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# Aspen Inn & Suites

"The Fishermen's Headquarters"



Smithers, BC Toll Free 1-800-663-7676  
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**Top Photo: Current:** Posted Tuesday December 27, 2011. Darren Bisson with a beautiful winter doe Steelhead. This is one of the nicest pics of a winter Steelhead I have ever seen. Darren is an AAG (Assistant Angling Guide) for Tracey Hittel of [Kitimat Lodge](#). Obviously Darren is enjoying the off season going fishing for himself. Thank you for allowing me to use your pic. This is truly winter Steelheading at its BEST...

Cast here [http://www.noelgyger.ca/subscribers\\_form.htm](http://www.noelgyger.ca/subscribers_form.htm) to sign up to receive an e-mail notification when a **New** substantial report is posted.

## River, Ocean and Lake Reports

(Smithers, Terrace, Kitimat, Prince Rupert and Meziadin North)

*Last update was Saturday December 31, 2011 at 2:49pm*

**To all.. a Very Happy New Year!**

To read Fishing Report for ALL of **November 2011** cast on this link:  
[http://www.noelgyger.ca/archived-fishing-reports/november-1-30\\_2011.pdf](http://www.noelgyger.ca/archived-fishing-reports/november-1-30_2011.pdf)

To read ALL past Fishing Reports cast on this link:  
<http://www.noelgyger.ca/past-fishing-reports.htm>

**Commentary:** Weather overcast (-5 degrees C) Too cold to fish, I think but all rivers are in good shape. Good runs of Steelhead are noted...plus good local Trout fishing. The cold temperature and heavy snow falls have made the fishing difficult but not impossible. If you go stay warm and dry and be safe. **Update:** **Product Profile: Gibbs/Delta** [www.gibbsfishing.com](http://www.gibbsfishing.com) Gibbs | **Catching, not just fishing.** **Update:** [Photo of the Week](#) (Dec 11 and Dec 18) posted. **Click on the photo for a larger size.** **Update:** for Skeena, Kalum Rivers. **Update:** the FULL monthly [Fishing Report for Nov 1 to 30](#) is now posted. **Cory Koenig** of [Webflyz B.C.](#) reports and gives some tips for excellent lake fishing in the Smithers area. More updates should come in as the day moves on. Cast on link to send me your [fishing report](#) or [feedback](#). Or phone 250-635-2568, if I am not available leave your report on my answering machine. **Scroll down to read ALL the Current updates in Red highlighted in Yellow**

The most up-to-date reports are DATE STAMPED (Example: **Tue July 11/11**) So when you scroll through the report look for these markers.

**Sat December 31/11 5:10am**

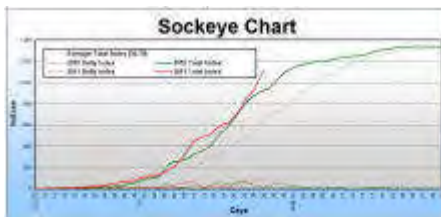
#### **Skeena River:**

Water is fishable. Some great Steelhead can still be had. Plus some good Trout Fishing. **Reg:** Coho fishing will end October 31st. **Reg:** all wild Steelhead everywhere in British Columbia are catch and release. I suggest the fishing rod be a [GLoomis](#) STR 1265c/10'6" MED-HEAVY Moderate Action (GL 2 8-17lb – 3/8 to 1 oz.). Reel [Shimano](#) Calcutta (400B) filled with 20lb test [Maxima](#) mono. [Gibbs](#) makes some great floats. Be sure to use a [Gamakatsu](#) hook. [Sockeye](#) fishing is great. **News:** The Sockeye run on the Skeena is predicted to be low this year but chart below shows an above average run has come-in so far. **Reg:** Sockeye limit: 2 per day. 0 per day from a boundary sign on the north bank of the Skeena River 100m upstream of the confluence with the Kitwanga River downstream to Mill Creek.

**LAST UPDATE:** Sat September 24/11 Cast on PDF links for current view of Charts

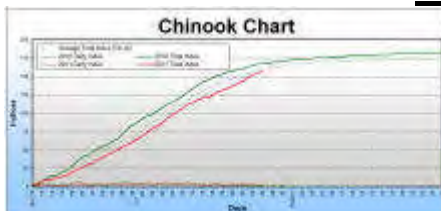
**Note:** Tye Test Fishery is shut down for this year.

