

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Skeena  
Skeena Angler Advisory Team Meeting  
Skeena Valley Golf and Country Club  
March 17, 2019**

**In attendance**

**Committee Members**

- Frank Guillon- Bulkley Valley Rod and Gun Club, Smithers
- Sam Cooper - Regional Tackle Vendor Community, Smithers
- Dustin Kovacovich - Skeena Angling Guides Association (SAGA)
- Jason Harris - Terrace Rod and Gun Club
- Al Hummel - Kitimat Rod and Gun Club
- Nathan Meakes - Steelhead Society of BC (Northern Branch)
- Mike Langerger- British Columbia Wildlife Federation
- Larry Proteau- British Columbia Federation of Drift Fishers (BCFDF)
- Bob Hull- Upper Skeena Angling Guides Association (USAGA)
- Randy Dozzi - North Coast Steelhead Alliance (NCSA)
- Jim Culp - BC Federation of Fly Fishers (BC FFF)

**Provincial Government Employees- Ministry of Forest Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) / Ministry of Environment (MOE) / BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division**

- David Skerik - Acting Director of Resource Management
- Paddy Hirshfield - Acting Regional Manager
- Troy Larden - Fish and Wildlife Section Head
- Mark Beere - Senior Fisheries Biologist (Chair)
- Kenji Miyazaki - Fisheries Management Biologist
- Kris Maier - Fisheries Management Biologist
- Kindra Maricle - Fish and Wildlife Assistant (Minutes)
- Dean Peard - Resource Information Biologist (Minutes)
- Tracy Walbauer - BC Conservation Officer

**Stakeholders/ Observers**

- Melissa Moure - Upper Skeena Angling Guides Association (USAGA)
- Ted Luscombe - Terrace Rod and Gun Club
- Gene Allen - Upper Skeena Angling Guides Association (USAGA)
- Gill McKean - Guide
- Mandi McDougall - Guide
- Andrew Towse - Kitimat Rod and Gun
- Cliff Gardner - Kitimat Rod and Gun
- Allison Oliver - Skeena Fisheries Commission
- Peter Kryzanowski - Resident angler
- Mark Neid - Resident angler

- Stan Doll - Guide
- Jesse Stoeppler - Hagwilget First Nation
- Larry Greba - Kitsoo Development Corporation Director (via telephone ~ 1300-1400 hrs)
- Evan Loveless - Kitsoo Development Corporation Director (via telephone ~ 1300-1400 hrs)

### **9:30- 10:00 am Coffee, Seating**

### **10:00- Introduction / Membership / Agenda / Terms of Reference**

**Mark Beere (MB)** - 9:45 hrs - Start early; lots material to cover; agenda confirmation - committee membership structure -16 people at present, should we expand? MB points to the history of regulations, discusses the elusive nature of consensus – perhaps realized once in the 13 year history of this committee; only 6% of regulation proposals received have been implemented in the past.

**MB** - Asks for additions to the agenda. No additional agenda items were identified.

**MB** - Two vacancies in the committee membership- independent non-affiliated anglers.

### **9:58 - Round of Introductions.**

**MB** - Asks for interest in filling two vacancies.

**Gill McKean (GM)** – Interested in being on the committee as an un-affiliated angler

**Nathan Meakes (NM)** – Interested in being on the committee as an un-affiliated angler

**MB** – Solicits committee members regarding expanding membership

**Jim Culp (JC)** - Supports FN becoming members of the committee.

**MB** - Asks Allison Oliver (AO) if she or a representative of her team would be interested in joining committee.

**AO** - She needs to talk to her team.

**Troy Larden (TPL)** - The Chamber of commerce is interested.

**Dustin Kovacovich (DK)** - Recommendations are being made here not solid decisions, therefore a good idea to involve FN. Better to engage, everyone is seeing what is happening, good to have FN's involved early.

**TPL** - We can make a decision here to change the terms of reference.

**Frank Gullion (FG)** - Put the motion on the table to include FN GWA and SFC. Technical only, not political representation.

**Randy Dozzi (RD)** - Agrees with FG.

**Mike Langegger (ML)** - Ensure that this committee does not spin off to a government to government process rather than the transparent process everyone wants.

