

SUITE 113
505, 8840 210th Street
Langley, BC V1M 2Y2
CANADA

www.bcdf.com

 fb.com/driftfishers

BCFDF

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
FEDERATION
of DRIFT
FISHERS

The Voice of the River Angler

Proud Recipient of National Recreational Fisheries Award



**Jennifer Davis – Provincial Director
Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch**
Box 9391
Stn. Prov. Gov't
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M3

Attention: Jennifer Davis (via email)

Dear Jennifer

The British Columbia Federation of Drift Fishers (BCFDF) has participated in the provincial Region 6 advisory council since inception and has been supportive of many proposals required for conservation where backed by defensible science. Where required we have supported measures to conserve stocks, primarily Steelhead when they are at point of conservation concern. These measures have included bait bans but we do not support specific gear restrictions including the numerous proposals we have seen suggesting fly fishing only.

Our goal is to maximize opportunity for all sectors and we suggest that single barbless hooks and artificial be the last gear restriction prior to complete closure for all sectors. We also do not support unwarranted bait bans for other more plentiful salmon stocks, especially where the managing party (Fisheries and Oceans) does not recognize this as a concern. We cannot support the proposed year-round total bait ban for all streams in Region 6; a couple of studies referenced to support the argument appears to be distraction rather than an actual solution. It should be noted that total bait bans for all streams and all species is not currently in force in other regions.

We understand the proposal was not passed at the recent regional advisory meetings and so we must question “why is this now being proposed”? To promote closures not supported by consensus or those proposed by groups with specific agendas and an inside track will destroy the credibility of the advisory committee. We have seen all too often when one party doesn't get their way they circumvent the process and take on an assumed advocacy role that does not support the opinion of the vast majority.

We have also received feedback from a majority of our members as well as members from the British Columbia Wildlife Federations (BCWF) and the Terrace and Prince Rupert Rod and Gun Clubs that they are unable to cast their vote / objection to the bait ban proposal through your consultative / interactive online process. This failure to log in and vote seems to be missing (and amounts to a failure to consult) with a large percentage of our members and others local to the area objecting the proposal.

Respect The Resource – Respect Other Anglers

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We respectfully ask that you do not institute the proposed bait ban regulation (even if for no other reason than for the simple fact it has been inadequately consulted on) and request that only regulations supported through consensus and backed by non-biased and non-leading science are considered at the Provincial level.

Thank you for your consideration of our concern which we know is shared by many in the Skeena region.

Rodney Clapton

*President,
BC Federation of Drift Fishers*

Cc *Jason Harris, BCFDF Director
Larry Proteau, BCFDF Director
Art Moi, Terrace Rod and Gun Club
Al Hummel, Kitimat Rod and Gun Club -
Ken Franzen, Prince Rupert rod and Gun Club
Dave Lewis, Northwest Fish and Wildlife Conservation Association
Bill Bosch, BC Wildlife Federation
Urs Thomas, North Coast SFAB Chair
BCFDF Directors*

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