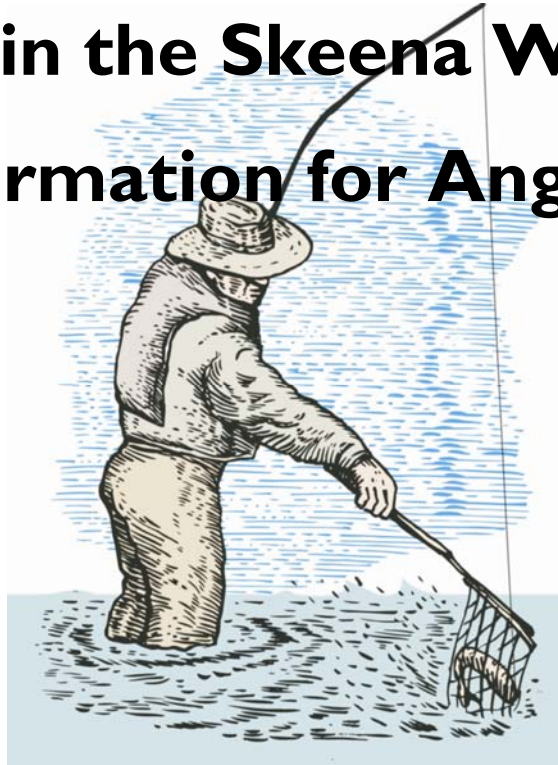


# **Steelhead Angling Regulation Changes in the Skeena Watershed Information for Anglers**



## **What**

Effective April 1, 2012, a number of new steelhead angling regulations have been finalized for the Skeena watershed. These changes apply to the Bulkley, Babine, Morice, Kispiox, Suskwa, Kitsegucla, Kitwanga, Skeena (section 4), Zymoetz Class I section, Zymoetz Class II section, Lakelse and Kitsumkalum rivers.

Generally, these new regulations include the following types of changes:

- Extensions to the time period when a 'Classified Waters Licence' and a 'Steelhead Conservation Stamp' are required;
- Changes to the classification of some rivers from Class 2 to Class 1;
- New times and zones for angling by Canadians only, where non-Canadian anglers will be restricted from fishing; and
- New measures for the management of angling guides.

Due to timing, the regulation changes presented in this document are not reflected in the printed 2011-2013 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis. Until the next regulation cycle (2013-2015), these new regulations will be available online where they can be downloaded and printed. It is important that you understand these new rules as they may change what you are used to. Failing to comply may result in penalties and fines.

It is important to note that while these regulation changes are intended to apply to steelhead anglers, due to overlapping fisheries, salmon anglers may also be required to purchase a Classified Waters license and/or a Steelhead Conservation Stamp when one was formerly not required.

## **When**

These new regulations will take effect April 1, 2012.

A key part of implementing these regulation changes will be adaptively managing them over time. Performance measures including angling effort and participation, license sales and available economic/tourism indicators, will be used to monitor the regulation changes and evaluate their effectiveness in the future.

## **Where**

The following is a river-by-river summary of the new regulations as they apply to anglers:

### ***Bulkley River***

- Canadian resident-only on Saturday and Sunday from September 1 to October 31

### ***Telkwa River***

- Canadian resident-only all week from September 1 to October 31

### ***Morice River***

- Canadian resident-only on Saturday and Sunday from September 1 to October 31

### ***Babine River***

- Canadian resident-only Saturday and Sunday from September 1 to October 31 in a zone from the outlet of Nilkitkwa Lake (juvenile fish counting weir) downstream to the Nilkitkwa River confluence (this zone is ~4.8 km in length)

### ***Kitwanga and Kitsequecla Rivers***

- Canadian resident-only on Saturday and Sunday all year (applicable when these 2 rivers are open to fishing from June 15 to December 31)

### ***Suskwa River***

- Change from Class 2 to Class 1 designation all year
- Canadian resident-only on Saturday and Sunday all year (applicable when the river is open to fishing from June 15 to December 31)

### ***Kispiox River***

- Canadian resident-only Saturday and Sunday from September 1 to October 31

### ***Lakelse River***

- Change from Class 2 to Class 1 designation
- Extension of mandatory steelhead stamp from September 1 to May 31
- Canadian resident-only zone all year from outlet of Lakelse Lake downstream to power line crossing, located 3.5 km upstream of the Lakelse River confluence with the Skeena River (this zone is ~ 17.6 km in length)

### ***Zymoetz (Class 1) River (upstream of Limonite Creek)***

- Extension of Classified Waters period from July 24 to December 31
- Extension of mandatory steelhead stamp from July 24 to December 31
- Canadian resident-only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from July 24 to December 31