**DK** - We don't know what is being promised, we don't know what is going on with FN, good to have them involved.

**Jason Harris (JH)** - Is this group a stakeholder committee, or is it a review of management plan of a certain watershed?

**MB** - This process was created to provide a forum for anglers and angling group representatives and stakeholders to discuss angling regulations.

**JC** - This is new territory. We are now talking about management, universal licensing is crucial, need to include FN.

**DK** - Concerned that FN are pursuing their own licence system. We need to talk about this.

**MB** - Would like to include all stakeholders

**Jesse Stoeppler (JS)** - Clarified that individual FN's can only speak to their own territory.

**MB** - More of an interest in how these regulations are getting out, suggests taking a vote.

**Sam Copper (SC)** - Asks for clarity, we are asking FN technical team to sit at the table not government?

**MB** - Confirms, yes technical team not government.

**JC** - What about chamber of commerce?

**ML** - Chamber of commerce goal is to represent business, should they be at the table?

**MB** - Motion to offer membership on the SAAT to Skeena Fisheries Commission and Gitksan Watershed Authority. **SAAT member consensus support.**

### **10:15 – Presentation – Beere – Context / SAAT process review**

**JC** - Talked about the Kitimat Hatchery and Washington State built many large hatcheries, with genetic issues, population declines after many years and uniform size of fish etc. He suggested only building hatcheries in dire conditions like the Thompson situation where there may be no hope of quickly or ever rebuilding the wild populations. Why did SEP construct a hatchery in Kitimat when there was healthy wild populations of salmon?

**MB** - Hard to turn off once it starts, good people didn't see the potential downfall of the hatchery programs.

**JC** - Hatcheries are not the answer, they do not work as a replacement for wild fish.

**ML** - Talks about biomass issue, and ocean issues, we are seeing a collapse.

**MB** – Indications of density-dependence in the Pacific Ocean are beginning to be identified. Wide variation in salmonid abundance is common, predicting abundance is difficult.

**Gill McKean (GM)** - Wanted to point out the Fulton Creek sockeye enhancement and the implications for non-enhanced species / populations.

**MB** - Explained how changes to the enhancement program at Fulton impact the entire watershed.

**JC** - Wally Johnson with the Fisheries Research Board (was the godfather of the Fulton project) apologized, never thought of steelhead when they planned and developed the project; is there any chance of it turning back?

### **10:55 Section Head Recommendations for 2018 (TPL)**

**TPL** - 10:53 - Goes over proposals from 2018

- 1) Bull trout tributary closures- Kris Maier - moved forward for approval.
- 2) Kitimat River- Approved at regional level but not supported at the provincial level, may be in season regulation changes in electronic synopsis, will be resubmitted.

**JC** - Why would there be opposition at the provincial level?

**TPL** - Getting calls from people – effect is local.

- 3) Fly fishing only - not supported at the provincial level
- 4) Skeena booking system - Minister is looking at, need to do more homework.
- 5) BC resident only on Suskwa, Kitseguella, Kitwanga, and Telkwa rivers Sept 1 - Oct 31 - Provincial vs Federal managed species, not moving forward. May be other tools to explore.
- 6) Zymoetz River fly-fishing only - caught up in politics, take another run at this in the off season.
- 7) Kitsumkalum no fishing for steelhead - move forward with a modification: no fishing for spawning steelhead, May and June, region-wide (talked about geography and adjusted dates), not fully supported, tabled for now and will be resubmitted.
- 8) Lakelse River - forwarded, not supported, tabled perhaps an in season change - may be lumped together.

**JH** - What is the rationale for no fishing and lumping together.

**TPL** - Conservation measure designed to protect the steelhead during critical time in life. Regulations in place historically to protect summer run steelhead.

**JH** - Need to consider other species that may be at risk in these habitats.

**GA** - Need clarification, was it not approved in Victoria or regionally?

**TPL** - Victoria, they brief all the way up to the Deputy Minister and consider social, biological and economic implications when making a decision. Makes it tough to take a pure science approach.

9) Skeena Bait Ban - put forward - try and move forward perhaps with an in-season regulation change.

