If non-residents have to pay for a guide as well as a licence, it's more economical to fish without a guide</li> <li>Need to classify other months to regulate guides (abuse)</li> <li>Overcrowding exists on the Zymoetz River (more anglers than ever before)</li> <li>On Skeena and Zymoetz, 50 anglers today where there were 6 a few years ago</li> <li>Lower Skeena doesn't have a lot of suitable water (most boats are local)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>makes it a rich person's sport</li> <li>Need to distinguish Canadian and non-Canadian (don't contribute taxes)</li> <li>Zymoetz should be restricted to residents (no helicopters)</li> <li>Non-residents should have restrictions on days available or move around to other less pressured areas</li> <li>Price should go up for non-residents</li> <li>Certain areas are very crowded; designate areas for residents only, for guided only, and restrict number of days on each water (i.e. 8 days on each water)</li> <li>Need to keep fees reasonable for non-resident families who are not wealthy; keep a section for a reasonable fee and put a cap on numbers</li> <li>Presentation of solutions: regulate number of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>resident angler days)</li> <li>Skeena II is busier</li> <li>Fly fishing water is limited</li> <li>In the 80s, guides couldn't go to upper Skeena</li> <li>Sockeye has attracted anglers</li> <li>Zymoetz overrun with anglers at certain times; on the whole it is not a problem</li> <li>Sport fishing industry has become popular with retirees in Prince Rupert (ocean fishing)</li> <li>A lot of local guides look after the river</li> <li>Local guides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>groups</li> <li>Need to define what quality is (social fishing?)</li> <li>Need to get to the core (break down the issues, no more Band-Aids)</li> <li>How is ministry going to implement resident priority?</li> <li>Perception that this in the "one and only time"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(50 miles of river)?</li> <li>Need more COs</li> <li>Anglers to wear numbers for enforcement purposes</li> <li>Need to find out average stay of non-residents and who has rotating visitors</li> </ul>



Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some sections of Skeena are crowded and other sections are not</li> </ul>	resident anglers (July-Dec); guiding for non-resident Canadians (look at hunting model); lottery for classified period only; transfer of accumulated days, etc)	want to have priority over non-resident guides		

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Public Meeting Notes

Date: **Feb 29, 2008**  
Location: **Kitimat**

Time: **7-9 pm**      Number attending: **20**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will the Skeena plan impact unclassified waters (Kitimat)?; increased pressure from commercial and resident anglers and guides?</li> <li>Unguided aliens put huge pressure on Bulkley and Morice (more than 5 times the guided anglers)</li> <li>Illegal guiding is massive; /European guides advertising abroad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Zymoetz as a pilot; stiffer penalties</li> <li>No weekends for non-resident aliens; specific timeframes needed</li> <li>Restricting available days could result in other tourist excursions (spread prosperity)</li> <li>Education with licences (local etiquette, regulations)</li> <li>Mandatory test before you get a licence</li> <li>Aliens should be guided</li> <li>Restrict non-guided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy may result in a transfer of anglers from Skeena to unclassified waters</li> <li>COs are not in plain view (no presence means no education or enforcement)</li> <li>It's unethical for guides to be fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider Dean model for the Zymoetz</li> <li>A lot of people will be skeptical because ministry didn't follow through on past processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be no restriction on type of gear</li> <li>Enforcement is just as much of a problem; need COs to explain rules</li> <li>Need auxiliary COs to deal with positive education, while COs deal with bear issues</li> <li>RCMP</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is overcrowding an attitude about “owning a fishing spot”?</li> <li>Crowds camping on private land</li> <li>Kispiox: non-residents buying property on river provide access for illegal guides</li> <li>Main problem is non-guided, non-resident aliens</li> <li>Internet is a free market</li> <li>Non-resident is biggest problem on Kitimat (about 50%); largely Albertans on Kitsumkalum, lots of crowding</li> <li>Fish handling and etiquette are a problem with non-resident Canadians as well as aliens</li> <li>Charging more to aliens will not slow down or stop the trend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>aliens; limit number of days on classified waters (i.e., 6 days on Zymoetz)</li> <li>Guides should be responsible for education (Lakelse)</li> <li>Restricting number of days would cause guides to move around</li> <li>Need to reduce licence fees for residents (too costly now); waive fees for 16-19 year olds; need young stewards</li> <li>Need to be reasonable: Lots of young families are non-residents and put money in local economy</li> <li>Guides should pay rental fee to have access; shouldn't be able to sell rod days for high price; reduces guide opportunities for resident youth</li> <li>Restrictions on number of anglers could be selective</li> <li>Limit number of clients per guide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>along with clients (third rod); need to show clients how to fish</li> <li>Access on Kitimat and Kitsumkalum is not impeded by landowners</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>auxiliaries could enforce fishing regulations, work with COs</li> <li>Have RCMP check fish on Kitimat</li> <li>Hunting and fishing should be dealt with similarly</li> <li>Ministry needs to take back rod-days</li> <li>Can Kitimat be classified? (Provide guiding opportunities)</li> <li>Dean model is not effective to restrict pontoons</li> <li>One guide can take up whole section of Kitimat (8-10 clients)</li> <li>Need cap on number of guides on</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident priority should be upheld</li> <li>Restricting number of days would stop anglers following best fishing in a water</li> </ul>			Kitimat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guide association has asked for a cap on number of guides on Kitimat: government says it doesn't care about Kitimat</li> </ul>

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Public Meeting Notes

Date: **March 1, 2008**  
Location: **Prince Rupert**

Time: **2 - 4 pm**      Number attending: **14**

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal guiding; lots of Albertans and aliens</li> <li>Steady stream of jet boats and rafts; speed of boats blows out the gravel and affects pink salmon; disturbs fishing for 15 minutes</li> <li>Too many rafts and jet boats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore quality experience to resident anglers before other interests take over</li> <li>Zymoetz needs to be regulated</li> <li>Skeena - need to limit how long you can spend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pacific Salmon Foundation is collecting data (MOE is getting it right this time)</li> <li>There will be effects of upstream regulations on downriver angling</li> <li>Skeena is in a dry spell, Bulkley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should aim at legislative controls (restricting guides, rod days?)</li> <li>People from Prince Rupert should be on WG</li> <li>How will the committee get around</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to gather data when selling licence</li> <li>Allocate funds for data</li> <li>Problem separating angling experience from fish conservation</li> <li>Is there a commitment to conservation?</li> <li>IPPs, water</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can you legally regulate residents</li> </ul>		and Morice are very low	<p>economic interests? (i.e., hunters and outfitters worked it out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can stack any meeting (is it broad enough?)</li> <li>Why is MOE leading a tourism issue?</li> <li>Did charter boat businesses get notice?</li> </ul>	<p>licences are an issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulate on basis of stocks</li> <li>Want to know that conservation trumps Quality Waters process (how do the parallel processes tie into stocks?)</li> <li>What are the triggers for conservation? (Need an independent scientific panel)</li> <li>Need feedback (i.e., If you limit numbers, how did it affect angling experience?)</li> <li>Is there a way to sub-classify steelhead?</li> <li>Effect of boats on spawning habitat (i.e., pink salmon)</li> </ul>

## Appendix E. Response Form (hard copy version)

### Response Form Skeena Quality Waters Strategy

Please take the time to fill out the following Response Form on the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy. The Response Form, the comments received at stakeholder meetings and public meetings, and other input received by e-mail, fax or mail, will all be used to help the Working Groups develop the Angling Management Plans.

Thanks for taking the time to fill out the form. Don't forget to put your contact information at the end so we can keep you informed about the latest news on the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy.

1. Where do you live? (required)
  - Smithers
  - Terrace
  - Kitimat
  - Hazleton
  - Prince Rupert
  - Houston
  - Other B.C.
  - Other Canadian province
  - U.S.
  - Other parts of world
  - Please specify \_\_\_\_\_
2. How would you describe your principal activity in relation to steelhead angling in the Skeena River Watershed?
  - Guide
  - Angler
  - Accommodations (lodge, resort, campground etc.)
  - Supplies (bait, tackle, licences, etc.)
  - Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you affiliated with any of the following organizations? (required)
  - BC Federation of Drift Fishers
  - BC Wildlife Federation
  - Ducks Unlimited
  - Federation of Fly Fishers
  - Local Rod and Gun Club
  - North Coast Steelhead Alliance
  - Skeena Angling Guides Association
  - Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition
  - Sport Fish Advisory Board
  - Sport Fish Advisory Committee
  - Steelhead Society of BC
  - Trout Unlimited
  - Upper Skeena Angling Guides Association

I am a non-affiliated angler  
 I am a non-affiliated guide  
 Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

4. How long have you been fishing for steelhead in the Skeena watershed?  
 < 1 year  
 1-5 years  
 5-10 years  
 10-20 years  
 > 20 years  
 Used to fish but don't anymore  
 Never fished
5. If you fished for steelhead in the Skeena watershed in the last year, how often did you go?  
 < 5 days  
 5-15 days  
 15-25 days  
 >25 days  
 Did not fish
6. If you fished for steelhead in the past two years, using check marks please indicate where and when you fished in the following chart:

River	Summer (July – August)	Fall (September – October)	Winter (November – December)	Spring (January – June)
Babine				
Bulkley				
Kispiox				
Kitsequecla				
Kitsumkalum				
Kitwanga				
Lakelse				
Morice				
Skeena (downstream of Kitwanga bridge)				
Skeena (upstream of Kitwanga bridge)				
Suskwa				
Zymoetz (Class 2)				
Zymoetz (Class 1)				
Other, please specify:				

Note: Shaded boxes indicate closed seasons on those waters.

