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British Columbia Federation Of Drift Fishers

Non tidal angler survey results presented to PAAT meeting Dec 7, 2012

Considerable time and expense involved in two years spent developing, revising and introducing the survey through tackle shops, outdoor shows and presentation to SFAB members and others

Input from Fresh Water Fisheries Society and others for final format

Some may dispute the wording and results of some questions but we have tried to eliminate perception of bias.

We believe the sample size is sufficient to be an indicator of angler concerns and preference

We believe the information gathered can be useful in ongoing and future discussions relating to fresh water fisheries

Considering the difficulty in getting the committees functioning in all regions we believe the information received from all regions can be valuable to the PAAT members as it is indicative of grass roots concerns.

We are not aware of any other similar survey in the recent past.

Respect The Resource -- Respect Other Anglers

BC FEDERATION OF DRIFT FISHERS
NON TIDAL ANGLER SURVEY

1. What area of the province do you reside in? see attached
305 Responses

2. Where do you prefer to fish?

River	65%
Lake	35%

3. What is your preferred access method to fish?

Walking	46%
Boating	54%

4. Which of the following species do you fish for?

Salmon	71%
Steelhead	64%
Sea Run Cutthroat	17%
Rainbow Trout	65%
Cutthroat	25%
Bass	3%
Sturgeon	4%
Other	11%

5. Do you strive to retain your catch limit?

Yes	21%
No	79%

6. Do you practice catch and release?

Yes	78%
No	22%

7. What motivates you to go fishing?

Enjoy catching fish	73%
Solitude/catching fish is secondary	45%
Enjoy family and friends	46%
Fish for food	37%
Enjoy the outdoors	79%

**BC FEDERATION OF DRIFT FISHERS
NON TIDAL ANGLER SURVEY**

8. In your opinion, what constitutes a quality fishing experience?

To catch large fish	65%
To catch large numbers of fish	35%

9. What is your preferred fishing method?

Bait Fishing, including scented lures	11%
Artificial Lures	15%
Fly Only	33%
All methods	50%

10. Past Fishing History: If you are fishing less now, why?

No fish	16%
Too crowded	28%
Too expensive	9%
Over regulated	12%
Restricted access	11%
Confusing regulations	11%
No time	18%
N/A	36%

11. Are you in favor of enhancement through Hatcheries?

Yes	84%
No	16%

12. Are you in favor of improved access by water and land?

Yes	73%
No	27%

13. Are you in favour of the following restrictions on rivers?

Bait Ban - Yes	45%
Bait Ban - No	49%
Flyfishing only - Yes	27%
No boats of any type allowed - Yes	12%
No motorized boats allowed - Yes	36%

**BC FEDERATION OF DRIFT FISHERS
NON TIDAL ANGLER SURVEY**

14. Steelhead/Salmon Stamp: If you were assured all money collected would go into enhancement, would you be willing to pay a higher fee?

Steelhead Stamp -Yes	70%
Steelhead Stamp -No	12%
Salmon Stamp - Yes	70%
Salmon Stamp - No	18%

15. Are you satisfied with resource management on the following species?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Yes	No	Somewhat
Salmon	8%	38%	52%
Steelhead	7%	40%	53%
Trout	46%	12%	42%
Other	13%	15%	72%

16. Comments: see attached

#1 - In what area of the province do you reside?

Alberta	2
Ontario	1
BC	24
Caribou	2
Interior	49
Lower Mainland	112
Omineca	4
Skeena	49
Vanc Island	59
USA	3
Total Respondents	305