**Larry Proteau (LP)** - Asks for clarity, the ban wasn't endorsed at the regional DFO level?

**SC** - Locally supported by DFO SFAC but not regionally supported at present.

10) No fishing in rivers and streams in the Skeena watershed Jan and Feb - Endorsed but modified - moved forward with abundance-based management.

**Melissa Moure (MM)** - Wants clarification on why some recommendations were not supported? Why different dates for different proposals?

**TPL** - Terms of reference says 6 weeks. They can vary around the dates submitted depending on the order in which they were received. The proposals are then divided up amongst the team, which were worked through at different rates.

**MB** - We added a proposal response date to the terms of reference and specified an 8 week turnaround. We were aware that we would likely not meet our imposed deadline but wanted to attempt a more timely response. Do the best we can, and workload plays into the rate of completion. We really want to complete these when they are fresh in our minds.

**TPL** - As the proposals are completed they get forwarded to me; last year was the regulation change cycle - had timelines we also had to meet.

**MM** - Because it is a regulation change year, did the proposals meet the deadlines?

**TPL** - Yes, we met the deadlines. Proposals I approved in 2018 will be resubmitted for in-season changes this year with the exception of the Kispiox fly-fishing only proposal.

### **11:45 - Regulation proposals for 2019**

#### **Proposal 1. Allow Access to Guiding March 15 to Nov 15 Annually - Dustin Kovacovich**

**DK** - Guides are more heavily managed than any other user group. One tool at our disposal is regulating angler effort. If guides are to be regulated off the water DK wants (Non-Resident Aliens) NRA to be limited the same way. No access for guides, no access for NRA. On all other QW NRA days be limited to the number of rod days available to guides.

**MB** - DK submitted two proposals from last year that didn't meet the deadline, provides clarity on what regulation DK is talking about.

**JC** - If we go back to the Quality Waters process, we never were able to reach a consensus, Regional Manager had to make a decision in the end. Guides got an extra two weeks, very controversial discussion, not fair for just us to talk about - there needs to be much more consultation with the non-guided angling community.

**FG** - What is the Ministry rational to have these dates?

**MB** - Asks for feedback from Paddy or Kenji.

**Paddy Hirshfield (PH)** - There was not a consensus recommendation, it was a social decision not a biological issue.

**DK** - There was no extension of the guiding season after QW, dates shifted, there was no addition it just shifted, the biggest point DK feels that it isn't fair - wants to be treated the same as NRA.

**ML** - MB, can you clarify the management hierarchy with respect to access.

**MB** - Section 35 of the Constitution Act specifies First Nations have priority access to fish after conservation needs are met. Recreational and commercial use follows on equal parity. British Columbia has a policy of resident priority further to this. A practical example of this is the non-residents guided-only on weekends in selected classified waters within the Skeena region.

**SC** - Is this a request for more rod days, is there guiding on the weekend?

**DK** - 955 rod days for the Kalum but doesn't think they are allocated.

**PH** - Confirms days are fully allocated, in 2012 there were 2 spots open.

**GM** - No Kalum days, biggest reason wants to see the movement was more for the fish, it gets lost in all this, on the Kalum there are a couple runs that overlap; important to let the guides fish for fresh fish.

**JH** - Are we voting on this? As a resident, we should be the last to be limited, agrees that we shouldn't be fishing for old fish.

**LP** - No spawning steelhead in July. Asked a question as to why SAGA had requested a closure yet wishes to fish? Discussion at regional SFAB. Can you assign a different date to a mirror order request?

**MB** - This was not raised by the DFO at last weeks' meeting.

**Ted Luscombe (TL)** - Reiterate what Larry said, find it funny that you want to close then fish it.

**DK** - Responds to TL, was put forward by SAGA for chinook. Maybe there will be a coho opening, possible opportunity for fishing. Doesn't want to harass spawning fish, better if rod days were spread out further. DK represents his association's view in this case and sometimes he does not agree with his association's views but he still needs to bring their recommendations forward.

**RD** - Thinks time frame is okay, agrees that if there is no guiding allowed there shouldn't be non-resident aliens allowed to fish either.