## Sockeye Charts



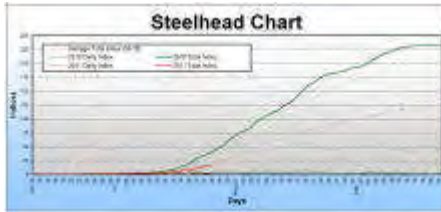
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
  - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
  - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
- 

## Chinook Charts



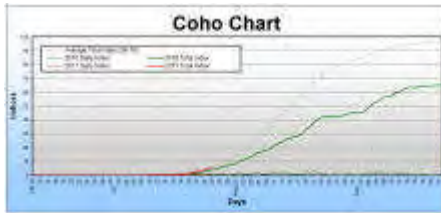
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
  - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
  - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
-

## Steelhead Charts



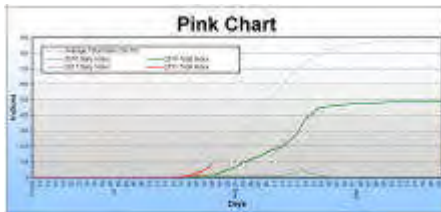
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
  - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
  - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
- 

## Coho Charts



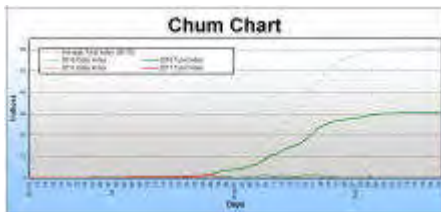
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
  - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
  - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
- 

## Pink Charts



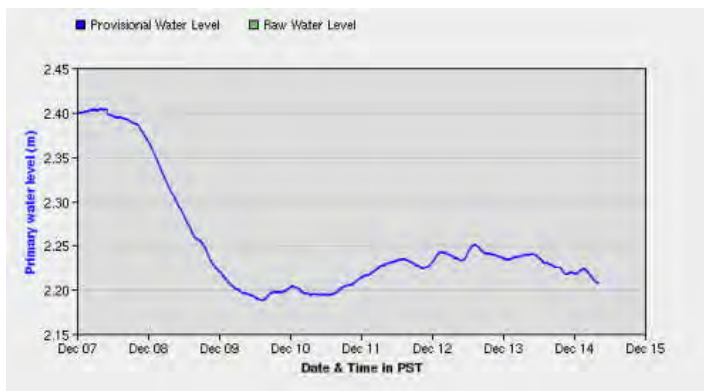
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
  - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
  - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
- 

## Chum Charts



- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
  - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
  - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
- 

Thu December 15/11 5:10am **Current Skeena River heights below:**



Direct Link to Skeena River water heights

[http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph\\_e.html?stn=08EF001](http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph_e.html?stn=08EF001)



**Fri December 30/11 5:10am**  
**Kitimat Lodge BC Canada Fishing Report - December 26, 2011**



Merry Christmas from all of us at the Kitimat Lodge. The winter is treating us quite well as you can see in the photos attached. My fishing partners and fellow guides, Big Steelie Phil, and Darren connected with a pod of Steelhead this past week and as you can tell the one Steelhead is as fresh as your ever going to see, a very healthy female fresh from the sea. With a bit of snow on the local paths we as Steelheaders have to take extreme measures, a canoe, and a strong back and we were in Steelhead Heaven. Our day was filled with many Bald Eagles, numerous hook-ups with large Bull Trout and the river to ourselves. The Saltwater of the Douglas Channel in Kitimat is alive with Winter Chinooks and fresh Crabs, not to mention Killer and Humpback Whales in the local arm of the Channel. Have a Happy New Year and see you in 2012.

**Tracey John Hittel**  
**Kitimat BC Canada**  
**250 632-9880 hm.**  
**250 639-4277 cell.** [www.steelheadheaven.ca](http://www.steelheadheaven.ca) [www.kitimatlodge.com](http://www.kitimatlodge.com) Email: [tjhittel@telus.net](mailto:tjhittel@telus.net)  
 Skype Address: kitimat\_lodge

**Sat December 31/11 5:10am**

**Kalum River:**

Both the lower and upper sections are in fishable shape. A good run of Steelhead is in the river now. I have reports of some good catches. **How to:** This is a good river to float fish a Pink Worm or Goopy Bob. I suggest the fishing rod be a [GLoomis](#) STR 1265c/10'6" MED-HEAVY Moderate Action (GL 2 8-17lb – 3/8 to 1 oz.). Reel [Shimano](#) Calcutta (400B) filled with 20lb test [Maxima](#) mono. [Gibbs](#) makes some great floats. Be sure to use a [Gamakatsu](#) hook. **Fly fishing suggestion:** [Kamloops Dragon fly rod, 10'](#) [Kamloops fly reel](#), AFTMA #8line. Backing [Dragon Fly](#) "Bright Orange" 30lb, 150 yard spool. Fly line [SA Sharkskin](#) Steelhead WF-8-F.

