



August 13, 2024

Re: Skeena Steelhead Recreational Fishery Update – 2024 Season

As of August 13, 2024 the Tye Test Fishery¹ (the main index of Skeena steelhead abundance) indicates:

- The Skeena aggregate run of steelhead will be moderate for 2024. The test fishery estimates the current run past Tye is 28,000 steelhead with 80% of the steelhead run enumerated.
- The threshold for extreme conservation concern, and major regulatory action, is 8,000 steelhead. The run will exceed this conservation threshold.

Under the current Interim Skeena Steelhead Abundance Framework², August 15 is identified as the annual deadline to put forward a regulation recommendation. This date is not arbitrary and represents a balance between fisheries managers having sufficient data to provide reliable information to all user groups, and as early a date as possible to generate greater certainty for those same groups. As the run has exceeded conservation targets the decision has been made as of August 13.

For 2024 there is a strong (98%) probability of meeting the minimum escapement for Steelhead Routine Management (24,000). As such, recommendations for major regulatory action (such as early closures) will not be put forward for 2024 and it's expected the fishery will proceed as normal. This does not mean that specific time and area closures, or emergency closures might not be considered should conditions shift unexpectedly against the modelling described above, but in light of the current predictions a regular fishing season is forecast. Please observe steelhead conservation and best management practices such as "keeping steelhead wet".

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship will continue to work with First Nations in the Skeena watershed, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Conservation Officer Service and angling stakeholders to support steelhead conservation.

Mike Ramsay, Director of Provincial Policy and Allocation
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

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/region-6-skeena/skeena_steelhead_iterim_recommendations_framework.pdf