**JC** - Number of times we reach consensus are few - very complicated, suggest that we sit down and go over this at a later date.

**DK** - Considering how this is going, I would be willing to table this and have a further discussion with some groups around this table to see if we can come to some kind of agreement that is fair and equitable.

**FG** - Table this until next year until you can meet with local groups.

**Proposal 2. No fishing from boats July 1 to July 31 (or when Chinook fishing is allowed in areas of concern) - Dustin Kovacovich**

**DK** - DK introduced the no fishing from boats proposal. Lessen impact and effectiveness on species and limiting conflict with FN fishers. If you have a disability you can still get a waiver.

**JC** - In favor of the motion, but boat fishing is a pleasurable way to fish, why can't we limit how people use their boat, e.g.: can fish from a boat as long as it is anchored on shore and cannot moved or follow a fish) rather than blanket ban on fishing from boats fishing. The most important reason is so a person where there is a canopy on the boat can be dry if it is raining and be out of the sun if the temperature is 30 degrees.

**Kris Maier (KWM)** – That option is not in the tool box.

**GM** - People buy a boat to have their own space, and buy a boat to fish from their boat. Gravel bars become very crowded and not a great atmosphere.

**DK** - Agrees with GM and JC, but we know this is not necessarily due to new chinook regulations.

**LP** - Idea was to protect chinook, almost redundant.

**TL** - Hunting regulation you can hunt out of your boat as long as the motor is lifted, why can't they do something similar for fishing?

**MB** - We have a very time-consuming process, would take a lot of time to move forward with a detailed proposal that is not likely to be successful – i.e. requiring an Order in Council.

**GM** - Sounds like we are giving up a large area for fish to move through, not sure where this is going, you want families to go out and fish.

**FG** - Small piece of water, doesn't make sense river is big.

**TPL** - Look at the objectives, what are we trying to achieve, what is the scope.

**DK** - This is a chinook thing but a provincial regulatory matter. Don't want to get rid of the proposal but consider it because there is no certainty on how long enhanced chinook protection measures will be in place.

**JS** - Where do we go from here? Vote? Mirror Order?

**GA** - The more modifications you make the harder it will be to enforce.

**ML** - Asks for clarity - is this a specific or broad area?

**DK** - Better to have fisheries with restrictions than a fishery with no fishing, very hard to reopen a fishery once closed.

**DK** - Put a motion forward that this be tabled for now subject to re-introduction at his discretion when enhanced chinook measures are no longer in place.

12:00 - 12:45 pm Lunch

**Proposal 4. Kwinamass River Power Boat Ban from lower bridge abutment upstream all year - Stan Doll**

**Stan Doll (SD)** – 12:40 - Introduces his proposal.

**GA** - Need to minimize our impact on fish. These things are conservation issues regardless of whether or not they are provincial or federal species.

**LP** - Residents have boats they don't have helicopters, would have to do something similar with helicopters.

**ML** - Jet boats have been used on this river for a long time, agrees with Larry, needs to limit helicopter access as well as boat access, favors one type access for one group over another.

**GM** - Agrees with ML and LP. Large jet boats displacing fry in small systems. Shouldn't just focus on one river should look into more rivers, asks if there has been studies on how jet boats affect red and egg development.

**JH** - Knows of studies, Shuswap is looking at implementing jet boat restrictions. This is a precedent setting regulation. Can't look at it in isolation as there are other considerations. There are a bunch of other systems that are probably at higher risk.

**RD** - Agrees we should do anything to save fish, even if we have to walk a few runs.



**JC** - Agrees with RD, supports proposal. He would like to see a jet boat ban on Kitsumkalum as well. A proposal for the Class 1 Section of the Zymoetz in the past to restrict helicopter use was defeated. Access is a big deal and needs to be carefully thought out.

**DK** - Would like to put a motion forward that the Ministry research this issue and report back with known impacts associated with jet boat operation to fish. **Action item.**

**LP** - Ok with no boats but should also ban helicopters, needs to be fair.

**GM** - So much unknown, Bulkley is overrun with jet boats, the problem with the Bulkley is the access, a lot of private property. Agrees there should be a study done on the effects of jet boats.