7. How do you commonly access the river?  
 Walk in  
 Drive in  
 Drift boat  
 Pontoon boat  
 Jet boat  
 Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you use a guide when you fish?  
 Always  
 Never  
 Sometimes  
 I am a guide
9. If you use a guide when you fish, on which rivers?  
 Babine  
 Bulkley  
 Kispiox  
 Kitsumkalum  
 Morice  
 Skeena (lower)  
 Skeena (upper)  
 Zymoetz (Class 2)  
 Zymoetz (Class 1)  
 Other, please specify:  
 I do not use guides
10. In the past two years, how would you rate your fishing experience for steelhead?  
 Excellent  
 Very Good  
 Average  
 Fair  
 Poor  
 Don't know  
 Did not fish

Indicate below how you would rate the following statements from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree):

(Strongly Agree):	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	
11. The Skeena River watershed is a world-class recreational sport fishery for steelhead.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
12. Conservation of steelhead stocks is a high priority.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

For the part of the Skeena watershed where you spend most of your time fishing, how would you rate the following statements from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree):

	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	
13. There are a lot more anglers in the last five years.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
14. There is currently a crowding problem.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
15. If you think a crowding problem exists, please indicate on which rivers:						
River	Summer (July – August)	Fall (September – October)	Winter (November – December)	Spring (January – June)		
Babine						
Bulkley						
Kispiox						
Kitsequecla						
Kitsumkalum						
Kitwanga						
Lakelse						
Morice						
Skeena (downstream of Kitwanga bridge)						
Skeena (upstream of Kitwanga bridge)						
Suskwa						
Zymoetz (Class 2)						
Zymoetz (Class 1)						
Other, please specify:						
16. There are too many guided anglers.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
17. There are too many non-resident, non-Canadian, non-guided anglers.						
18. There are too many B.C. resident anglers. (non-guided)						
19. There is a problem with illegal guiding activity.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
20. There is too much angling activity using power boats for access.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
21. Angler etiquette (properly moving through	1	2	3	4	5	N/A



pools, sensitivity to other anglers) has declined in the last five years.						
22. There is sufficient road access to fishing locations.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

Once consultations with the public and stakeholders are completed and all relevant information has been analyzed, there are various management options that could be considered to create a higher quality angling experience for steelhead. Would you support the following conceptual management options if used in an appropriate situation? Please rate from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree):

	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree		
23. Increase non-resident angling fees.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
24. Reduce number of rod-days for licensed guides on specific rivers.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
25. Increase number of rod-days for licensed guides on specific rivers.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
26. Require that non-resident, non-Canadian anglers be guided only.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
27. Designate certain waters, or stretches of waters, as resident-only angling at specific times of year	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
28. Restrict the length of time that a non-resident, non Canadian angler could fish a water (for example, an eight-day licence).	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
29. Consider a lottery system to allocate angling opportunities on specific waters for non-resident, non-Canadian anglers.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
30. Non-resident, non-Canadian anglers should pay the most for their licences; anglers who are residents of other parts of Canada should pay more than BC residents but less than non-resident, non-Canadian anglers.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

Are there other management options that you would suggest?

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Please leave the form in the designated area at a public meeting or mail or fax to:

Ministry of Environment  
PO Box 5000, 3726 Alfred Avenue  
Smithers, B.C. Canada V0J 2N0  
Telephone: 250 847-7260  
Fax: 250 847-7728

If you would like to receive more information about upcoming meetings, please provide your contact information below:

Name:

Address:

Postal Code:

Phone:

E-mail:

Please ensure your response form reaches the ministry no later than March 14, 2008.

## Appendix F. Written comments on Response Forms

Note: Acronym and abbreviation legend page 9

### Skeena Quality Waters Strategy – Written Comments on Response Forms (all participants)

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pontoon boats on "the stretch by the Telkwa-Smithers bridge." Most of these are coming from a nearby Lodge. In peak season, there are close to 20 boats at a time.</li> <li>Poor etiquette including Europeans pretending they do not understand English.</li> <li>NRC decided not to come to this area to fish because of all of the news of poor fishing.</li> <li>Etiquette is the worst from people in single-person pontoon boats.</li> <li>The SQWS has not been able to show</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train river guardians to educate, monitor and evaluate any changes in regulations.</li> <li>Implement pilot projects instead of permanent changes - assess results, then decide:</li> <li>if changes were effective.</li> <li>or make necessary revisions.</li> <li>take time to ensure that the regulations are having a positive impact on quality of experience and health of steelhead stocks.</li> <li>Try enforcing present regulations before changing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle shops are very nervous about upcoming or perceived upcoming cuts.</li> <li>Opposition to mandatory guiding</li> <li>Non-residents who own property should receive special consideration - they pay taxes and invest in our area and this needs to be considered. If these people are restricted, it will have a large impact on local markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This committee, which has been meeting since 2005 at a cost of \$250,000 per year, does not include major stakeholders.</li> <li>This is a very bogus, one-sided mismanagement of our fish by the government.</li> <li>This process is about fish and rivers and environment - don't lose sight of that to cater to the desires of sport fisherman.</li> <li>Make the effort to invite the hereditary chief of the Gitxsan to participate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fish is the issue (not overcrowding).</li> <li>Determine the number of fish in the watershed</li> <li>Implement regulations that eliminate by-catch by commercial fisherman.</li> <li>Eliminate catch-release-torture to die fishery.</li> <li>Need changes to gillnet fishery and Indian fishery. "Or we can all kiss it goodbye in our lifetimes."</li> <li>Restrict the commercial fishery and close down farmed</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
charts, surveys or documentation to substantiate a theory of overcrowding.	<p>them. Anglers are already over-regulated. Simplify the process and allocate more resources for enforcement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More enforcement.</li> <li>• Harsher penalties (confiscate gear, ban from river, etc.).</li> <li>• Lottery system like on the Dean would help stop illegal guiding.</li> <li>• Non-residents should be required to have a guide.</li> <li>• Promote increased angling on mainstream Skeena.</li> <li>• Make class 1 waters fly-fishing only Sept to Oct.</li> <li>• Limit the number of days that non-residents can fish.</li> <li>• Small annual bag limits rather than catch and release</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve First Nations in all conservation strategies.</li> <li>• Survey does not address suggested improvements regarding etiquette or illegal guiding.</li> <li>• This questionnaire misses the most crucial points.</li> <li>• The questionnaire is obviously biased towards commercial guiding operations. There has not been crowding problems, because frankly BC no longer has the fish!</li> <li>• This process is indicative of cronyism.</li> </ul>	<p>salmon pens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coal bed methane mining is a greater threat on Steelhead stocks.</li> <li>• Stop gill-netting - use live traps.</li> <li>• Legislate First Nations fishing of steelhead.</li> <li>• Proper stock conservation including protection of watersheds from industrial contamination.</li> <li>• Complete review of the steelhead stream classification policy as it applies to Region 6 with full facilitation and public consultation throughout the region including Kitimat, Prince</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
	<p>which is much more detrimental to the resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to address mode of access.</li> <li>• Designated days for each group to fish (R, NR, Guides).</li> <li>• Determine the number of RDs that a river can handle per classified allotment.</li> <li>• No helicopters in some wilderness access-only river sections - i.e., Upper Zymoetz.</li> <li>• Limiting number of days on the river is not going to work - most anglers already rarely fish more than that length of time.</li> <li>• Do not alienate NRAs - they bring millions of dollars into the economy and are the fishery's best</li> </ul>			<p>Rupert and Queen Charlotte Islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Enhancement on some rivers."</li> <li>• Create specific gear restrictions on certain parts of the river.</li> <li>• Lobby DFO to let more Steelhead into our rivers.</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process	Other Issues
	<p>advocates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict the number of motorized boats.</li> <li>• For limited number of days, use a prepaid punch card.</li> <li>• Tiered licensing based on residency.</li> <li>• Tourist and guide camps should be restricted to certain areas.</li> <li>• Models from Quebec or Norway may be useful.</li> <li>• Ban jet boats.</li> <li>• Need enforcement like the ski patrol.</li> <li>• Sell licences on-line.</li> <li>• Limit camping on rivers.</li> <li>• Limit access by decommissioning old logging roads.</li> </ul>			

## Appendix G. Email/Phone Call Comments

The formal methods for receiving input from public and stakeholder groups were the stakeholder meetings, public meetings and Response Forms. I also received emails and a small number of phone calls. Many of these were requests for background information, schedules of meetings, and clarifications of process. I did not document these requests.

A total of 64 people, mostly via email and a few phone calls, commented on the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy. Of those 64, probably between 20 and 30 (from the United States and Europe) were comments by people who were responding to emails from residents living in the watershed. The emails they received contained incorrect information — that the plans had already been written, that various management options to limit non-resident aliens had already been established, and that their fishing visits would be curtailed. Of these 64 emails and phone calls, 16 were from Europe (primarily Switzerland, Germany, and England), 20 were from the United States, and 30 were from BC.

The tables below summarize comments in the 64 emails and phone calls. The first table presents comments from Europe and the United States and the second presents comments from British Columbia.

**(Note: Acronym and abbreviation legend page 9)**

### Europe and United States: email and phone call comments

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If there are 8-day licences for NRAs, I will not come to fish</li><li>• If there are 8-day licences for NRAs, I will come to fish and then go elsewhere; if it is guided only, I will not come at all</li><li>• Late runs of steelhead push people together in time</li><li>• There is not a crowding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I would limit my fishing days if that would make for a better resource</li><li>• Non-resident property owners should be treated as residents</li><li>• Sell a “Grand Pass” for non-residents to fish all non-classified and classified waters except the Dean</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BC residents stopped fishing for steelhead in the early 1990s when the fishery was made catch and release</li><li>• Seen fewer anglers on river since 1990</li><li>• Often spend many days waiting for waters to “clear” on the Skeena River</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is stakeholder breakdown on Working Groups?</li><li>• Are all phases of process transparent?</li><li>• Why no non-residents on Regional Committee</li><li>• Must consider</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many businesses have closed in the past few years due to poor angling for steelhead</li><li>• Commercial fishery is the problem</li><li>• Problem is that there</li></ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If these plans are pushed through, it will only benefit the guides and I will stop coming</li> <li>Guided NRAs do not put as much money into the local economy as non-guided NRAs</li> <li>NRA not interested in paying for a guide as trip already costs lots of money</li> </ul>	<p>River during September and October (61 days x \$21 = \$1,281)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income would go into river guardians</li> <li>Would save admin by province</li> <li>Publish an insert in the fishing regulations on etiquette</li> <li>More walk-in access points to reduce number of boats on Bulkley, Suskwa and Kispiox</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has crowding been quantified?</li> <li>There are fewer licences being sold, so could not be a crowding problem</li> <li>Last year was an abysmal year for steelhead fishing</li> <li>Non-residents support conservation efforts in BC</li> <li>Non-residents put considerable money into the Skeena River economy</li> <li>NRAs contribute more to the community than guided non-residents</li> </ul>	<p>non-resident input</p>	<p>are not enough fish; that's why number of anglers is going down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-standard logging practices are causing rivers to go "off colour"</li> <li>Late arrival of steelhead is because of the commercial fishery</li> </ul>