**Thu December 1 /11 2:45pm**

**Lakelse River:**

The water is clean and fishing for Trout is excellent.

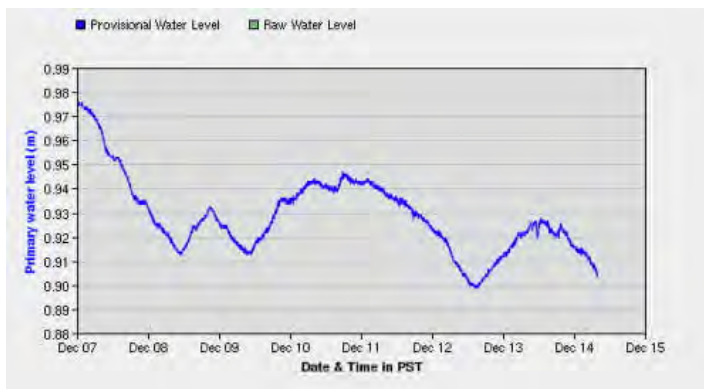
**Wed December 7/11 5:10am**

**Zymoetz (Copper) River:**

Water is low and in good shape. Fishing for Steelhead is excellent. The only problem is access as heavy snow may cause problems. **Facts:** Last year we had a record run of Steelhead, lets hope at least we have another good run this year. The fly rods work extremely well in this river. **Fly fishing suggestion:** [Kamloops Dragon fly rod](#), [10' Kamloops fly reel](#), AFTMA #8line. Backing [Dragon Fly](#) "Bright Orange" 30lb, 150 yard spool. Fly line [SA Sharkskin](#) Steelhead WF-8-F. **Where:** Sockeye fishermen are working the bars across from the Copper River. Fly fishing is the choice of many anglers on this river. Wading with quality [Simms](#) waders and accessories is the way to go. A friend of mine is very happy with his new [Islander](#) fly reel. [Trophy XL](#) fly rod, [Cortland Line](#) and [Maxima Tippet](#) . **Tip:** Fly fishermen please wade safely by using a wading staff. [Trophy XL](#) makes a nice one in 7 sections. Easily folds up and stores in a pouch on the waist.



**Thu December 15/11 5:10am** Current Zymoetz (Copper) River heights below:



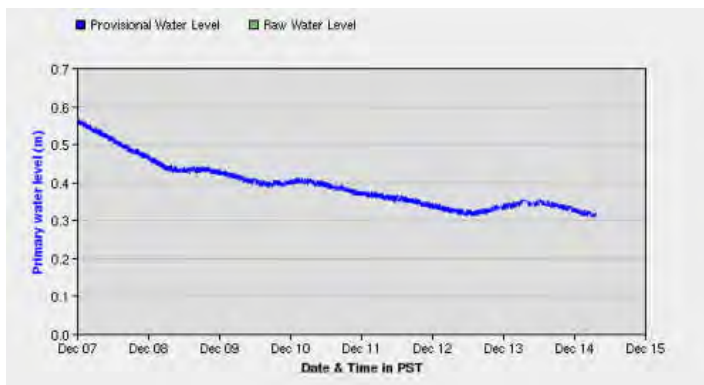
Direct Link to Zymoetz (Copper) River water heights:  
[http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph\\_e.html?stn=08EF005](http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph_e.html?stn=08EF005)

### Kitimat River:

**Wed November 2/11 5:10am**

Kitimat River has dropped and is in good shape. Coho closed October 31st so time to get your Trout gear out.

**Thu December 15/11 5:10am** Current Kitimat River waters heights below:



Direct Link to Kitimat River water heights:  
[http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph\\_e.html?stn=08FF001](http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph_e.html?stn=08FF001)

**NOTICE:** DFO closes recreational halibut fishery as of Sept. 5



**SplitKing** –Freshwater and saltwater trolling spoon

Unique Shape Makes it Highly Effective For: **King Salmon, Coho, Steelhead, Trout, walleye and Northern Pike** Lure features: Heavy duty solid brass construction 3 3/8"long 1" wide. Opposing curved surfaces with premium plating for maximum flash and reflection.