**KWM** - Everyone should be aware that this is a federal regulation that would require extensive consultation. This is something that is possible but is most likely to be successful with broad community support.

**Proposal 3. No Fishing Canoona River, No Fishing Green River May 15- Oct 15, No Fishing Khutze River May 15- Oct 15 (Kitasii/ Xaixais First Nation)**

Larry Greba (LG) and Evan Loveless (EL), by phone, present for Doug Neasloss (Director of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation).

**LG** - Explains Kitasoo/Xai'xais current and past projects including the Great Bear Rainforest Land use Plan.

**EL** - Explains Developing a Freshwater Policy:

- 1) Protecting food use;
- 2) Conflicting use, eco-tourism - Concerns of angling effort, bears gets pushed into different areas, helicopter access increasing - challenging to enforce;
- 3) Conservation;
- 4) Reconciliation and economic outcome.

**EL** - Plan to have something together for end of September 2019 with policy coming out December 2020.

**JC** - Has there been any conflicts with angling to date?

**LG** - Some issues with helicopter and fixed wing in the spring.

**ML** - One concern, limiting public access to commercial interests.

**MB** - Recognizes there are some questions we need to answer and wish to re-iterate that the Kitasoo/Xai'xais participate here today not as stakeholders but rather as co-managers providing information in the spirit of fulsome communication.

**LG** - Wants to look at very carefully at the overall plan, need to talk more with people overall. Knows where the conflicts are in certain times of year. Ensure people would still have places to go.

**GM** - To add to ML's question, concern with overlapping Nations and how this could set a precedence.

**LG** - Good point, these areas are very remote, therefore draws a lot of interest from eco-tourism businesses. Doesn't think it will be a significant problem in other areas.

**LG & EL**- Thank the committee for having them. Both leave the session/end the telephone call.

**ML** - Asks, who is familiar with the areas they are talking about? Adds, they are very remote areas, very high grizzly bear densities. Thinks it is imperative that government represents the public interest when it comes to public access. He is very concerned about conversations that involve the exclusion of one group over another.

**TPL** - The province has struck a provincial committee and there are conflicts identified between bear viewing and angling. Expect to see recommendations come forward from this group with respect to conflict between these groups.

**GM** - Agrees with ML. Dates still giving people opportunity to fish. In spring, bears don't eat steelhead. Thinks dates are odd. Helicopter is easiest way to access these watersheds. In fall there will be conflicts with bears and fishing, is there numbers of how many anglers they have run into.

**FG** - Be careful about exclusivity as it has created problems elsewhere.

**DK** - Would be okay with a salmon closure, given recent returns. Doesn't support. Dangerous precedent setting. As a resident, hard to support. Limited use but should be available to everyone.

**TPL** - Limit fishing over spawning steelhead, notes the speaker talked about helicopter. Longer term process opened the door for discussion.

**JS** - Has Kitasoo ever entered the treaty process?

**David Skerik (DS)** - There is a comprehensive agreement but not a treaty. They have challenges. What he heard today is a diplomatic response to some of the challenges they are dealing with. I would advise you to separate out the diplomacy and separate that out from the actual proposal. This is an important step.

**DK** - Needs to be some kind of advisory process, online booking system of say 4 people a day in a certain area. There are willing to work with us, good to have further discussion. As long as it is fair to everyone.

**ML** - We all appreciate their effort in bringing this forward. Voting on this is likely useless as it is a government to government process. Is this true?

**TPL** - Consider this as a normal regulation proposal.

**Proposal 5. Remove Fly Fishing only part from existing regulation in Lakelse River – Art Moi (not present)**

**JH** - Gear changes are not having the impact we thought. Refugia in the Lakelse is a joke and with the fly gear available today fish are not protected as intended.

**JC** - This is a trout fishery, is getting busier with more and more anglers and may need to impose tighter regulations, it would be going backwards to allow an open tackle fishery. As well anyone can learn to fly fish including children and it is cheaper. Because there are not a lot of gravel bars on the flats below the lake all the anglers regardless what tackle they use will walk through spawning habitat.

**LP** - It doesn't matter how you catch a trout, all the same, fly fishing is most effective. People are walking through reds.