### ***Zymoetz (Class 2) River (below Limonite Creek)***

- Extension of mandatory steelhead stamp from July 24 to May 31
- Extension of Classified Waters period from July 24 to May 31
- Canadian resident-only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from July 24 to May 31

### ***Kitsumkalum River***

- Extension of mandatory steelhead stamp from August 7 to May 31
- Canadian resident-only all year on:
  - Saturday in zone from Kitsumkalum Lake outlet downstream to Glacier Creek confluence (this zone is ~8.5 km in length)
  - Sunday on the entire river

### ***Skeena River (Section 4)***

- Extension of Classified Waters period from July 1 to December 31
- Extension of mandatory steelhead stamp from July 1 to December 31
- Canadian resident-only in two zones on Saturday and Sunday from July 1 to December 31:
  - Zone A: Shegunia River confluence downstream to Sedan Creek confluence (this zone is ~60 km in length)
  - Zone B: Chimdemash Creek confluence downstream to 1.5 km upstream from Zymoetz River confluence (this zone is ~ 18 km in length)

#### **Important note regarding Canadian resident-only times and zones:**

This regulation change restricts all non-guided, non-Canadian anglers from fishing (regardless of the fish species targeted) during specified times and zones. Anglers are encouraged to review river-specific regulations prior to purchasing a Classified Waters license as all license sales are final. If you are unsure of how the regulation changes presented in this document affect your ability to fish, check with a Service BC Centre or a License Vendor or call the Fish and Wildlife regional office in Smithers at: 250-847-7260.

To help understand when Canadian resident-only times and zones apply and whether guiding is allowed, please review the following table.

## A Summary of the Changes

- These changes are not printed in the 2011- 2013 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis but will be included in the next version (2013 – 2015).
- For a complete list of all changes which are part of the Skeena Quality Waters Strategy process, see <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/qws/docs/ResponseToWGRRecommendations.pdf>
- Please remember the following changes below do not reflect all regulations that apply to these rivers. Please refer to: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/> for a complete listing of all rules that apply.
- If you fish for steelhead, you must purchase a Steelhead Conservation Surcharge Stamp. On some rivers, this stamp is mandatory regardless of the species you are fishing for.
- All Classified Waters require a Classified Waters Licence during specific months of the year. Some rivers have changed classifications from Class 2 to Class 1.

River	Regulation Change	When	Where	Guiding Restrictions
<b>Babine</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Sep 1 – Oct 31	Juvenile fish counting weir (at outlet of Nilkitkwa Lake) downstream to Nilkitkwa River confluence	Guiding not permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
<b>Bulkley</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Sep 1 – Oct 31	Entire river	Guiding permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
<b>Kispiox</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Sep 1 – Oct 31	Entire river	Guiding permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
<b>Kitseguecla</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Apr 1 – Mar 31	Entire river	Guiding not permitted on the Kitseguecla River
<b>Kitsumkalum</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	On Saturdays from Apr 1 – Mar 31	From Kitsumkalum Lake outlet downstream to Glacier Creek confluence	Guiding not permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
	Canadian resident-only time and zone	On Sundays from Apr 1 – Mar 31	Entire river	Guiding not permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
	Extension of mandatory steelhead stamp	Aug 7 – May 31	Entire River	
<b>Kitwanga</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Apr 1 – Mar 31	Entire River	Guiding not permitted on the Kitwanga River

River	Regulation Change	When	Where	Guiding Restrictions
<b>Lakelse</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	All year	Lakelse Lake outlet downstream to power line crossing (3.5 km upstream of Lakelse River confluence with the Skeena River)	Guiding not permitted on the Lakelse River
	Mandatory steelhead stamp extension	Sep 1 – May 31	Entire river	
	Change from Class 2 to Class 1 water	All year	Entire river	
<b>Morice</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Sep 1 – Oct 31	Entire river	Guiding permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
<b>Skeena (Section 4)</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Jul 1 – Dec 31	Zone A: Shegunia River confluence to Sedan Creek confluence.	Guiding permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Jul 1 – Dec 31	Zone B: Chimdemash Creek confluence downstream to 1.5 km above Zymoetz river confluence.	Guiding not permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
	Mandatory steelhead stamp extension	Jul 1 – Dec 31	Entire river	
	Classified Waters period extension	Jul 1 – Dec 31	Entire river	
<b>Suskwa</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Weekends from Apr 1 – Mar 31	Entire river	Guiding not permitted on the Suskwa River
	Change from Class 2 to Class 1 water	Apr 1 – Mar 31	Entire river	
<b>Telkwa</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Sep 1 – Oct 31	Entire river	Guiding not permitted on the Telkwa River
<b>Zymoetz (Class 1)</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Jul 24 – Dec 31	Entire river	Guiding permitted during Canadian resident-only time and zone
	Mandatory steelhead stamp extension	Jul 24 – Dec 31	Entire river	
	Classified waters period extension	Jul 24 – Dec 31	Entire river	
<b>Zymoetz (Class 2)</b>	Canadian resident-only time and zone	Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Jul 24 – May 31	Entire river	Guiding allowed on Friday and in a zone on Saturday from Mattson Creek confluence downstream to the Skeena River confluence
	Mandatory steelhead stamp extension	Jul 24 – May 31	Entire river	
	Classified waters period extension	Jul 24 – May 31	Entire river	