BC Federation of Drift Fishers Non Tidal Angler Survey

Response Date	Comments
Nov 28, 2011 2:53 PM	Keep up the good work!!!
Nov 28, 2011 2:44 PM	local non political management of fish stocks
Nov 28, 2011 5:47 AM	Time to realize that in a few years unless Government acts, there will be no fish.
Oct 9, 2011 8:16 PM	Question 8 -sort of like question 7. my real choice would be" it is the environs that attract me, catching a fish is just a bonus. When fishing for steelhead I lose many fish within 8 feet of shore" " The Coquihalla (Stingy container) does not give its Steelhead up easy." Question 9 - I also float fish with weighted articulated Spey flies which is a notch down from fly fishing but still rewarding using a centre pin reel.
Oct 9, 2011 8:16 PM	11 & 15. Enforcement combined with habitat rehabilitation and environmental protection. The report a poacher program is no substitute for boots on the ground enforcement of regulations. I see persons fishing in closed areas but identification is difficult if not impossible for reporting purposes. Can't call an over worked police force because the province/fed fisheries don't work weekends or are short staffed.
Sep 16, 2011 12:55 AM	I miss fishing the Thompson river I want to help save those great fish I have dreams of don Kelly Renton Washington 425 830 5652
Jul 21, 2011 12:40 AM	I would like to see government spend more money on actual "on the ground/in the stream" enhancements. Where possible, natural spawning should be encouraged. Hatcheries are best used where natural reproduction is impossible.
Mar 14, 2011 5:09 AM	A lot of the problems with management of anadromous fish seem to be well beyond the control of provincial managers - the World must come to a better understanding of what's happening in the oceans.
Mar 12, 2011 11:11 PM	I live on the Coquitlam river and would like to see the government attempt to clean up river and do a steelhead hatchery run
Mar 12, 2011 1:03 AM	This questionnaire is too vague on the questions. The questions seem to be leading. For instance, I am in favor of banning boats on certain systems but not all rivers , thus my answer was no. this questionnaire should not be used to judge angler opinions until the questions are put forward better.
Mar 9, 2011 3:32 AM	Way too regulated for non conservative fish populations.
Mar 9, 2011 12:14 AM	Put much more restrictions on the Indian fishery or open the seasons up to all of us to fish like they do.

Mar 8, 2011 10:29 PM

I fish for the enjoyment and also myself and my family rely on sport fish to supplement our diet.

Mar 8, 2011 9:14 PM

in regards to question 13 one aspect was missed and that is the reduction in harvest for food opportunities. For example resident participation in the steelhead fishery has spiraled downward with the implementation of bait bans and non-retention of wild steelhead. we've seen resident steelhead anglers diminish by about 8,000 over the past dozen years whilst at the same time non-resident participation increase by about a 1,000 anglers. There's a need for Monroe to be able to restrict non-residents independent of residents to reflect resident priority to our fishery. For example if a bait ban or non-retention is implemented why are residents impacted in the same manner as non-residents. It should be the non-residents that are restrict first and foremost before that of resident anglers that call BC home.

Mar 8, 2011 8:26 PM

The steelhead stream classification policy needs significant change to allow retention of wild fish where abundances exist, allows enhancement on some rivers and eliminates the existing priority access for non-residents

Jul 27, 2010 5:39 PM

The restriction on kill fisheries concentrates too many anglers in one location. Retention opportunities needs to be expanded to more areas and be in place simultaneously.

Jul 25, 2010 11:11 PM

I believe that Salmon farms and commercial netting are decimating salmon and Steelhead stocks. The present management system is endangering a crucial ecosystem. I love BC rivers and their wild fish

Jul 22, 2010 10:51 PM

less fish combined with poor regulations enforcement and restricted access in many areas, leads to overcrowding and brutal damage to fish in the few spots where there are abundant fish and access to them. Can't blame specific groups either, I've seen obviously seasoned father and son fisherman with homemade centre pins and plenty of technique, stand on a fish; rip the hook out; and boot the fish off the SAND back into the water. Makes me sick and when I politely point out the damage to the fish they both go ballistic, the father telling me he has fished the vender all his life and didn't need me telling him what to do. Glad I found this site, I'm signing up!

Jul 19, 2010 10:07 PM

there is a drastic underfunding and human resources problem with fishing. It is a good economic investment to stop and reverse this chronic problem at the 2 senior govt levels. Absolutely disgusted on the lack of priority given to this considering the benefits. And DFO's conflict of interest with fish farms also disgusts me to no end.

Jul 10, 2010 12:49 AM

I would like to see dropper flies allowed in British Columbia (perhaps on still waters and only select rivers), as it is a common practice in most of the places that I have fished around the world and in Canada and the United States. Retention limits ensure that those who retain their catch won't impact fish stocks, so I am not clear as to why the use of multiple flies is not acceptable...

Jul 8, 2010 6:06 PM
You worry about elitist methods when you should be concentrating on habitat loss, teaching kids to fish and pressuring governments to adequately fund the fish and wildlife resource.

Jul 8, 2010 12:38 AM
Question # 12 needs to be better defined as I am in favour of all those regulations in the appropriate place. No bait on say the summer run area of the Heber but bait on winter run streams. Same go's with jet boats. Ok on the Fraser, not OK on the Squamish.

Jul 7, 2010 6:06 PM
For lakes regulations that limit motor size is important. Many lakes should have a 10HP limit to reduce the "yahoo" factor.

Jul 3, 2010 7:58 PM
I usually keep over 12 inch and release under 12 inch for trout. The salmon management is disgraceful. We must conserve our resources.

Jun 30, 2010 6:13 PM
I would like to see no bait regulations on all waters with wild trout populations even if these waters are enhanced with hatchery plants. Summer closures on small streams in the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland should also be implemented to protect trout populations.