#### British Columbia: email and phone call comments

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulk of problem takes place over a short period of time — 8-day solution will not deal with this (Kispiox)</li> <li>Addressing rod-day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to take a balanced approach, taking into account all affected groups — anglers, guides, local economy, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't regulate the tackle box</li> <li>Most SH anglers would happily pay more for licences and fees if they</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure that you consider a variety of resident angler perspectives, because some</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helicopter angling is a growing problem — diminishes angling</li> </ul>



Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>allocation and rod-day reduction may lead to potential legal action by guides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effect of shortened licences on non-resident landowners needs to be considered</li> <li>• Crowding is a problem (lower Zymoetz during fall, Skeena near Terrace during salmon season, Morice/Bulkley from mid-September to end of October, upper Babine during fall)</li> <li>• Poor access to fishery for residents</li> <li>• Would like to keep some fish and eat them</li> <li>• All guided rod-days used in one short period of time, which causes crowding (Kispiox, Bulkley)</li> <li>• Too many boats, especially for guides and assistant guides</li> <li>• More guide effort now than 1990</li> <li>• All non-guided effort on Babine concentrated in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kispiox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need to determine carrying capacity on a daily or weekly basis like on the Dean River</li> <li>○ Extend the season from August 15 – November 15</li> <li>○ Allocate spaces until full</li> <li>○ Guides voluntarily do “changeover” on weekends to free up angling time for BC residents</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Limited Entry Fishing (LEF) for NRAs; rotate between different rivers</li> <li>• Set “man-days” on each river</li> <li>• Increase licence fees, but not so much</li> </ul>	<p>thought the money was going into local enforcement and management</p>	<p>points-of-view are not very representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why no local government or local business on Working Groups?</li> <li>• Whole timeframe is too long</li> <li>• Kitwanga Bridge has nothing to do with Skeena IV boundaries — that will be problematic</li> <li>• Resident priority must be addressed</li> <li>• All stakeholders should be part of the process throughout</li> <li>• Toolbox seems too restrictive, not enough options</li> </ul>	<p>experience for others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should MOE be managing freshwater fisheries that mainly target salmon — i.e., Lakelse, Kalum and mainstream Skeena?</li> <li>• Scope must address number of fish</li> <li>• Recess SQWS for four years and reconvene when fish numbers are up again; redirect budget to enforcement of existing regulations</li> <li>• Need more funds for enforcement</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>one area because of road access issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the Babine is the exclusive preserve of three guides</li> <li>• Jet boats on Skeena around Terrace and on Bulkley during fall</li> <li>• Skeena: NRCs (Alberta) setting up camps along river, BC residents and too many jet boats</li> <li>• Upper Babine: poor guiding ethics at two lodges — “taxi service” guiding (clients dropped off one per pool for long periods) and NRAs setting up camps along river</li> <li>• Kispiox: lots of NRAs who stay a long time</li> <li>• Etiquette adds to problem of crowding</li> <li>• Compared to rest of world, fishing on Skeena is dirt cheap</li> <li>• Steelhead tourists and their financial contribution to the local economy are being</li> </ul>	<p>that ordinary people can’t fish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What about adopting “interim measures” while the SQWS process is moving along?</li> <li>• Focus on known problems and fix them</li> <li>• As with other similar high-quality fisheries around the world, this fishery must be managed on a daily basis</li> <li>• No more assistant guides (Kispiox)</li> <li>• Zone guided and non-guided areas (Kispiox)</li> <li>• No boats of any sort on the Kispiox at busy season; walk-in only</li> <li>• Offer limited rod-days for local business owners (Kispiox)</li> <li>• Allocate rod-days by the day or week</li> <li>• Reduce guiding effort</li> <li>• Kitsequecla and</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of guiding needs to be addressed to deal with people who drive anglers to river and point out the good spots</li> <li>• Guides have problem that they cannot take clients out on non-classified waters if they do not possess a CW licence on those waters</li> </ul>

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
<p>made to feel unwelcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some guides and BC resident anglers have an over-established sense of entitlement</li> <li>• Telkwa and Smithers Bridge very crowded</li> <li>• Illegal guide stays in lodge on Bulkley</li> <li>• Too many pontoon boats being rented by lodge on Bulkley</li> <li>• Non-resident camping on lower Zymoetz</li> <li>• As southern steelhead rivers are depleted, more anglers will come north</li> <li>• Need guaranteed funding for QWS</li> <li>• May “fix” one river and cause problem in another</li> </ul>	<p>Kitwanga were classified so that they would be non-guided — they should stay that way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skeena: Launch fee for jet boats or ban them; no more than three days camping in one spot; government-managed boat launches; guided non-residents</li> <li>• Kispiox: limit number of fishing days for non-residents</li> <li>• Upper Babine: No “taxi service” guiding</li> <li>• Bulkley: non-residents guided; limit to one week</li> <li>• Need economic study on impact of steelhead angling</li> <li>• Conduct more angler surveys</li> <li>• Stop single ticket/single water regulation to allow anglers more mobility</li> <li>• Lottery and daily cap</li> </ul>			

Problems	Solutions	Information	Process Concerns	Other Issues
	<p>on Kispiox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRCs should not pay as much as NRAs</li> <li>• Limit rod-days on rivers that are easily accessible to residents</li> <li>• Reduce rod-days on lower Zymoetz</li> <li>• Make Skeena above Terrace classified</li> <li>• Determine carrying capacity and then allocate angler-days to the different angler groups by some sort of percentage with an overall cap</li> </ul>			

## Appendix H. Media Monitoring

January 2008

Interior News

Letter to the editor

*owners in the Bulkley, Morice and Kispiox Valleys.*

Where have all the Steelhead gone? We've been travelling to Northwest B.C. for 10 years for the early run of steelhead in the Kispiox, Bulkley and Morice Rivers. In the last five years, the numbers of steelhead available in these drainages has been steadily declining.

The preponderance of evidence points to lack of proper management from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

Essentially, over-netting at the mouth of the Skeena - along with failure to enforce safeguards already in place to protect steelhead and non-target salmon species (however questionable) is the main culprit. The DFO appears to be playing favourites with the commercial fishery and its hatchery-raised sockeye at the expense of wild fish populations.

Neither economics nor tradition should be allowed to decimate essential elements in any ecosystem — it jeopardizes the soundness of the whole.

When we visit B.C., our dollars — several thousand of them — are spread widely. In the past, letters written to the DFO and Dept. of Tourism have fallen on deaf ears, leaving the only voice of protest we have left — our wallet.

Sadly, we won't be back until serious measures are undertaken to mitigate the devastation misguided policies are causing. These so-called "classified waters" aren't so classy anymore!

**Will return only  
when salmon do**

**Editor:**

*An open letter to concerned citizens and business*

**Sandy and Victor Colvard  
Emery, South Dakota**

## **February 1, 2008**

### **Valley Vision Website**

Plans in Progress

Quality Waters Strategy Needs Input

The BC Ministry of Environment is implementing a Quality Waters Strategy in the Skeena River watershed.

The Strategy is a community engagement process, utilizing input from provincial, regional and local recreational angling sectors to identify waters of concern that require new or revised regulations. The Quality Waters Strategy is a response to persistent steelhead angler-use issues — crowding, illegal guiding, etc. — and a degraded quality of angling experience.

An Open House (5:00 – 7:00 PM) and a Public Meeting (7:00 – 9:00 PM) is scheduled for each of the following locations in the Bulkley Valley.

- \* Houston Senior's Centre Monday Feb. 25, 2008
- \* Smithers Hudson Bay Lodge Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008
- \* Hazelton Kispiox Valley Hall Wednesday, Feb 27, 2008

Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert sessions are also scheduled for following three days.

The community engagement process will take almost a year to complete and will result in Angling Management Plans (AMPs). AMPs will define management strategies to improve angling experience. Stakeholder-based Working Groups will help develop the AMPs and may also recommend revisions to sport fishing regulations on the Skeena. The AMPs do not address steelhead populations and conservation issues.

The facilitator for the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy is Alan Dolan, 250-478-8056

For more information, go to the Ministry of Environment's Skeena Quality Waters Strategy website.

More info? Should Valley Vision include angling plans?

## **February 20, 2008**

### **Smithers Interior News**

Province resets anglers' plan - By Quinn Bender

Photo Caption: The province is calling for wide public input to end issues of overcrowding on regional river systems.

The Ministry of Environment is promising anglers swift improvements to the overcrowded Skeena River system, upon they complete an improved management plan. However their failure to implement change after 10 years of adopting the original plan has left several stakeholders questioning their sincerity.

“What they’re trying to do today is reinvent what we already did back in ‘98. But instead of calling it an Angling Use Plan, they’re calling it an Angling Management Plan . . . there’s been nothing done of any consequence,” said Mike O’Neill, manager of the Toboggan Creek Hatchery and member of the 1998 Bulkley River planning committee.

“There’s a real long history with non-guided, non-resident anglers crowding the locals off the river. The problem is now, they’ve disappeared, they virtually don’t fish anymore. It’s one of the most frustrating things to watch bureaucrats do nothing for all these years.”

The Angling Management Strategy is a guide that determines who can fish and how often. It’s the Ministry’s response to issues of over crowded sport fishing destinations, “first and foremost” on the Skeena River and its tributaries. The system aims to cap the number of rod-days available to angling guides in B.C.’s world-class fishing destinations.

The Ministry is lauding the new management process for addressing the whole of the Skeena watershed, rather than limiting their impact and scope on just individual rivers, as in the 1998 plan.

Several public hearings for the new plan have been announced throughout the Northwest.

Dana Atagi, head of fish and wildlife for the Ministry of Environment, said he appreciates frustrations over the abandonment of the original plan, but for the process to succeed this time around, he’s counting on continued public involvement.