#### Definitions:

- 1 - CW season – every day of the week during the Classified Waters period, specific to the river.
- 2 - A zone refers to a section of river delineated as above or below a specified location or between two specified locations.
- 3 - Canadian resident-only refers to all anglers of Canadian residency, including BC residents and non-resident Canadians (i.e. residents of another province or territory). Note: if you are a Canadian citizen, this does not necessarily mean you are a Canadian resident; see definitions section of the Freshwater Fishing Regulation Synopsis. During Canadian resident-only times and zones, Canadian resident anglers are permitted to fish and non-Canadian anglers are not permitted to fish (unless otherwise specified).

# Options for non-Canadians during Restricted Times and Zones

As a result of regulation changes to steelhead fishing in the Skeena Region, non-Canadian anglers are subject to restrictions that did not formerly exist. These restrictions generally occur on weekends during Canadian resident-only times and zones, meaning that non-Canadian anglers are able to fish for five days a week on most rivers. During off days, visiting anglers are encouraged to take a look around at all the region offers. There are many opportunities to continue river fishing, go lake fishing or partake in regional activities of interest. The following information is intended to help by providing ideas on things to do.

## ***River Fishing***

In the Skeena watershed, there are a number of steelhead fishing opportunities where non-Canadian anglers can fish seven days a week without restriction (see map on page 8). For example, the Skeena River can be fished seven days a week with the exception of the two zones identified by Map 4 and 5 (see page 9). The many Skeena River tributaries below Terrace are also open seven days, including the Exstew, Zymagotitz, Exchamsiks, Ecstall, Gitnadoix, Kasiks and Khyex rivers. For anglers in the Terrace area, the Kitsumkalum River is open on Saturdays from Glacier Creek to its confluence with the Skeena River as well.

Anglers looking for alternate fishing options may want to consider the Nass watershed. It offers fall steelhead fishing opportunities and a Classified Waters license is not required.

## ***Lake Fishing***

While river fishing tends to attract the most attention in the Skeena Region, there are a number of wild and stocked lakes that provide excellent fishing for a number of species. For anglers wishing to take a day off the river, the Skeena Region featured lakes guide may be of interest: <http://www.gofishbc.com/where-to-fish/location-map.aspx?regionID=6> and <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/fish/>

## ***Tourism Opportunities***

Steelhead Paradise – <http://www.steelheadparadise.com/>

Northern BC Tourism Association:

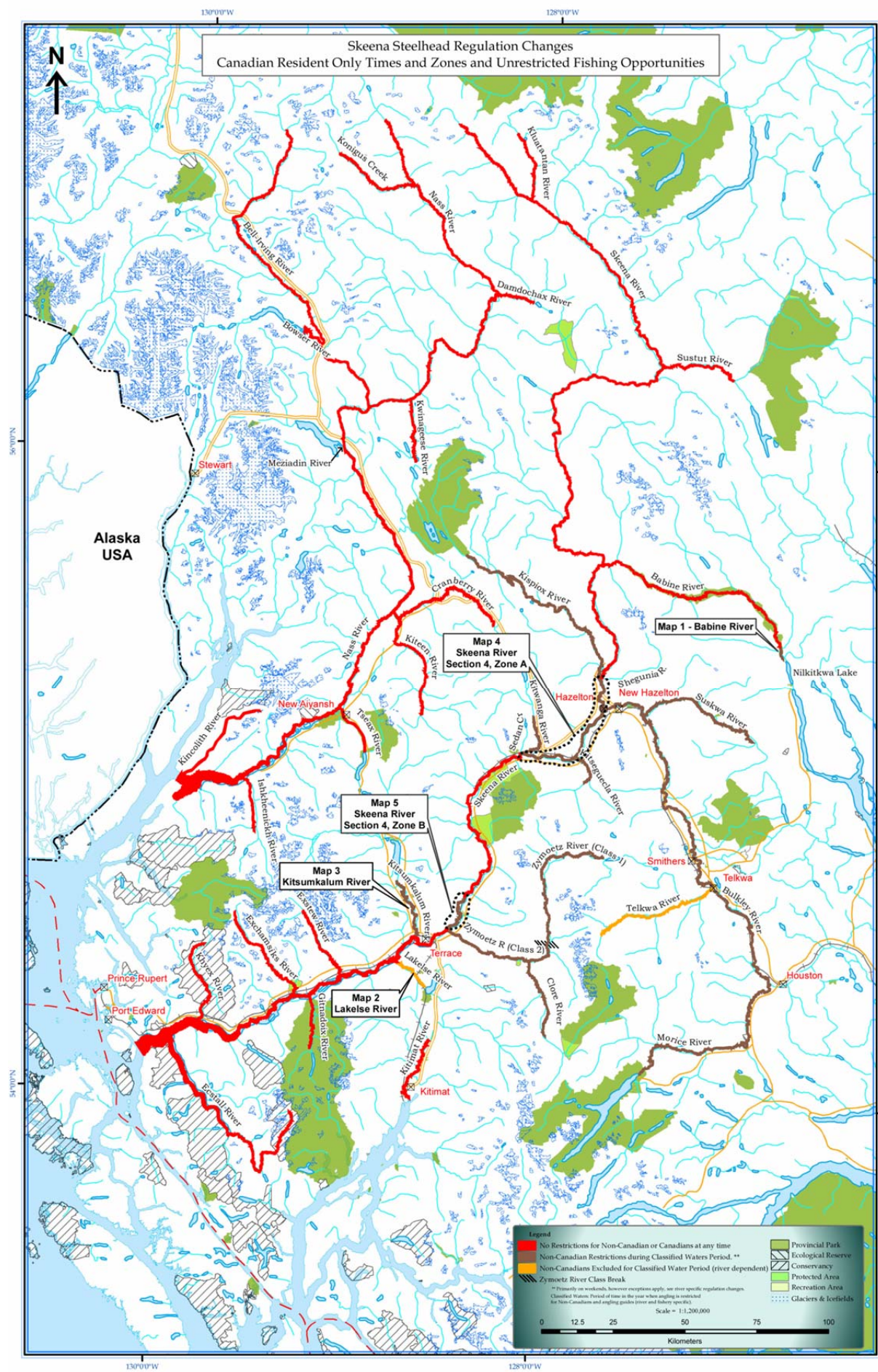
<http://www.hellobc.com/northern-british-columbia/things-to-do.aspx>