SplitKing Lures are available at **J&E Tackle Shop in Prince Rupert, B.C.**  
<http://www.splitkinglures.com> for testimonials, tips, online store and more...

**Sat December 31/11 5:10am**

[Webflyz B.C.](#) has full filled more orders than any other **Christmas** season, and a **HUGE thank you is in order to all of you that support local fly tyers!** Recently I had some family visit and wanted to catch fish. So we went to a close, good producing BROOK trout Lake by the name of **CALL LAKE**.



We all caught fish, and this light colored one was the fish of the day, expressing almost ALBINO colors.



The other Brook trout were much darker and typical looking. Damsels, leeches and a few other [FLIES by WEBFLYZ B.C.](#) were used to fool this group of trout that topped the scales this week at just over 3 lbs. My son had a great idea for a **FLY** and built a **2 inch egg-sukin' TAPEWORM** and he caught the first 3 fish with that fly of his! Very satisfying watching your offspring build something and catch fish with it as well!



All of our fish ended up being smoked and tasted very good!



[WEBFLYZ B.C.](#) is tying flies for various species including **HUCHO HUCHO-(a Taimen relative), Roosterfish, Marlin Grouper and more.** My passion is to put a **SMILE** on your face and a permanent memory with the **FLIES** I can tie for your next fishing adventure!

If you have any questions or *need flies* for **ANY FISH** species in **FRESH and SALT** waters, contact me at: **1-888-WEBFLYZ** or [cory@webflyz.com](mailto:cory@webflyz.com) . Have a great holiday season and get your kids **OUTSIDE!**  
**Cory from WEBFLYZ B.C.!**

Cory Koenig  
Owner, fly tyer  
**Webflyz B.C.**  
Box#23  
Smithers, B.C.  
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1-888- Webflyz  
[www.webflyz.com](http://www.webflyz.com)  
[cory@webflyz.com](mailto:cory@webflyz.com)  
TIGHT LINES!  
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**Sun December 18/11 5:10am**

**WEBFLYZ B.C.** is pumping out the **FLY** orders for the Christmas season! If you need a **UNIQUE, CUSTOM** gift for that **SPECIAL SOMEONE**, [WEBFLYZ B.C.](#) can help! **NEED FLIES** for a **WARM SPOT** you are traveling to? My flies are proven from **MEXICO to Bahamas, Australia to Hawaii**, because if you do not have the best flies and fishing information for that species, you will not catch fish! ... contact me for pricing and any questions you may have! [cory@webflyz.com](mailto:cory@webflyz.com)



**WEBFLYZ B.C.** has also started "**NAME YOUR FLY**" ... a **ONE-OF-A-KIND, UNIQUE, GIFT IDEA** for that special someone in your family. **WEBFLYZ B.C.** will tie you a fly, name it, personalize that fly for the person in mind, in memory of, etc. ... and 10% of proceeds will be put towards the fish organization of your choice. Many options are available including framed flies, Christmas decorations, etc. ... contact me for any questions! [cory@webflyz.com](mailto:cory@webflyz.com)

**Steelheading** has come to a stand still, but **ice-fishing** has taken off! Some local lakes are a **QUICK, EASY** way to **GET YOUR KIDS OUTSIDE**, ensuring they will have a great sleep!  
Local lakes to take your children to include: **Kathlyn lake, Call lake, Barrett lake, Tyhee lake, Round**

lake Seeley lake, Irrigation lake, Johnson lake, Chapman and Babine lakes to name a few. Species of fish that these lakes hold are: Cutthroat, Rainbow, Cuttbow, Brook trout, CHAR/Lake trout and even BURBOT! If you need any advice for **HOW, WHERE, WHEN and WHAT** to use, **WEBFLYZ B.C.** will put you onto fish! **CONTACT** me at [cory@webflyz.com](mailto:cory@webflyz.com) **WEBFLYZ B.C.** has proven **MANY FLY** patterns for Ice-fishing as a great option to the conventional bait, gear, and jigs! Leeches, nymphs, shrimp and bugs all will surprise you when you ice-fish with them! This is a great pattern for CHAR/Lake trout anytime of the year.