“We have a clearly defined tool-kit available to the planning table. It’s much more rigorously defined [now],” said Atagi.

“It was pretty loosey-goosey back in [1998].”

The 1998 plan recommended capping rod days to 68 per cent for B.C. residents, six per cent for out-of-province Canadian anglers, and 26 per cent for foreigners. The numbers allowed for Bulkley River guides to expand their businesses with 1,500 rod days available.

The plan also recommended non-guided, non-Canadian anglers be excluded from fishing the Bulkley River on weekends.

During the last four weeks, the ministry held informal meetings with stakeholders to identify today’s broad concerns, but whether any of the 1998 recommendations were put forth, Sharon Robertson, chair of the regional committee, would not say.

“I think once we get into the Public Meetings and Open Houses that are coming up [this] week, that’s when we’ll start hearing some more specifics.

“We’ve been hearing a lot of excitement about the process and that it’s finally getting off the ground.”

She added the management-plan process is much more inclusive of community stakeholders.

Following more public consultations in late 2008, the Ministry will seek approval of the new regulation changes in the fall of 2009, for implementation in 2010.

For more information visit <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/>

## Public forums

On each of the dates listed an Open House is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m., and Public Meeting from 7 to 9 p.m.

Feb 25: Houston Seniors' Centre.

Feb 26: Smithers Hudson Bay Lodge.

Feb 27: Hazelton Kispiox Valley Hall.

## **February 22, 2008 Northern Connector**

Quality angling is goal behind new policy - Malcolm Baxter

The quality of the angling experience was the driving force behind the introduction of the Classified Waters system on Skeena watershed streams in 1990.

And that same concept is involved with the Quality Waters Strategy (QWS).

Dana Atagi, head of the Environment ministry's Fish and Wildlife section, explained that in the late 1980s, a series of strong returns meant the guided steelhead fishery expanded at a much faster rate than had ever been seen.

"Uncontrolled growth in that sector caused issues and concerns for resident anglers and for the guides themselves," he pointed out.

Classified Waters introduced rod-day limits for guides operating on the Skeena system which in turn controlled the number of anglers fishing those rivers.

Atagi said the QWS is more encompassing in that it will look at the "general phenomena of crowding" and try to reduce that while recognizing resident priority access.

And, he admitted, one of the key questions to be answered by them is exactly what constitutes overcrowding because what one person sees as overcrowding, another doesn't.

Atagi said the idea was to get as much feedback as possible so that they can get a general feeling on such issues.

Sharon Robertson, chairman of the QWS regional committee, echoed that, saying the process was designed to find out what people thought of their experiences on the river and how it could be improved.

"That's how the details of the plan will come forward,' she said.

The ministry's information package outlines a number of steps that could be taken including setting a number of angler days for specific rivers, placing limits on locations for angling, placing restrictions on licences and setting "appropriate" conservation charges.

However, Atagi emphasized, "We're not presupposing any outcomes here. We're letting the (Working Groups) do that for us."



He explained past experience had shown that if the ministry did not define the options available at the outset of such a process, the Working Groups could come up with ideas that were difficult for Fish and Wildlife to implement.

So what the groups were being given was a “tool Kit” of what was possible.

The first step in the process begins next week with a series of Open Houses and Public Meetings across the region.

The Terrace meeting takes place next Thursday, February 28, at the Coast Inn of the West with the Open House running 5-7 p.m. and the Public Meeting 7-9 p.m.

Kitimat’s session is the following day at Riverlodge (same times) while the Prince Rupert Open House is noon on Saturday, March 1 at the Highliner Plaza to be followed by the Public Meeting at 2 p.m.

Those meetings will also serve as the beginning of the recruitment drive for members of the Working Group.

QWS biologist Paddy Hirshfield said people can be nominated to serve on the group by another or nominate themselves.

All applications will be reviewed by the regional committee which will be looking for “a good understanding of the local fishery and a fairly holistic outlook on maintaining or improving the angling experience.”

Robertson hoped there would be a lot of interest to ensure knowledgeable people were involved in the process.

The proposed schedule would see the Working Groups create a draft angling management plan by the end of the Summer.

Through the Fall those drafts would be reviewed with selected interest groups and through another round of Public Meetings.

The goal is to have the new plan in place for the 2010/2011 fishing season.

## **Tuesday February 26, 2008 18:19**

### **CFTK Website**

Local News  
Angling Consultations

A handful of people gathered in Houston last night for the first of six public information sessions regarding a proposed new Angling Management Plan.

The Ministry of Environment is attempting to address a region-wide issue of overcrowding on the rivers, the level of activity for guides, and gathering public input to develop solutions.

It's hoped that this summer will see the development of a draft plan, and if everything goes positively, regulation changes by the 2010 season:

The public will have an opportunity to learn about and discuss the Angling Management plan in Smithers tonight (Tuesday), Hazelton on Wednesday, Terrace on Thursday, Kitimat on Friday and in Prince Rupert on Saturday afternoon.

## **February 26, 2008, 6:00 and 11:00 pm CFTK-Television**

Evening news coverage on Public Meetings including footage of Houston, interviews with Dana Atagi and Paddy Hirshfield.

Reporter: Karin Koppitz

## **February 26, 2008 CFTK-Radio**

Radio newscasts throughout the day (two versions) based on Karin Koppitz television story.

## **February 27, 2008 Terrace Standard**

SKEENA ANGLER - Rob Brown

Quality water finale

Back in the day – a golden age some would say – steelhead management consisted of setting daily and yearly bag limits and letting fishers fly at ‘er, which they did with a vengeance.

When the managers of fish and game, almost all of whom were fishers and hunters themselves, started to suspect that these limits might be undermining the conservation of the species, they instituted things like punch cards.

While this tool limited the kill to a degree, steelheaders, for the most part, took the little cards as a measure of angling competence and scrambled over each other to attain what they saw as their quota.

Faced with the realization that managing steelheaders was only slightly less difficult than training marmots to leap through flaming hoops, some wildlife managers bought into the notion that the solution was to create more fish to kill.

Those managers convinced their peers of the correctness of this fallacy, and the Age of Enhancement began in earnest. Hatcheries were an elegant solution argued their proponents. John Q. Angler would have more fish to bonk.

Fishing fleets could continue mining the seas. Land developers, industrial interests, and farmers could continue alienating valuable wild fish habitat as the hatcheries pumped out steelies. Everyone would be happy.

Unfortunately the hatchery technofix overlooked some fundamental biology with the inevitable result that the artificial propagation of steelhead did as much or more to undermine the health of wild stocks as the other forces of destruction.

Fortunately, our provincial wildlife managers were not seduced by the quick fix offered by artificial enhancement.

They continued to manage people with the use of the such unpopular but sound strategies as restricting access to sensitive river habitat, seasonal closures, no kill restrictions, as well as gear restrictions and bait bans.

The Quality Waters Initiative is the latest attempt to preserve first class steelhead fishing on what are still the finest steelheading rivers on the globe.

Nobody can accuse the Ministry of the Environment of being autocratic in a stakeholder process that has lasted for the better part of a decade. Now the Ministry is down to the short strokes with the final round of Public Meetings.

In these sessions, the Ministry will answer any questions about the process to date as well as solicit public concerns about the Babine, Bulkley, Kispiox, Kitseguecla, Kitsumkalum, Kitwanga, Lakelse, Morice, Zymoetz, Suskwa, and Skeena Rivers.

This will then be forwarded to Working Groups made up of local stakeholders who, in a series of meetings from April to August of this year, are to come up with draft angling management plans for these rivers.

From September to November the drafts will be presented to the public in a series of meetings for review and further input. The results of this phase will then be considered by the final Working Group meetings when the final drafts will be prepared.

In the Spring of 2009 the regional and provincial committees will review and comment on the work to date, the results will then go to the Ministry and by the Olympic year the proposals will be implemented.

The Angling Use Management Plans will set the number of angler days for specific rivers as well as set the number of guided rod-days for each stream.

Where it is deemed appropriate, they will place limits on angling locations and restrictions of licenses. They will also classify or reclassify steelhead waters and, quite possibly, level conservation surcharges.

Should non-resident anglers be required to have guides? Should our rivers be managed on the basis of daily rod day quotas along the line of the Economic Control Zones, or ZECs, presently in force on some of Quebec's blue ribbon salmon streams? Should sections of rivers be off limits to all but resident anglers? Should guiding be forbidden on weekends to increase opportunities for resident anglers?

These are only a few of the questions that have been asked during some of the meetings in this process to date.

This initiative will alter steelhead fishing in this province profoundly and for a long time.

If you have an opinion on how the final phase should unfold or about the process in general, make your way to the Coast Inn of the West in Terrace for an Open House from 5 to 7 and a Public Meeting from 7

to 9 on Thursday the 28th of this month or to the River Lodge in Kitimat on Friday the 29th at the same times.

**February 29, 2008, 6:00 and 11:00 pm  
CFTK-Television**

Evening news coverage on Public Meetings including footage of Terrace, interviews with Dana Atagi and Paddy Hirshfield.  
Reporter: Navjot Heir

**March 5, 2008  
Houston Today [(appeared in Interior News with title Economy Could be  
Devastated (their spelling error) ]**

Angling plan devastating - Kathy Larson

The Quality Waters Strategy has the potential to devastate the tourism economy across the Skeena Watershed. The meetings have been held basically in secret for the past two years by a select group of fishing guides and resident anglers who have decided amongst themselves that our rivers are overcrowded.

The Ministry of Environment's own data do not support these assumptions. Province wide angler use has been dropping substantially for many years and 2006 numbers were the lowest ever recorded, 18 per cent lower than the previous low in 1981 and 62 per cent down from the high of 1969-70.

The numbers for 2007, which was even worse than 2006, are not yet available. There is a huge segment of the community that will be very adversely affected if some of the proposals in the "toolbox" that this committee has come up with are implemented.

These people are being excluded from the conversation. We were told at the public hearings that in order to be accepted as part of the Working Group in each community one must have knowledge of the rivers and the angling issues.

What about the tourism business owners who do not fish but stand to lose up to 40 per cent of their business if some of these recommendations are implemented?