Tourism Smithers - <http://www.tourismsmithers.com/>

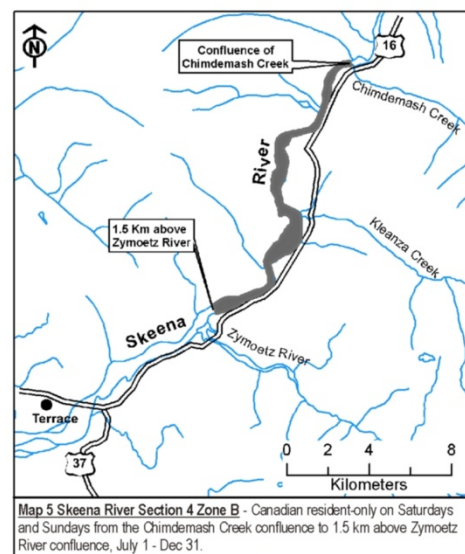
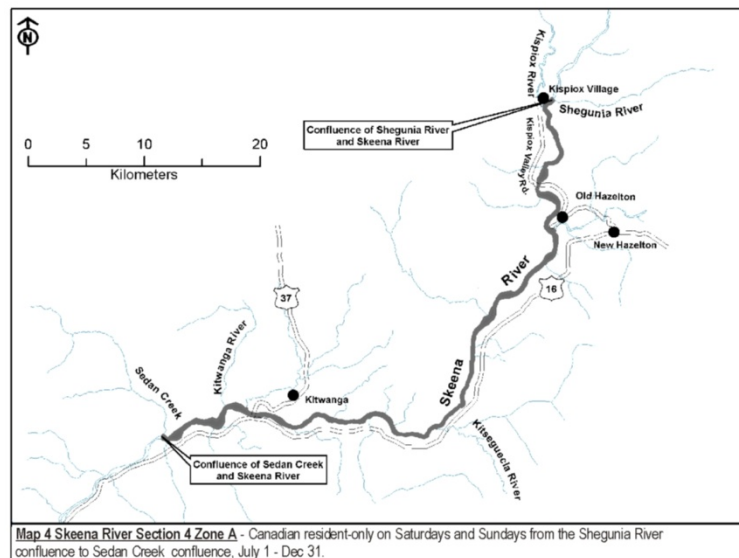
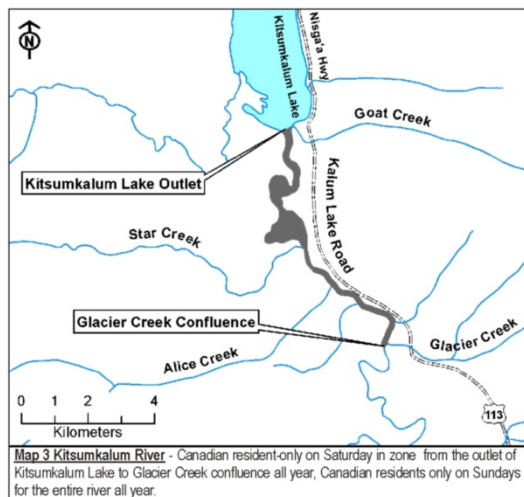
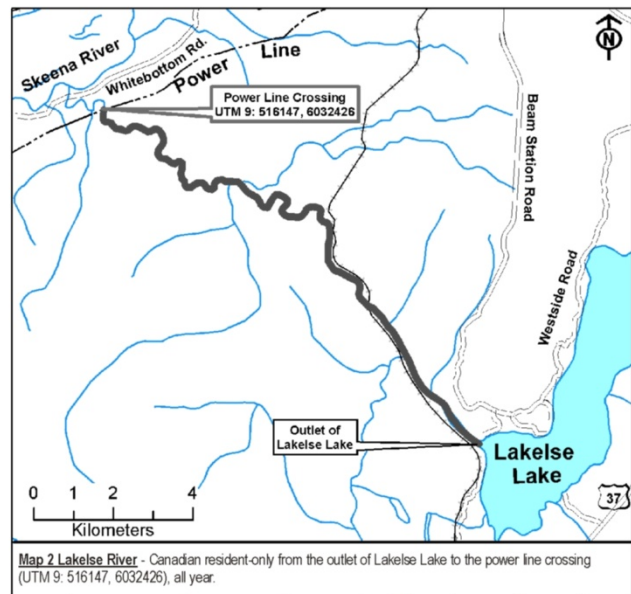
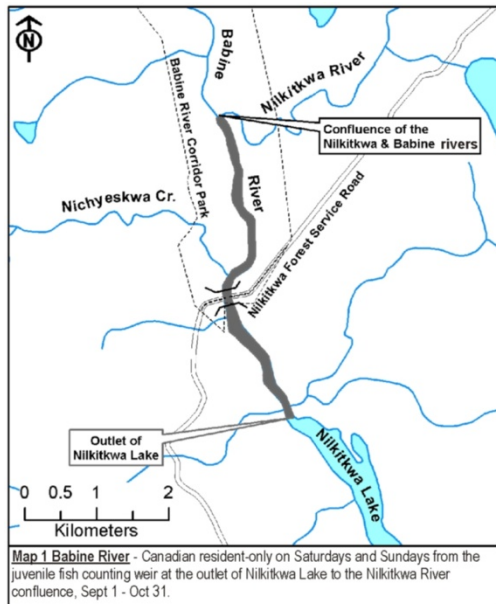
Hazelton Tourism - <http://www.hellobc.com/new-hazelton.aspx>

Terrace Tourism - <http://www.visitterrace.com/>









## For More Information:

You may visit or call the locations below to find out more about the regulation changes presented in this document.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resource Operations  
Bag 5000, 3726 Alfred Avenue  
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0  
**Tel: 250-847-7260**

Service BC Smithers  
Bag 5000, 1020 Murray Street  
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0  
**Tel: 250-847-7207**

Service BC Houston  
3400 - 11th Street  
Bag 2000  
Houston, BC V0J 1Z0  
**Tel: 250-845-5828**

Service BC Hazelton  
2210 Highway 62, P.O. Box 380  
Hazelton, BC V0J 1Y0  
**Tel: 250-842-7624**

Service BC Terrace  
101 - 3220 Eby Street  
Terrace, BC V8G 5K8  
**Tel: 250-638-6515**

***Please remember that regulation changes presented in this document do not reflect all regulations that apply to specified waters. Anglers must refer to the Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis for all rules that apply.***

Current Freshwater Fishing Regulations:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/>

Skeena Quality Waters Strategy process:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/qws/>



Ministry of  
Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resource Operations