Here is a **AWESOME** fly built for **RAINBOW ALLEY** that works just as well for ice-fishing. **WEBFLYZ B.C. WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL ANGLERS FOR ANOTHER FANTASTIC YEAR, ALLOWING ME TO TIE FLIES FOR A VARIETY OF FISH SPECIES IN FRESH AND SALT WATERS!** This year has been the best by far, enhancing my skills as a professional **FLY TYER**, and I am having the time of my life building creations for **YOUR SPECIFIC FISHING** situation!



**Customer appreciation week at WEBFLYZ B.C.!**

**CLICK HERE to view:**

[Webflyz B.C. fishing with Sportfishingbc's host Mark Pendlington on Rainbow Alley!](#)

**I hope you all have a great, safe Christmas Holidays this season!**

Thank you from Cory of **WEBFLYZ B.C.!**

Cory Koenig

Owner, fly tyer

**Webflyz B.C.**

Box#23

Smithers, B.C.

V0J 2N0

1-888- Webflyz

[www.webflyz.com](http://www.webflyz.com)

[cory@webflyz.com](mailto:cory@webflyz.com)

**TIGHT LINES!**

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Guest Reports and Photos:

Sat December 17/11 5:10am



Here is Bill Johnson from the USA with a 35 inch Steelhead landed in the Babine River this fall in October 2011. Thanks for send the pic Bill.

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Past Top Photos:



**Posted December 13 - 27\_2011** My son-in-law Dennis Therrien with another nice doe Steelhead. You may recall he had another beauty posted last week. This is truly winter Steelheading at its very, very BEST...



**Posted December 11 - 23\_2011** My son-in-law Dennis Therrien with a nice doe Steelhead landed yesterday. Winter Steelheading at its BEST...



**Posted December 1 - 11\_2011 Season Review:** Here is a photo of a fly caught Coho (Silver) Salmon landed and released by Carla Paderni of Italy. Carla says she and her friends really enjoy fishing our rivers. **Note from Carla:** *Thanks for posting Noel, a nice surprise for Christmas! We remember with great pleasure fly fishing your rivers and August of 2012 we will be back. Thanks again and Merry Christmas! Greetings from Italy Carla Paderni and Bana Germano*



**Posted November 13-30 2011 Season Review:** Here is a photo of a Coho (Silver) Salmon landed and gently released by a client of pro fishing guide Ariel Koppers this fall. Ariel is an AAG (Assistant Angling Guide) for [Tracey Hittel](#) of [Kitimat Lodge](#).

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A few pics of our lodge and some great fishing. To see all latest pics just cast to this link:

<http://smg.photobucket.com/albums/v718/JamieHunt/Salmon%20fishing%202011/>

**Super Special Deal** –Update including a discounted trip for \$1,999.00 per person

Hello everyone. I just wanted to share this special offer with you before it hits the media in the coming days.

Great Pacific Salmon Lodge was designed with one main goal and that was to become to the BEST Salmon fishing Lodge in all of BC.

I know that we have set it up to be exactly that. However now that we have it up and running, we need to prove it. I need you give us the chance to do exactly that. That is why we are very proud to offer the following inaugural year special.

**\$1,999 per person for a 3 day/3 night trip  
(Based on 3 people per boat)(+tax)**

Yes we know this is a drastic discount compared to other lodges, especially when you consider that this is a fully guided setup, equipped with the best possible gear and you will be staying in an extensively renovated Lodge.

Promotion is subject to availability. Please call for details.

I encourage you to take advantage of this offer as soon as possible as spots are filling rapidly.

**Feel free to call me directly, I look forward to talking with you soon. 403-813-2704**

Sincerely **“This is where YOUR Adventure begins”**

Jamie Hunt

Owner [www.GreatPacificSalmonLodge.com](http://www.GreatPacificSalmonLodge.com)



**SplitKing** –Freshwater and saltwater trolling spoon

Unique Shape Makes it Highly Effective For: **King Salmon, Coho, Steelhead, Trout, walleye and Northern Pike** Lure features: Heavy duty solid brass construction 3 3/8" long 1" wide. Opposing curved surfaces with premium plating for maximum flash and reflection.

**SplitKing Lures are available at J&E Tackle Shop in Prince Rupert, B.C.**

<http://www.splitkinglures.com> for testimonials, tips, online store and more...

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Sat December 24/11 5:10am

Steve Hidber - Oscars Source for Sports, Smithers BC [www.oscarssports.com](http://www.oscarssports.com)



**Christmas Sale Event**

River fishing is just about over for another year. And what a year it has been. Rain, rain and some more rain. Oh well, we have 2012 to look forward to.