In Smithers September is a bigger retail month than December for many businesses because of the influx of steelhead fishermen.

The common theme from those attending the public hearings was that we need more fish and more enforcement, yet the committee will not talk about the drastically dropping numbers of fish and the Ministry representative would not commit to more enforcement.

Why are we spending \$250,000 per year on dreaming up new regulations that could harm the business community along the Skeena when we have, apparently, no money available to enforce the regulations we already have.

## **March 5, 2008**

### **Smithers Interior News**

Public concerned about Skeena health - Shannon Hurst -

[photo]

Caption: The Ministry of Environment is attempting to address the issue of angler overcrowding with the forming of the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy Team.

The first round of Public Meetings that will decide the number of allowable anglers in the Skeena River system wrapped up in the Bulkley Valley last week.

The Ministry of Environment's Skeena Quality Waters Strategy team held the forums in Smithers and Hazelton to address issues of angler overcrowding in relation to declining stocks of steelhead salmon.

In both municipalities the accommodation and tourism sector were first to announce their concerns.

In Smithers, Dave Mackenzie, president of the Smithers Chamber of Commerce, felt the interests of the business community were politely listened to, but essentially overshadowed as the topic settled on the interests of angling guides.

"[Tourism] is a big part of the economy in Smithers. It's bigger than Christmas. I'm afraid that the committee will get wrapped up with tunnel vision... and fail to see the whole picture."

Dana Atagi, MOE section head for Fish and Wildlife, Science and Allocation, assured the public the decision-making process of developing rivers strategy will be transparent.

"Everyone will get to see quite clearly what the impacts will be on everyone, he said. "I know you want a direct seat, but you're not going to get a closed door either."

That didn't sit well with Kispiox bed and breakfast owner Kathy Larson. She heard a similar promise at the Hazelton meeting, but is disappointed only guides and resident anglers will have a seat on her local Working Group.

"The guided fisherman don't spend the money in town, they go straight to the lodges and stay there. It's the non-guided fisherman that fish for a few hours, have lunch do a little shopping around town and those are the people that this group is trying to alienate."

The Working Group is designed to draw up a draft of what the quality fishing experience should look like, and then bring it back to the public and businesses for a chance to review and change it."

A 2005 IBM Business Consulting report estimated the Skeena wild salmon resource contributes \$110 million annually to the regional economy.

A resident angler at the Smithers meeting expressed his agreement with the Ministry's terms of reference in the strategy, in which the government cites the interests of resident anglers as the priority group. He called the current state of the river system a "zoo."

It's appalling out there. It's all turned into a buck."

In both Smithers and Hazelton ministry officials tried to quell public concern that fish stocks, not anglers, should be the government's top priority.

"The decline in angling is a wide variety of things and declining fish numbers are only a part of it," he said.

"People have to be careful and look at the numbers over a long period of time. It is important to look forward and be aware that if we are successful in getting more fish back in the river than we need a plan in place to sustain a quality angling experience to keep people coming back," said Fisheries Biologist Jeff Lough.

Lough also stated that the concern of a lack of enforcement of the existing regulations is part of the issues being addressed at this time.

Working groups for rivers including the Babine, Bulkley and Kispiox will develop draft Angling Management Plans over the summer. In September the second round of Public Meetings will begin.

The ministry hopes to implement the plans for the 2010 season.

With files from Quinn Bender

## **March 5, 2008 Houston Today**

Skeena Strategy team addresses angling concerns

The Skeena Quality Waters Strategy team met in Houston last week in an attempt to address the community's concerns.

Minister of Environment representative Dana Atagi and Paddy Hirshfield who is the Quality Waters Biologist were not available to comment on the concerns but Fisheries Biologist Jeff Lough said people should not be concerned about being left out as this process is still in the early stages and that the local committees will be well balanced.

"They are looking for people who have a balanced view and not fighting to support their own needs," Lough said, adding he, "feels confident that they can come up with a good working draft."

Lough said everyone involved is aware of the importance of the non-resident, non-guided anglers.

"The resident's concern that non-guided anglers play a huge role in supporting local businesses and hotels is totally understandable," he said. "We do know how much people spend but the Ministry recognizes that non-resident, non-guided anglers are a big contributor to the economy in the Northwest. It will be a part of the Working Group to determine the needs and the impact of the businesses of the Northwest and to make sure they are being accounted for. I can understand why business owners are feeling cut out of the process but over time they will be more involved."

"The Working Group is designed to drop up a draft of what the quality fishing experience should look like and then they will bring it back to the public and businesses and they will have a chance to review and change the draft plan. It is important to include them (business sector) in each stage of this process. I

believe their voice will make a difference because there is no predetermined outcome and we will be expecting these Working Groups to be working with the business owners to find out what their needs are.”

Lough also tried to address residents concern that some of the bigger problems like the lack of fish, the inability to enforce existing bylaws and the fact that recent statistics prove that non resident angling has been on the decline for several years. “The decline in angling is a wide variety of things and declining fish numbers are only a part of it,” he said. “People have to be careful and look at the numbers over a long period of time. It is important to look forward and be aware that if we are successful in getting more fish back in the river than we need a plan in place to sustain a quality angling experience to keep people coming back.”

Lough also stated that the concern of a lack of enforcement of the existing regulations is part of the issues being addressed at this time.

The Ministry of Environment has all of the information and statistics on their website and Lough said that anyone with concerns should contact them.

## **March 5, 2008**

### **Smithers Interior News**

So what’s the catch? - Quinn Bender

The new phone book landed on my doorstep last week with an ironic thud. Glaring up from the cover was the idyllic scene of a lone angler on the languid, sun-soaked waters of Dennis Lake.

I noticed the striking and empty wilderness. The absence of any other anglers threatening to crowd this sportsman from his favoured fishing hole, also stood out. The emptiness of the wilderness led me to think this was an image of the Skeena. That steelhead, not trout, was the object of this man’s quest.

I had to turn to the inside flap to read the truth.

It’s a fitting comment to the future of our world-class reputation for fly fishing. By the time this phone book lives out its one-year life span the Quality Waters Committee (QWC) will be making its second round of public forums to determine the fate of the region’s steelhead season. And as it does, the only likely place left for fish in the Northwest will be in the lakes.

Not necessarily because of a potential QWC recommendation to cap the number of steelhead anglers in favour of residents and guided foreigners “to the detriment of the \$100 million sportsman tourism industry” but because the Ministry of Environment has done nothing to address an ecological crisis ushering the extinction of the steelhead angling season all together.

It’s a mind-boggling affair. The fishing is so bad, up to 50 per cent of the anglers have abandoned the Skeena system in the last five years.

The ministry’s response is to send out a posse of field marshals to determine the best course for reducing that number further. Yes, it makes sense to balance the human impact of the river ecosystems, but where’s the balanced strategy to actually revive the steelhead population?

For that matter, what is the steelhead population? I don't know, but I can certainly tell you about the anglers' population in the Skeena watershed.

On the Kispiox, for example, in the fall of 2005, 645 anglers spent 2,803 days catching 2,108 wild steelhead salmon. They kept just 107. In other words, they released 95 per cent of their catch.

The number of anglers had already dropped by 32 per cent in three short years. The number of fish caught was cut in half, and so were the number of days anglers spent on the river.

All of the ministry's own data points to responsible that is, conservative behaviour among anglers, yet their first reaction to depleted fish stocks is to send the fishermen further up the creek.

There's little wonder why the tourism industry is crying conspiracy, fearing the QWC will lock down the rivers for guides and residents alone. The priority for angler overcrowding above the plagued steelhead doesn't make any sense.

Last week there was a flicker of hope.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation announced it had received the endorsement from the Province and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to set up an independent scientific review panel to examine the long-term sustainability of the Skeena watershed's wild salmon industry.

The good news is, it's a privately funded study. The downside is the private sector is acting at a time when the Ministry of Environment should have acted long ago

## **March 19, 2008**

### **Smithers Interior News**

Steelhead study underway - Quinn Bender

The ecological state of the Skeena watershed, and the cause behind its plummeting steelhead stocks, could be known as early as May.

An independent scientific review panel, managed by the Pacific Salmon Foundation, held a Public Meeting earlier this month that convinced the scientists to expedite their federally and provincially sanctioned investigation.

A primary question of the study will be whether federal and provincial stock assessment and management strategies are adequate for implementing the Wild Salmon Policy, a 2005 federal blueprint for protecting weaker stocks, like steelhead.

The panel will also perform a head-count of the wild salmon populations and, ideally, determine whether new influences are driving their numbers down, or if the decline is part of a natural and documented fluctuation cycle.

Sharply declining stocks prompted the provincial Ministry of the Environment to set up its own committee of anglers and guides to develop a Quality Waters Strategy that will keep the number of sports fishermen in balance with the steelhead catch. Their first-draft conclusion is expected in 2009.



This May the scientific review panel will make its report publicly available, and either endorse this and other government management strategies or recommend changes.

Panel member, Prof. John Reynolds, Simon Fraser University's Tom Buell BC Leadership Chair in Salmon Conservation, said the ISRP's Northwest visit provided new information that convinced the panel of four scientists to set the May deadline.

"I've seen reviews drag on for years, but there's a concern that we heard from people that there are some really pressing issues that they would like to see resolved sooner rather than later. Basically, we're getting on with it," said Reynolds.

"We [also] heard of some developments that are planned in the watershed that we didn't know about — like oil and gas activities that could easily impact salmon and their habitat."

The report will spell out what trade-offs are necessary to protect one use of the Skeena salmon resource over another, and provide a stable base for sustainable resource management that involves First Nations, recreational and commercial fishing groups. In addition, the scientists will examine possible effects of climate change on salmon assessments and management planning.

"This is the first time, that I know of, that the feds and the province together have agreed to this kind of independent review of their activities," said Reynolds.

## **March 19, 2008**

### **Smithers Interior News**

#### **Guest Editorial**

#### **Loss of a paying fisherman**

The Skeena Regional Water Quality Strategy (SRWQ) meetings will impact all Skeena tourist businesses. Revenues will drop if some of their proposals go through.

I have worked as a Fishery Biologist for the State of California, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and private industry. I took my B.S. and M.S. in Fisheries at Humboldt State, and my PhD in Fisheries at the University of Washington.

