

Interim Skeena steelhead abundance-based framework

(Last reviewed in June 2022 by Skeena Angler Advisory Team)

In-season Modelling

The confidence of run strength modelling for steelhead increases as the season advances and catch data is collected at the Tye test fishery¹. The dates below are milestones in the recommendation framework.

July 15 – Limited certainty in run strength

Aug 1 – Some certainty in run strength

Aug 15 – Greatest certainty – recommendation put forward as needed

Interim decision table recommendations are based on an **Aug 15 deadline**

Skeena Steelhead Recommendations Table

Skeena thresholds are identified in the Framework for Steelhead Management in BC² (Routine Management Zone; RMZ, Conservation Concern Zone; CCZ, Extreme Conservation Concern Zone; ECCZ).

Skeena – Adult summer steelhead carrying capacity (CC) 80,000

RMZ or Green = >30% of adult carrying capacity or 24,000 adult summer steelhead

CCZ or Yellow = 10% - 30% or 8,000 – 24,000

ECCZ or Red = <10% or <8,000

Interim recommendations framework

Routine Management Zone (RMZ) > 30% Carrying capacity; 24,000-80,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreational fishery open• Promote voluntary actions to reduce impacts
Conservation Concern Zone (CCZ) 10- 30% CC; 8,000-24,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rec fishery open with some restrictions• Recommend regulations to reduce encounter rates (one and done, late fall/spring closures, bait bans)• Request bait ban mirror order from DFO• Range of restrictions will depend on the estimated abundance, lower in CCZ more restrictive recommendations

¹ <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/northcoast-cotenord/skeena-tyee-eng.html>

² <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/fish-fish-habitat/fishery-resources/provincial-framework-for-steelhead-management-in-bc-april-2016.pdf>

<p>Extreme Conservation Concern (ECCZ) <10% CC; 8,000 or less</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend closure of steelhead angling • Angling remains open to other species • Request bait ban mirror order from DFO • Closure may extend into spring season based on final estimate • Implement 2 weeks (14d) after statutory decision
<p>Extreme Conservation Concern (ECCZ) <5% CC; 4,000 or less</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend full angling closure • Request to DFO to mirror freshwater closures • Closures to extend into spring of next year • Implement 2 weeks (14d) after statutory decision