**GM** - Methods doesn't matter at the end of the day it's a hook is in the mouth. People should think about complete closures. We need to think about fish first.

**Bob Hull (BH)** - In the regs fly only can be regulated, indicator fishing isn't fly fishing. If it is open to all gear type is there going to be less people?

**Proposal 6&7. No Angling from Boats on the Bulkley and Morice Rivers – Kris Maier**

**KWM** - This proposal was initially proposed by the USAGA and was modified to encompass the entire Bulkley and Morice for simplicity.

**GA** - Agrees with KM proposal, staging area for all salmon.

**MM** - There is no area of refuge, feels it is a good way to give the fish a break.

**Proposal 8. Close the Zymoetz (Copper) River Nov 1 – Jim Culp**

**JC** - Similar timing regulation as on the Dean River for summer steelhead, we don't have a comparable regulation on the Copper to protect summer steelhead. Through Oct. and Nov. last year the Copper was very low and many anglers were still fishing over holding steelhead.

**LP** - Asks government if there is an Angling Use Plan?

**PH** - There is an angling management plan that has some of those details.

**LP** - How many guide days are on it, how many non-residents are fishing it, is there a way of reducing them?

**LP** - Jim's proposal hits the residents hard. Do you have access information by residency for this waterbody?

**LP** - We should be closing the river in August and September when effort is highest, and temps are warmest.

**PH** - Has to defer on this - doesn't work in the Fisheries Section now.

**MB** - Hands out angler effort on indicator rivers made by Joe De Gisi (JD).

**DK** - Guide use is lowest of all user groups. SAGA had a conversation about this - Nov 15 is a more acceptable closure date. Furthermore, SAGA thinks that all rivers that currently close Jan 1 should be included in this proposal.

**GA** - There are a lot of people that over use rod days, there is still a lot of illegal guides, only goes to 2014, think it has gone up since. Notes not everyone is honest, illegal guide and people fish without classified licence.

**JH** - Struggled with this application, would be good to get some hard numbers. Concerned that the effort will be displaced to other waterbodies. His club and other clubs are interested in collecting information regarding angler behavior to inform regulation changes.

**ML** - Has always believed that science-based decisions should be in the forefront. This is a Band-aid to stop an arterial bleed. We need the science and the data to correct the issues. Need to see staffing and funding to achieve goals.

**Al Hummel (AH)** - We are going to be inundated with construction workers over the next 10 years in Kitimat.

**RD** - Agrees with AH, also seeing an increase in people at Lakelse.

**JH** - Being a stakeholder in these groups is important, encourages everyone to get to the table and start having these conversations.

**DK** - Understands where AH is coming from regarding an increase in pressure in Kitimat.

**JC** - We have gotten off point. The important thing is to protect these fish. They are fished over and fished over. and fished over. We need to find a way to protect these fish and not displace effort and problems to other areas. Is willing to amend his proposal to close on Nov 15.

**LP** - If we are going to limit access we need to limit NRA to the number of rod days that guides are subject to.

**JH** - We should go with a water temperature threshold to protect all species like Bull Trout, which are probably more susceptible.

Proposal 9. Fishing time changes to Tahltan River and Tatsatua Creek (MB presenting for JD)

**DK** - SAGA did not have enough information but tentatively supports this proposal.

**MB** - This proposal is to mirror the DFO regulation changes being implemented for chinook conservation.

**LP** - Supports but questions the timing of the mirror orders.

**ML** - Does the province have a 5-year review to see if a mirror order is no longer required?

**TPL** - To speak to LP review comments, we rescinded a ban in the past on Lachmach River, the concern was no longer there.

### **2:30 Status of Quality waters (Kenji Miyazaki (KBM))**

**MB** - Briefs group on where the Quality Waters Strategy (QWS) is at.

**ML** - Asks for reports.

**KBM** - Found on QWS website.

**DK** - Angler effort probably influenced by flood events in 2017.

**BH** - License sales are influenced by environmental conditions. Peaks and valleys are reflected by conditions and need to be flattened out.

**JH** - Asks if effort was part of the study.

**KBM** - Effort wasn't part of the study.

**MM** - Has concerns about these reports and how that information will be used, and how the questions in the study were asked. How will this information be used in the future if there is a booking system?