I fished the Kispiox River in 1960, when I took First Place in the Fly Division in the Field & Stream Fishing Contest. I returned in 1962 and 1964. In 1978, I returned to B.C. for a month or more each year, fishing the Kispiox, Morice, Bulkley, Babine, Zymoetz and the Dean. I fell in love with British Columbia, its people, wildlife, scenery and the fishery.

I have talked with many biologists in B.C. Fish and Wildlife and in Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Many were very concerned about the commercial fishery causing near-extirpation of entire races of steelhead in the Skeena, Dean and Thompson Rivers.

In 1986, the commercial fishery killed 12,289 steelhead in the Dean and Bella Coola channels, while the Dean sport fishery caught 4,767 fish, with only 353 killed. In some years, the commercial fishery took 80 per cent or more of the total Dean River run.

I have seen the August steelhead runs in the Morice River go from a superlative fishery in the 1960s to a complete failure by the 1980s. Karl Mausser of Burlingame told me about the devastation of his favourite August fishery on the Morice. His fishing went from over 100 fish landed for the month down to less than a half-dozen.

Some people in the Skeena Quality Waters group want to restrict numbers of non-resident aliens to a specified number of days on any one water to “save the river” for B.C. residents. They cite the increase in non-resident use of the rivers compared to the decrease in use by B.C. residents.

The “increase” in non-residents in the 1990s took place because B.C. Fish and Wildlife wisely declared catch and release (C&R) for steelhead. Many resident B.C. “anglers” voiced their opposition to C&R by not fishing for steelhead if they could not kill them. The percentage of B.C. anglers on the Bulkley River went from 81.5 per cent in the 1980s [pre-C&R] to 66.5 per cent in the early 1990s, and to 49.2 per cent in 1997. The number of rod days on the Bulkley declined from 10,698 in the 1980s [pre-C&R] to 6,213 rod days in the 1990s [C&R]. For 2002 to 2005, rod days on Bulkley declined 34.6 per cent; on Morice, 51.6 per cent; and on Kispiox, 33 per cent.

I drive from California to B.C. every year. I stay in motels, lodges or cabins in B.C. for a month or more, and eat at local restaurants. My costs in B.C. are about \$6,000 for food and lodging, plus car expenses. I have seen many businesses close in the last 10 years because of the poor quality of the fishery.

If I were restricted to only eight days fishing on the Kispiox, plus eight days on other rivers like the Bulkley or Zymoetz, I would not come to B.C. I would steelhead fish elsewhere.

I hope it never comes to this.  
Dr James R. Adams

**March 19, 2008**

**Houston Today (Smithers Interior News – title: Quality Waters Strategy Misguided)**

Letters to the Editor

Seeing the forest for the trees

An open letter to B.C. Steelheaders:

As a longtime British Columbia steelheader and U.S. citizen, I am disturbed by the Ministry of Environment’s recent move to consider a reduction in fishing days available to non-resident anglers. I also realize that this letter may be seen as a self-serving attempt to maintain my personal fishing options, but please accept my word that this is not the case. I actually wish selfish motives were my only concern.

But this so-called “Quality Waters Strategy,” should it result in limiting non-resident angler days, is misguided and potentially disastrous to the very object of our collective interest: quality waters.

I am assuming you would agree with me that, from a steelhead fishing standpoint, “Quality Waters” must contain steelhead.

As I write this, there is a vast array of resource extraction industries with their eyes set and mouths watering over the prospects of the Skeena watershed. From overfishing weak stocks of Skeena salmon (including steelhead) and open-water fish farms to coalbed methane extraction and oil and gas pipelines, etc., the very existence of Skeena steelhead in the near future is highly questionable.

The only reasonable chance you (and we) have of protecting these fish is to maintain a large and loud voice advocating for wild salmon and steelhead. Restricting non-resident anglers, many of whom have a lifelong love for the Skeena, would significantly diminish our chances for success.

I would also point out that a majority of the financial support for salmon and steelhead conservation efforts on the Skeena to date has come from these same non-resident anglers.

Now, please don't get me wrong. I have witnessed, lamented and in some cases, contributed to the crowding you are experiencing on the Bulkley, Kispiox and other rivers. As a former Alaskan guide, I am especially sympathetic to those of you trying to make a living on the river and support efforts to fix illegal guiding issues immediately. As for the crowds, were the situation reversed, I'm sure I would feel the same way you do, and I certainly understand how a day or a season can be diminished by the presence of other anglers.

However, as someone who is also active in steelhead conservation both in B.C. and here in Washington State, my experience is that a reduction in sport angling "stakeholders" would be a clear victory for resource extraction industries.

With that in mind, I ask you to see the forest through the trees and understand that we, your angling brethren, though not born of the Skeena, may be the strongest ally you have in the battle to preserve what we all love.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dylan Tomine  
Washington State

(Also published in Terrace Standard on April 2, 2008 under the title, "Anglers from everywhere have to band together"

## Appendix I. Print and presentation materials

### Tool box fact sheet

### Summary: Angling Management Plan Tool Box

The tool box is intended to provide the Angling Management Plan Working Group with **regulatory tools** that address angler-use issues such as crowding.

The over-arching principle in applying any tools from the tool box is to select the **least intrusive tool** that equates to the smallest intervention required to solve an identified angler-use issue.

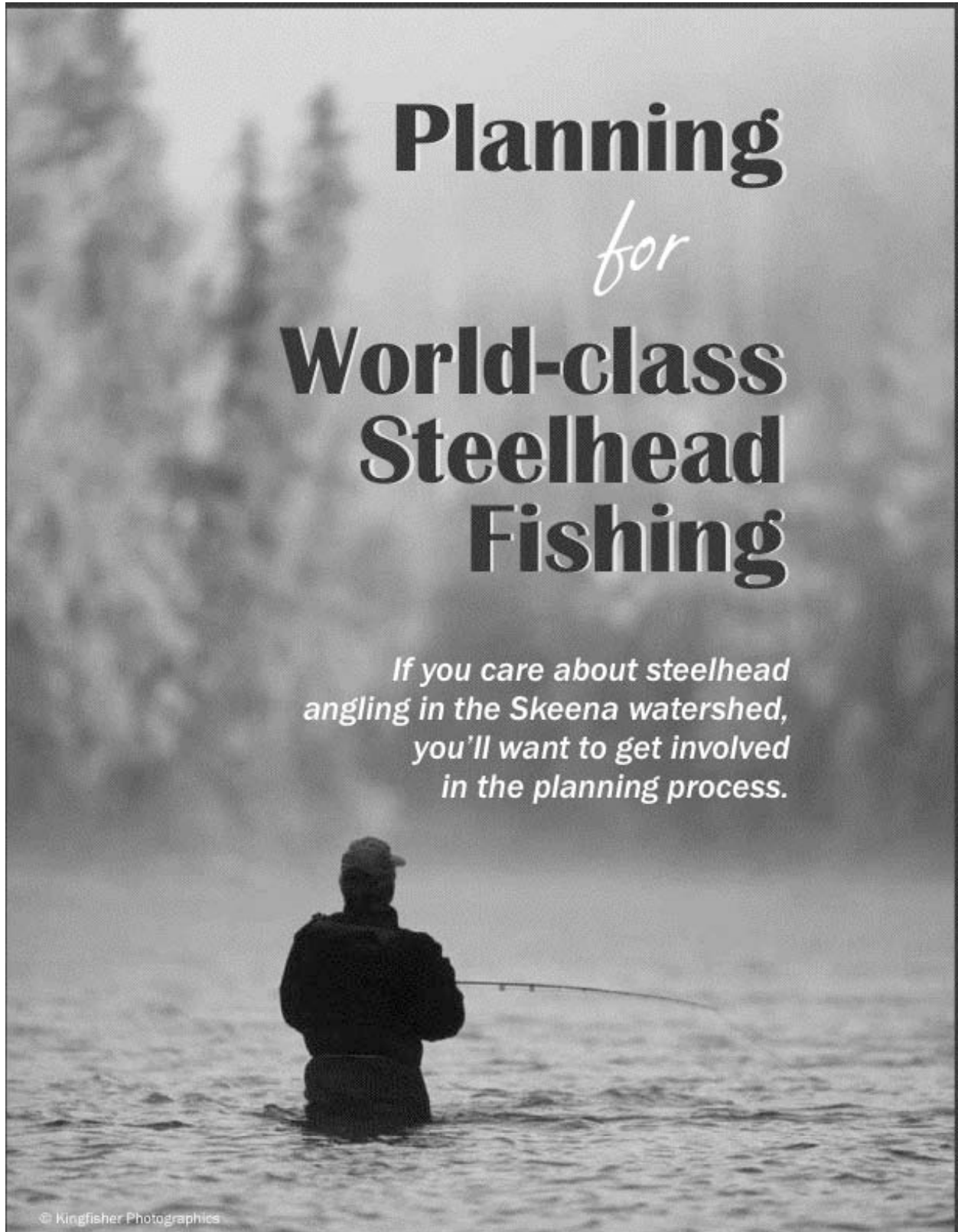
The tools chosen must respect **resident angler priority** on the water, and at the same time they must respect the **business interests of angling guides** and the **local economy**.

#### Tool Box\*

Type of Tool	Tool	Description
Water Designation	Classify Water	Designating a body of water as either Class I or Class II under <i>the Wildlife Act</i> . Duration of the classified period may be extended or shortened. Waters are classified to address angler crowding, expansion of guiding, growth of illegal guiding, and need to establish management criteria for guided angling.
	Conservation Surcharges	Levying a water-specific fee against all anglers wishing to participate in a fishery (the “steelhead stamp” is a province-wide conservation surcharge and cannot be revisited as part of the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy).
Angler-Use Regulations	Limiting non-resident and non-resident alien (non-Canadian) licences	Limiting number of fixed-day, classified water licences for a non-resident or non-resident alien angler.
	Lottery	Allocating a limited number of angler-days to non-guided, non-residents or non-guided, non resident alien applicants by chance.

