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## REGIONAL NOTICE

### Updates for Anglers in Region 6: Skeena

#### Important Notice for anglers in the Skeena River watershed—2025–26 season

On May 16, 2025, the Gitksan First Nation issued a press release about their fishing ban for the upcoming 2025 season across their traditional territory.

The B.C. government shares the Gitksan First Nation's interest and concern regarding salmon and steelhead conservation and drought management in the Skeena River watershed. Recreational fishing licences for all fishing in freshwater are authorized by the Province of British Columbia. The Province regulates the freshwater fishery, including steelhead, trout, and char. Canada (DFO) regulates the fishery for salmon.

Until further notice, angling licences sold by the Province for freshwater species remain valid. Any changes or updates will be posted on the Freshwater Fishing Regulation webpage in Angler Updates and in the Region 6 In-Season Regulation Changes.

Fishery management decisions are made on the best available science, with conservation and sustainability being the top priority, followed by First Nations' food, social and ceremonial needs, then recreational opportunities. Based on the best available science at this point in the season, steelhead, trout and char in the Skeena watershed can support recreational fishing as per management measures in the Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis.

Staff from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship are working with the Gitksan on technical fish management tables. The ministry continues to work with the Gitksan Laxyip Management Office to implement the Gitksan Watershed Strategic Engagement Agreement.

Please respect First Nations rights and perspectives and seek permission before crossing Indian Reserve lands. For reference, a map of Gitksan traditional territory can be found at <https://native-land.ca/listings/territories/gitksan>. If anglers experience conflict, please avoid confrontation. Public safety is priority and if safety concerns exist, please call the RCMP.