Jun 30, 2010 4:18 AM
I am not happy with the way our government. manages our fisheries

Jun 30, 2010 3:37 AM
It's really simple.....Ban bait, and commercial fishing in all areas that have steelhead present. Hatcheries are nothing more than a band aid fix. Hatcheries will kill off what remains of our wild stock.

Jun 30, 2010 2:43 AM
I usually keep three springs a season for food, after that catch and release. I don't participate in the sockeye circus and don't fish for steelhead anymore - severely depleted species, and will salt water fish for halibut and cod. We eat a lot of wild fish - much healthier than red meat from land animals. I really enjoy fishing, but definitely catch and keep for food. I barbless hook fly fish for trout and release all.

Jun 29, 2010 11:20 PM
No comment

Jun 29, 2010 4:28 PM
the new regulations are a total piece of crap! it was designed for the interest in the lower mainland and to justify some government employee job! It was a lot simpler to understand with the older version .

Jun 29, 2010 3:56 PM
Jun 29, 2010 3:47 PM
Bait Ban on The Thompson
Steelhead are not managed in this province, they are simply put on catch and release and forgotten.

The actions of the small lakes biologists and the Freshwater Fisheries Society should be studied by the Steelhead so called managers and emulated.

Jun 29, 2010 2:19 PM

Guiding interests have hijacked the vast majority of access on the stamp river which we all pay for and they use. Oh I forgot the BCFDF is lead by guiding interests too. What a coincidence.

Jun 29, 2010 6:49 AM

Enforcement is an obvious lacking area. Definitely like to see all Reg 3 Rivers Bait banned. I put in 50+ days steel heading reg 3 per yr never fish the cheddar due to the gong show. Would like to see better steely numbers through enhancement in reg 2 only. Particularly the Squamish system. To balance out angling pressure. No Enhancement in reg 3 Keep em all away from reg 3 ;-)

Jun 29, 2010 6:45 AM

I hope the BCFDF can work to help stop the ugly practices that are occurring on our rivers such as bouncing betty's with long leaders and the ripping (jigging) of hooks through salmon resting areas. I've given up my drift gear due to the disheartening practices witnessed on rivers such as the Fraser, Vedder, and Chehalis. I once hooked a long dead salmon on the Vedder that had 18 hooks in it.....only 1/3 of which were in the mouth. Just plain ugly and pure harassment of the fish.

Jun 29, 2010 6:28 AM

This is a very biased survey and the questions are very leading. I voted yes on 14, but disagree with the term ENHANCEMENT. Monies from the steelhead stamp should go into habitat rehabilitation and enforcement, NOT hatcheries and 'production of more fish'

Jun 29, 2010 5:54 AM

Too many impaired drunks and druggies on the rivers and lakes, not a good environment for my children.

Jun 29, 2010 4:55 AM

Hard to decide on steelhead still learning ok always learning but just starting out

Jun 29, 2010 4:02 AM

I am a member of the SSBC and BCFDF , and kingfisher rod and gun club.

Jun 29, 2010 2:44 AM

Need more & better river access on the Fraser, more C.O.s to police fisheries , better relations with FN & Sport fishers

Jun 28, 2010 9:16 PM

We cannot sustain fisheries for anadromous fish spawning in the interior of BC without starting to use hatcheries much, much more. To much water extraction and poor logging methods have severely degraded the abilities of these interior systems to rear young fish.

The federal fisheries people need to investigate much more about the survival of young fish as they travel from their birth streams until they hit the ocean.

They also need to start to look at the high seas rearing conditions of our salmon and not just look at the numbers returning to spawn

Jun 28, 2010 9:15 PM

Sounds like we have a better chance winning lotto max than getting steelhead enhancement back in the lower mainland streams its been over 10year 4 the brunette Steelhead why?

Jun 28, 2010 8:51 PM

nicely done survey

Jun 28, 2010 8:02 PM

Absolutely NO motorized boats on non-tidal waters or a jet boat ban period.
Bait ban on all steelhead bearing streams.
No compromise!

Jun 28, 2010 7:53 PM

Our prov. govt. brags that our stillwater fishery for trout is world famous and that it is based on eggs, from wild trout, that are cultured in hatcheries. Yet, our fisheries biologists are reluctant to endorse hatchery enhancement for steelhead even if the eggs are taken from wild parents. There seems to be some sort of elitist disconnect in that philosophy. If it works well for wild trout stocked in lakes, why not for steelhead?????

Jun 25, 2010 5:52 AM

Great survey

Jun 25, 2010 12:47 AM

no comment