Type of Tool	Tool	Description
	<b>Area “zoning”</b>	Identifying specific times and waters where anglers must possess a certain class of licence to fish. Zoning by residency is possible.
	<b>Licence-Class Restrictions</b>	The current licensing system requires classified waters licences for non-resident and non-resident aliens to be date- and water-specific. Hence, it is possible to create a “resident-only” fishery on a classified water.
	<b>Mandatory Guiding for Non-residents</b>	Making the use of a guide mandatory for all non-residents and/or non-resident aliens for a specified zone on a classified water.
<b>Angler-Access Regulations</b>	<b>No Angling from Power Boats</b>	Not allowing anglers to fish from a power boat on certain waters, but anglers may be transported by power boats.
	<b>No Angling from Boats</b>	Allowing anglers to use a boat or other floating device for transportation but not for fishing in certain waters.
<b>Guide Use Regulations</b>	<b>Client and Assistant Guides Restrictions</b>	Limiting guides on a specific classified water during a specified time period to a maximum number of assistant guides, and a maximum number of clients per guide or per assistant guide
	<b>Limited Guide Authorizations</b>	Placing a cap on the number of guides authorized to operate on a classified water.
	<b>Rod Day Quotas</b>	Allocating a fixed number of days on a classified water during a specified time period.
	<b>No Guiding</b>	Excluding guides from operating on a classified water completely, or for a designated time period.

\*Adapted from the *Quality Waters Strategy Resource Document 2005*.



## **A Co-operative Approach to Recreational Fisheries Management**

Rivers in the Skeena watershed have long been treasured, by residents and visitors alike, for excellent steelhead fishing. But sport anglers increasingly report that their angling experience is being compromised by crowding.

To solve this problem and improve steelhead angling on the Skeena River system, we need to work together – and plan how best to use this resource. That's why the B.C. Ministry of Environment is about to initiate an important community dialogue.

Read this brochure to learn:

- What the Quality Waters Strategy is
- What Angling Management Plans are
- How you can participate

## *Background:*

### **Why Manage Steelhead Fishing at all?**

Wild steelhead, a silvery, ocean-going species of trout that returns to fresh water to spawn, has always been important to the Skeena watershed. Over the past half-century, its popularity has soared among sport anglers, who revere its chart-topping size, abundance and ability to put up a great fight. As popular books and media reports continue to affirm its reputation, the species has become internationally renowned among anglers.

Today, the Skeena watershed's unrivalled steelhead angling draws residents as well as visitors, supports numerous guiding businesses, and benefits many local communities with tourism-related economic activity.

But fame comes with a price.

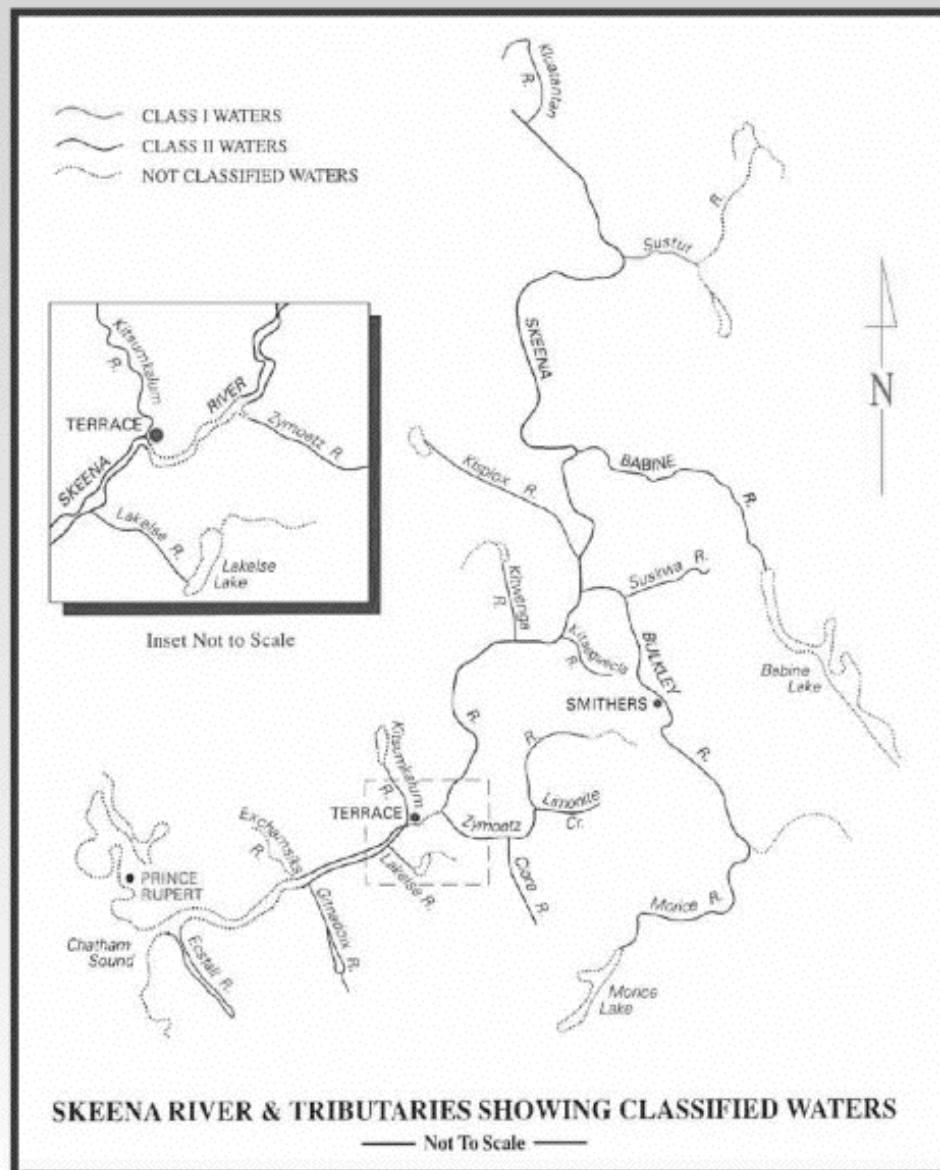


© Kingfisher Photographics

## The Classified Waters Management System

As more anglers seek out legendary Skeena steelhead, many feel their experience of angling is being compromised by angler crowding.

To address this problem, which has been observed at other popular sport-fishing destinations, government introduced a province-wide Classified Waters sport-fishery management system in 1990. The system sought to improve the situation by classifying waters according to the quality of angling experiences they offer, and capping the number of "rod-days" available to angling guides.



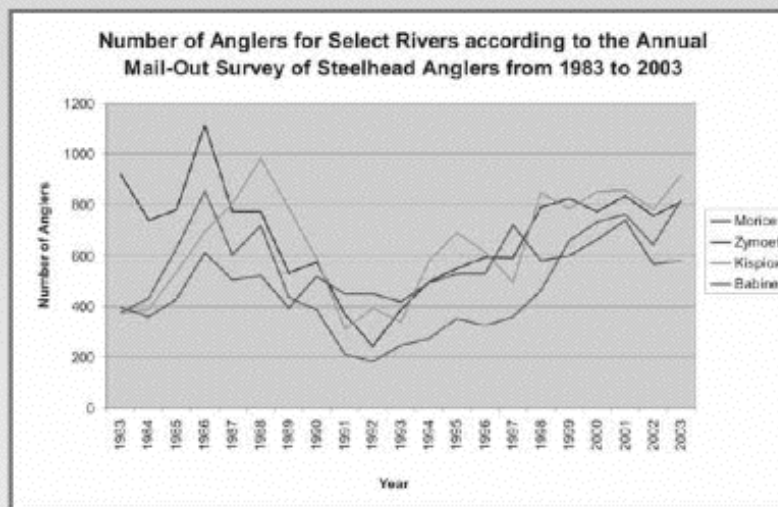


## B.C.'s Quality Waters Strategy

Although angling guide days remain capped at 1990 levels, the effectiveness of the Classified Waters system is declining in the Skeena watershed as the total number of anglers on several rivers continues to rise (see graph, below). Both resident and non-resident anglers say top-notch steelhead fishing experiences are increasingly jeopardized by angler crowding – and that something has to be done.

In 2005, the B.C. government responded. After extensive consultation with anglers, angling guides, and members of the public, it introduced an approach to sport-fishery management that will advance B.C.'s existing Classified Waters system: the **Quality Waters Strategy**.

Like the Classified Waters system, the Quality Waters Strategy aims to maintain and improve the angling experiences offered by B.C.'s waters, by managing angler use. But the Quality Waters Strategy goes further – by mobilizing expertise from the local, regional and provincial levels to create location-specific **Angling Management Plans**.



## What's an Angling Management Plan?

Angling Management Plans are designed through transparent, community-level processes that consider the unique characteristics of each river. They improve angling experiences by addressing crowding. Management strategies available for use include:

- defining a set number of angler-days for a specific river
- defining a set number of guided rod-days for a specific river
- placing limits on locations of angling
- placing restrictions on licences
- classifying waters according to their importance for steelhead angling, and setting appropriate conservation surcharges

Before implementation, Angling Management Plans undergo several reviews by the general public, key stakeholders, regional and provincial Quality Waters Strategy Committees, and the B.C. Ministry of Environment. Their long-term effectiveness is monitored by the provincial Quality Waters Strategy Committee.

## Angling Management Plans for the Skeena Watershed

If you'd like to help maintain or improve steelhead angling conditions in the Skeena watershed, read on to learn how the planning process works.

Anglers, guides and Ministry of Environment staff have identified several steelhead-bearing streams in the Skeena watershed, where angler crowding is currently an issue, or likely to become one in the future (see map, on previous page). These waters include:

Babine	Morice
Bulkley	Skeena IV, upstream of Kitwanga
Kispiox	Skeena IV, downstream of Kitwanga
Kitsequecla	Suskuwa
Kitsumkalum	Zymoetz section I
Kitwanga	Zymoetz section II
Lakelse	

As in other regions of B.C., Angling Management Plans will be developed by local Working Groups. These Working Groups will be composed of local resident anglers and angling guides. The groups will also consider the interests of others with a stake in

recreational steelhead angling. To be eligible, group members must show:

- knowledge of the waters under discussion
- endorsement by their angling peers
- ability to focus on local-level planning
- agreement with the principles, goals, rules of engagement and timeline for the process

Recruitment for local Working Groups will begin in March 2008.

