



## Important Notice for anglers in the Skeena River watershed - 2021/2022 season

On April 23, 2021, the Gitksan First Nation issued a press release updating and reconfirming their closure notice to recreational fishing for the upcoming 2021-22 season across their traditional territory.

The B.C. government shares the Gitksan First Nation's interest regarding salmon conservation 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 Province of B.C. are working with the Gitksan to better understand their concerns and see what can be done together. For reference, a map of Gitksan traditional territory can be found [here](#).

Please respect First Nations rights and perspectives and seek permission before crossing Indian Reserve lands. Please also respect and manage the risks associated with the transmission of the COVID 19 virus by practicing the measures outlined by the public health authority.

If anglers experience conflict, please avoid confrontation. Public safety is first priority and if safety concerns exist, please call the RCMP.