If you have not yet received your Oscar's Flyer in the mail, drop by the store and pick one up. Christmas is not that far off. We have some great gift ideas for him and her... Little and Big Chief smokers, fly tying kits, rod and reel cases..... Something for everyone.

Sale ends December 31. We are looking forward seeing you in the store!

Kerry, Alex & Steve

**Oscar's Source For Adventure**

1222 Main Street

Smithers, BC Tel: 250-847-3377 Email: [info@oscarssports.com](mailto:info@oscarssports.com) website: [www.oscarssports.com](http://www.oscarssports.com)

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[www.bcstylefishingcharters.com](http://www.bcstylefishingcharters.com)

Tight Lines and see you on the water.

*Jeff Carlson* – owner



## Home Hardware and Sporting Goods

"Kitimat's Largest Tackle Shop"

380 City Centre

Kitimat BC

Tel: 250-632-3522 Fax: 250-632-3528 Cell: 250-632-1275

E-mail: [wakita@telus.net](mailto:wakita@telus.net)

They also operate a Fishing Guide and Charter Boat: [Reliable Guide and Charters](#)

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Contact [Noel Gyger](#) to book a guided fishing trip both river and ocean

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### Product Profile:

**Gibbs-Delta** [www.gibbsfishing.com](http://www.gibbsfishing.com)



### **Gibbs | Catching, not just fishing**

#### **Welcome to Gibbs/Nortac, makers of Quality Fishing Tackle**

Established in 1908 by Rufus Gibbs, they are Canada's largest manufacturer of fishing lures, landing nets, sinkers and accessories for both saltwater and freshwater use. They currently manufacture over 7000 different products at their plant in British Columbia.

**Dodgers** Dimple Dodger; Herring Dodger

**Flashers** Farr Better Flasher; Highlighner Flasher; Skipper Flasher; Sockeye Flasher

**Jigging Lures** Cod jig; Depth Charge; FloorWalker; Minnow; Mudraker

**Lake Trolls** BMW; Cowichan; Jumbo Willow Leaf; Lake Special; Willow Leaf

**Nets Landing** Many Nets including the famous "catch & release net"

**Spinners** Sil-Vex; Wedding Band; Willow Leaf Spoon

**Trolling Lures** Clendon Stewart; FST; Gator; Gypsy Spoon; Hockey Stick; Ruby Lake; Stewart Spoon; Super Diamond Spoon; Wonder Spoon

**Wobblers** Croc; Ironhead; Kit\_A\_Mat; Koho; One eyed Wiggler; Ruby Eyed Wiggler; Ruby Set; Toronto Wobbler

Note: the above tackle are all "trade marked" "TM"

**Gibbs Delta Dealers in the Northwest: City Centre Hardware and Sporting Goods in Kitimat, Oscars Source for Sports in Smithers and Fish Tales Tackle Shop in Terrace**

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**Weather Reports telephone numbers: Terrace:** 250-635-4192 **Kitimat:** 250-632-7864 **Prince Rupert:** 250-627-1155 **Smithers:** 250-847-1958.

**Tide Charts** – for BC Coast:

<http://www.lau.chs-shc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/tide>

[shc.cgi?queryType=showZone&language=english&region=1&zone=18](http://www.lau.chs-shc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/tide/shc.cgi?queryType=showZone&language=english&region=1&zone=18)

**Fight for Halibut** – **Take Action Now!** <http://fightforhalibut.wordpress.com>

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## Robin Rowland - Visual Journalism and Editorial

Robin Rowland, the editor and publisher of **Northwest Coast Energy News**, first encountered the northern British Columbia wilderness as a toddler on the shores of Ootsa Lake. After a short time in Vancouver, his family moved to Kitimat, where his father Fred, was the assistant property manager for Alcan. For the first two years, the family lived in the old Smeltersite (where from time to time his father would go fishing with others with Haisla guides on Douglas Channel and take the kid along). After that the Rowland family moved to main the Kitimat townsite. After seven years in Kitimat, the family moved to Toronto where Fred Rowland joined the development department of the booming city. Robin attended York University and then studied journalism at Carleton. He worked as a reporter photographer for the *Sudbury Star* and later was hired by CBC News, where he would work for most of his career (with gaps for travel, book writing and six years at CTV News). In 1996, he joined the new CBC news online division. In 1998, he was named web producer for The National and in 2003 became photo editor for CBC News. In 2010, Robin decided to take early retirement and return to northern British Columbia to pursue his interests in photography and writing.