**KBM** - Agrees the question is subjective and that they are aware of it.

**GA** - Quality experience different in different areas.

**PH** - Acknowledges MM comments. Explains process of the Quality Waters Strategy and status of where it is at. Will be able to share reports with public this year. Need to get the scope right, need help on this.

**RD** - Feels that it is unfair that non-guided aliens can still be on the water when local businesses can't be on the water.

**TPL** - Need to know and be clear on the objectives we are trying to meet and have the right tool. What is the right tool is hard to know... important to have a conversation about what objective you are trying to meet... once tool is chosen what implications is it going to have? On what user groups or communities?

**GM** - Is the resurrection of the QWS being considered?

**PH** - There is a level of review of done on 2012.

**GM** - Instead of closing a river and watching the effort move to another location, favors an 8 day maximum annual license for non-guided non-resident anglers for each classified waterbody.

**DK** - Guides are already restricted with a set number of rod days; if this was applied across the river it wouldn't be difficult.

**TPL** - How do you do this? A booking system?

**MM** - Requests an update on how the process of a booking system is coming along.

**TPL** - 2-3 year update was done on a single watershed, the analysis of how it would affect adjacent watersheds is missing. A booking or lottery system is the way to go; it will be a significant engagement process.

**GA** - Eight days won't limit the damage that some anglers can do in eight days.

### **3:30 Drought Management Discussion - Kris Maier**

**KWM** - 15:15- Presents Skeena temperature and flow thresholds.

**KWM** - Requests questions on proposed Skeena angling drought thresholds.

**JC** - Asks about Lakelse.

**KWM** - Big data gaps on the Lakelse. Hoping to improve that this year with temp loggers. We are not resourced to collect data weekly which is what is the most helpful.

**JC** - BCFFF could take on the project, willing to help monitor temperatures.

**JH** - Adds there is a willingness within the local clubs to collect data on behalf of the F&W.

**KWM** - We can explore those partnerships. We don't have good data on the flow thresholds, thresholds set on what we saw last year and based on simple fish passage flow data, at a certain flow we lose the ability for fish to move to different habitats. A lot of research has been done on salmon but not on Steelhead or Bull Trout.

**GA** - The temperature is going to change throughout; if we keep logging the shit out of the headwaters we aren't going to have cold water. The Kispiox water gauge is not in a very good spot.

**LP** - How does salmon fit into this?

**KWM** - DFO seems interested and open and talking about this.

**GM** - What depth is water temperature being taken at?

**KWM** - Kispiox temperature gauge read one degree higher, were aware and adjust for it.

**MB** - Many temperature readings are taken near/on the substrate.

**MB** - DFO, Skeena Fisheries Commission, and Gitxsan have enquired as to how DFO is dealing with this.

**JH** - %LT MAD makes sense, but so much variability in temperature.

**KWM** – We spot-checked the entire Kispiox watershed, temperatures were above thresholds throughout.

**Nathan Meakes (NM)** - What does this look like in terms of starting a closure?

**KWM**- Explains Variation Order process, going to try to set up a phone in line.

**MB** - Explains how California has a 'hotline' and streams can be opened and closed for days or partial days.

**DK** - When rivers are going to be fishable again - is it going to take 3-10 days to open?

**NM** - Worried about transferring pressure, are you going to be closing multiple watersheds?

**KM** - This is done in other portions of the province, pretty straight forward.

**JH** - Need more data.

**DK** - Thinks closures should not be made by just one data point.

**KWM** - We are not resourced for more data, we need to work with what we have.

**DK** - Supports the principle, just need to get it right.

**JH** - We can help.

**NM** - Agrees clubs can help, spend dollar to buy temp monitors.

**KWM** - Water temp loggers are ~\$180 dollars, would be happy to show partners the preferred temp monitoring protocol.

**DK** - Asks if an application to HCTF or FFSBC would be a good idea?

**MB** - Need as many loggers as we can get our hands on.

**GA** - Supports

**DK** - Supports

**JC** - Notes the this has been the best meeting he has been to.

**4:30 - Meeting Adjourned**