Over the coming months, Working Group members will follow a well-defined process (see next page for a more detailed process description and timeline). Assisted by an independent facilitator, they'll work with the Ministry of Environment, examining angler-use data from the waters in question and considering input from the stakeholders and public engagement process.

The resulting plans are expected to be implemented in the 2010/2011 licence year.





## Striking a Balance

Local Working Groups will draft Angling Management Plans using the following framework:

### **Vision**

*Steelhead fishing in the Skeena watershed will provide opportunities for a world-class angling experience in balance with the needs of resident anglers, angling guides and local businesses.*

### **Guiding Principles**

Skeena watershed Angling Management Plans must:

- create a desirable angling experience that is regarded as world-class
- maintain a range of angling opportunities
- recognize the economic value of this public resource
- recognize the role of steelhead angling in local business interests
- recognize the priority and interests of BC resident anglers wherever angling opportunities become oversubscribed

### **Scope**

Angling Management Plans will focus on angler use. They will complement, but not duplicate or revisit, work of other government agencies on:

- commercial fishing
- aboriginal fishing rights
- uses of land adjacent to the waters
- conservation goals for steelhead and other species
- mode of transport used to access fishing opportunities
- management of fishing methods (fly versus gear, etc.)

### **Challenges**

Working Group members will face many challenges. Anglers vary widely in their definitions of a high-quality fishing experience, and those definitions are coloured by individual experience and preconceptions about steelhead fishing in the Skeena watershed. Every decision will require careful consideration of implications for angling opportunity, cost and enforcement. Available data\* about angler use will require critical evaluation.

\*To view that data, visit <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/> and download *Skeena Watershed Angling Data Summary*.

## Get Involved!

By supporting this process, you'll be helping to preserve the internationally renowned experience of steelhead fishing in the Skeena watershed. Here's how to participate:

- Get informed: Read *Skeena Watershed Angling Data Summary*.
- Attend public meetings to offer your suggestions and feedback, or visit the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy website.
- Get nominated, or nominate another qualified person, to join an Angling Management Plan Working Group.
- Spread the word about angling use management planning in the Skeena watershed. Circulate this brochure, and direct people to the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy website.

For information, public meeting dates and Working Group nomination forms, visit the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy website:

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/>

or contact :

Ministry of Environment  
PO Box 5000, 3726 Alfred Avenue  
Smithers, B.C. Canada V0J 2N0  
Telephone: (250) 847-7260

Skeena Watershed Angling Management Planning Process and Timeline	
<b>Fall 2007</b>	Research and information preparation
<b>January - March 2008</b>	Public education on Quality Waters Strategy / Skeena Angling Management Plans Phase I Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder meetings</li> <li>• Public meetings to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer questions about process</li> <li>• Solicit public input on waters of concern</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Summarize stakeholder and public input
<b>April - August 2008</b>	Convene Skeena Angling Management Plan Working Groups; create draft Angling Management Plans
<b>September - November 2008</b>	Phase II Community Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene meetings with selected stakeholders to review draft Angling Management Plans</li> <li>• Public meetings to solicit input on drafts</li> </ul> Summarize public and stakeholder input
<b>Early 2009</b>	Final Working Group meetings to refine draft Angling Management Plans
<b>Spring 2009</b>	Prepare and submit final Angling Management Plans to Regional Quality and Provincial Quality Waters Management Committees for review and comment
<b>Spring to September 2009</b>	Submit Angling Management Plans to Ministry of Environment for review; pending Ministry of Environment approval of Angling Management Plans, publish final versions
<b>September 2009</b>	Submit regulation change proposals for implementation in 2010 angling season (2010/2011 licence year)



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**Display materials for Open House / Public Meetings (original in colour, 7 panels, 20" x 30")**

## **Skeena Quality Waters Strategy**



**Welcome!**

**Open House 5 – 7 pm**

**Public Meeting 7-9 pm**

**Look at displays**

**Collect information**

**Ask questions**

**Fill out response form**



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[wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy



### **Planning for World-Class Steelhead Fishing**

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Towards a quality steelhead angling experience

#### **Problem:**

Steelhead angler-use issues on Skeena River system

- Poor quality angling experience
- Crowding
- Illegal guiding
- Bad angler etiquette

#### **Solution:**

Angling Management Plans

- Will recommend revisions to sport fishing regulations for steelhead to address angler-use issues on the Skeena River
- Will not address steelhead populations or conservation issues



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[wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy

### **Community Engagement Timeline**

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[wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)



## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy

### **Regional Management Committee (Regional Committee)**

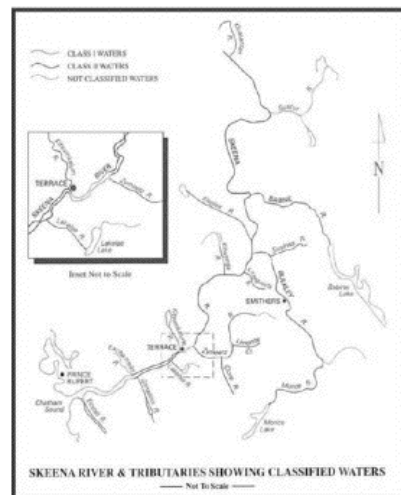
Formed two years ago to implement Quality Waters Strategy in the Skeena River system

Representation from resident angling and guide communities as well as Ministry of Environment

Oversees Angling Management plan process

Committee identified the following priority waters for Angling Management Plans:

Babine  
Bulkley and Morice  
Kalum  
Kispiox  
Kitseguecla  
Kitwanga  
Lakelse  
Skeena IV (downstream from Kitwanga)  
Skeena IV (upstream from Kitwanga)  
Suskwa  
Zymoetz I and I



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[wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy

### **Working Groups**

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#### Develop Angling Management Plans

##### Stakeholder-based

- Four resident angler representatives
- Three representatives from guide community
- One ministry representative
- Independent facilitator

##### Three area-based Working Groups

- Terrace/Kitimat/Prince Rupert
- Hazelton
- Smithers/Houston

Applications available on website and at public meetings

To be eligible, applicants must show:

- Knowledge of waters under discussion
- Endorsement by peers
- Ability to focus on local-level planning
- Agreement with principles, goals, rules of engagement and timeline for process

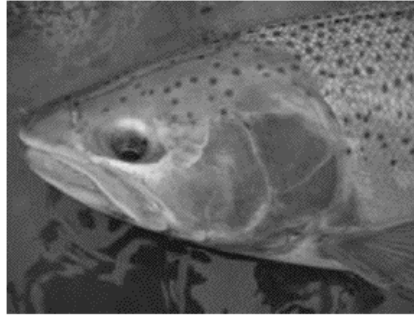
**Deadline for application - March 15, 2008**



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[wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy



### **Angling Management Plans**

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Developed by three Working Groups

- Follow well-defined process
- Assisted by independent facilitator
- Work with Ministry of Environment

Main sources of information

- Angler-use data from waters selected for priority planning
- Input from stakeholder and public engagement process

Regulatory “toolbox” available:

- Define set number of angler-days for specific river
- Define set number of guided rod-days for specific river
- Place limits on location of angling
- Place restrictions on licences
- Classify waters according to importance for steelhead angling



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[www.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)

## Skeena Quality Waters Strategy



### Angling Management Plans

#### **Vision**

Steelhead fishing in Skeena watershed will provide opportunities for a world-class angling experience in balance with the needs of resident anglers, angling guides and local businesses.

#### **Guiding principles**

Skeena watershed Angling Management Plans must

- Create desirable world-class, angling experience
- Maintain range of angling opportunities
- Recognize economic value of public resource
- Recognize role of steelhead angling in local economy
- Recognize priority and interests of BC resident anglers wherever angling opportunities become oversubscribed



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[wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)

## **Public Meeting Presentation** (PowerPoint words only)

### **Skeena Quality Waters Strategy**

- **Community-based process**
- **No plans written**
- **No proposals submitted**

#### ***Opportunities for world-class angling experience in balance with needs of***

- *Resident anglers*
- *Angling guides*
- *Local businesses*

#### **Problem: Steelhead angler-use issues**

##### **Poor quality angling experience**

- Crowding
- Illegal guiding
- Bad angler etiquette

#### **Solution: Angling Management Plans**

- Revisions to sport fishing regulations for steelhead to address angler-use issues
- Do not address steelhead populations or conservation issues

#### **Regional Management Committee**

- Resident anglers / guides / MOE
- Oversees Angling Management Plan process

#### **Priority waters**

Babine

Bulkley and Morice

Kitsumkalum

Kispiox

Kitsequecla

Kitwanga

Lakelse

Skeena IV (below Kitwanga Bridge)

Skeena IV (above Kitwanga Bridge)

Suskwa

Zymoetz I and II

#### **Phase 1 Community Engagement**

Jan - Feb /08                      Informal stakeholder  
   meetings

Feb 25-Mar 1/08                  Public Meetings (6)

#### **Phase 1 Community Engagement**

- How does the quality of angling affect you?

- What are problems?
- What are solutions?

### **Angling Management Plan Working Groups**

- Resident angler and guide representatives
- Knowledge of local waters

### **Angling Management Plan Working Groups**

- Terrace/Kitimat/Prince Rupert
- Hazelton
- Smithers - Houston

### **Angling Management Plan Working Groups**

Applications	Public Meetings or website
Deadline	March 15, 2008
First meetings	April-June 2008

### **Angling Management Plan Working Groups**

- Results of consultation
- Summaries of angler-use data
- Draft Angling Management Plans

### **Phase 2 Community Engagement**

Comments on draft Angling Management Plans	
Sept - Nov 2008	Informal stakeholder meetings
Oct - Nov 2008	Public Meetings (6)

### **Angling Management Plan Working Groups**

- December 2008 - January 2009
- Review feedback from public and stakeholders
- Make changes to plans

### **Ministry of Environment**

Finalize Management Plans	Summer 2009
Write regulation changes	Fall 2009
Regulations in Synopsis	2010

### **We want your input**

- Stakeholder and Public Meetings
- Response Forms (online, Public Meetings)
- Apply for one of the Working Groups

### **For more information**

- Brochures and other information
- Website

**[wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/qws/)**