Robin is co-author with James Dubro of *King of the Bootleggers*, about organized crime during the Prohibition era and a follow-up. *Undercover Cases of the RCMP's Most Secret Operative*. In 1995, Rowland co-wrote, with Dave Kinnaman, of Washington State, the first book on how to do research on the Internet. In 2000. Robin wrote *The Creative Guide to Research*. His latest book, published in 2008 is *A River Kwai Story: The Sonkrai Tribunal*.

He founded Northwest Coast Energy News in 2011 as an independent, neutral news website covering all aspects of the environmental and energy issues facing northwest British Columbia from the perspective of the northwest.

Robin also continues to freelance for major media, including CBC News and the Canadian Press picture service. As a freelance photographer he is available for editorial, wilderness and commercial assignments throughout the northwest region. His long term aim over the next couple of years is to launch a professional photo workshop business to bring more tourists to the northwest. Contact info:

Robin Rowland

1352 Albatross Ave

Kitimat BC V8C 1P8 Canada

home/office 250-632-2838

mobile 250-639-2797

[robin@robinrowland.com](mailto:robin@robinrowland.com) alternate e-mail [rowland.robin@gmail.com](mailto:rowland.robin@gmail.com)

### **Websites:**

<http://robinrowland.com>

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com>

<http://taoofnews.com>

### **Twitter:**

rowlandr

nwcstenergynews

### **Thu December 29/11 8:54am**

[Oil spill caused "unexpected lethal impact" on herring, study shows](#)

A 53,569 gallon (202,780 litre) spill of bunker oil in San Francisco Bay in 2007 had an "unexpected lethal impact on embryonic fish," according to scientists from the University of California at Davis and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who spent two years on follow-up research after the spill, looking at the effects of the spill on Pacific herring.

One significant finding from the study is that different oil compounds, for example crude or bunker oil, likely have different effects on vulnerable environments.

### **Fri December 8/11 5:10am**

[International Halibut Commission recommends drastic cuts in quotas](#), with worse to come.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission is recommending drastic cuts in quotas along the west coast for the 2012 season and possibly even larger cuts for the 2013 season.

For area 2B, the coast of British Columbia, the IPHC is recommending an overall quota of 6.63 million

pounds, down from 7.650 million pounds in 2011, a decrease of 13.3 per cent.

Along the entire Pacific Coast, the IPHC wants the total harvest cut 19 per cent from 41.07 million pounds this year to 33.882 million pounds in 2012.

**Wed December 7/11 9:00am**

[Joint Review releases first round schedule, Gateway ruling put off for a year](#)

The Northern Gateway Joint Review Panel has released its schedule for first round hearings for the Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Final arguments are now scheduled for April 2013. That schedule means that the Joint Review Panel will not make any decision on the pipeline until the end of 2013. In the original schedule, final arguments were to be held in June 2012, with a final decision in early fall.

**Additional to my story:**

The panel will visit most of the towns along the pipeline route and the coast. One surprise is that the bulk of the north-western hearings will be held in Prince Rupert, not Kitimat as expected. Kitimat, where the pipeline will reach the sea and where the terminal will be gets just two days of hearings. There will be eight days of formal hearings in Prince Rupert. While this may be a logistical decision, there isn't that much accommodation available in Kitimat, the decision shows that the panel seems to consider Kitimat no different than any other community along the pipeline route. There are also six days of hearings in Edmonton, which is logical, since that city is the headquarters of the energy industry.

**Wed December 7/11 9:00am**

[Protests won't stop Northern Gateway pipeline, Oliver tells Postmedia](#)

In an interview with Postmedia News, Natural Resources minister Joe Oliver repeated his contention that the Northern Gateway is vital to the national interest of Canada and suggested the government won't be pushed around, adding

"We can't let unlawful people oppose lawful development."

**Wed December 7/11 5:10am**

[Financial meltdown hits oil tanker fleets](#)

The world's oil tanker companies are in financial meltdown, a crisis little noted outside the industry itself and the financial media, a crisis caused, experts say, by combination of the weakening world economy and an over abundance of the giant vessels that ply the world's oceans filled with crude .

Although oil prices are generally on the rise, this has not helped the tanker fleets, because overall demand for oil is down and there is a "glut" on the tanker market, with too many vessels, so chartering and transportation fees are dropping. (One ship broker reports that "day rates for leasing tankers" have dropped 47 percent since the start of 2010. Rates for tankers were \$229,000-a-day peak at the peak of the market in 2007. By mid-November that had dropped to \$28,829).

**Sun December 4/11 5:30am**

[Gitxsan chiefs, band leaders, "stand in solidarity" opposing Gateway pipeline](#), say they do not support Derrick's Enbridge agreement

A coalition of Gitxsan hereditary leaders and band councils have repudiated Friday's announcement by Elmer Derrick of an agreement with Enbridge to take an equity stake in the Northern Gateway Pipeline. A news release from the group says The Gitxsan people are outraged with the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Agreement."

**Sun December 4/11 5:10am**

**Breaking News:** [Enbridge announces agreement with Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs](#)

A news release from Enbridge has announced an agreement between Gitksan hereditary chiefs and the company in support of the Northern Gateway Pipeline. Under the agreement the Gitksan will be a partner in the pipeline project.

**UPDATE:** [Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs take \\$7 million stake in Northern Gateway project](#)

Elmer Derrick, representing the Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs, today announced the Gitksan was taking a \$7 million stake in the controversial Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Derrick told a conference call with reporters that the hereditary chiefs signed the agreement with Enbridge on the basis of a 1997 Supreme Court decision that granted the chiefs "rights and title" to their traditional territory.

Derrick spoke about the poverty of the Gitksan people, especially after the collapse of the forest industry beginning in the 1980s, with the exhaustion of good quality timber, leaving only pulp trees. He said "the situation was bleak" with a high number of youth suicides then said "young people cannot eat Gitksan rights and title."

He said the Gitksan have been looking for economic development partners in many fields, mining and biofuel and that Enbridge was one of the companies that had approached the nation with a partnership offer.

**More on the same issue:**

[Haisla won't "negotiate" with Enbridge until after Joint Review decision](#), Ross says

Haisla Nation Chief Councillor Ellis Ross said Friday that Haisla will not "negotiate" with Enbridge over its planned Northern Gateway Pipeline until after there has been a decision from the Joint Review Panel on whether or not the pipeline is in the public interest.

Ross said the Haisla had recently written to Minister of the Environment Peter Kent, asking if the Crown was prepared to enter the constitutionally mandated consultations with First Nations over the pipeline. Ross says Kent's reply indicated that there would be no Crown consultations until after the conclusion of the Joint Review Process.

**Fri December 2/11 9:05am**

BREAKING NEWS from Northwest Coast Energy News

[Alaska media is reporting halibut quotas must be halved, stocks in bad shape](#)

A number of media outlets in Alaska are reporting that at today's meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission, scientists have said that the population can only sustain harvest quotas at half the current level.

KSTK, an Alaska Public Radio station is saying that the IPHC wants a

13.3 per cent cut in British Columbia's quota to 6,633,000 pounds.

At the moment, there is no confirming information on the IPHC website

[Conservation](#)

**Fri December 30/11 5:10am**

From [TheCanadian.org](#): Canada Backsliding on Waste Management / Salmon, Oil Tankers and First Nations / Orwellian US-Canada Transportation Pact

[Beyond Cohen: Salmon Issue Must Follow Path of Oil Tanker Resistance - Uniting First Nations, Conservationists, Citizens - by Damien Gillis](#)

Following the utter disregard shown in the final days of the Cohen Commission by the federal government for First Nations' rights, it is clear that the best opportunity to remove salmon farms from our coast is to

follow the successful model being built to protect the province from oil pipelines and tankers. "The coalition is there already; its power has been demonstrated. All it would take would be for many of the same First Nations in the Fraser and Skeena watersheds to unite in opposition to salmon farms - with the full support of conservation groups, wilderness tourism operators and citizens, just as they have done with the Enbridge issue..."

**Sat December 24/11 5:10am**

From [TheCanadian.org](http://TheCanadian.org): Rafe on Cummins' Support for Enbridge / Damien Talks Cohen on CBC

[Rafe on Cummins' Foolhardy Support for Enbridge Support for Enbridge](#) - Plus Reflections on Cohen  
I must say I was surprised to see that Conservative leader John Cummins supports the proposed Enbridge pipeline from the Tar Sands to Kitimat. John has never been strong on complicated issues and I wonder if he realizes that by supporting Enbridge he is also supporting tanker traffic? This may come as a surprise, nay shock, to Mr. Cummins, but it's like the old song, "you can't have one without the other". Perhaps Mr. Cummins has forgotten that Enbridge would cross 1000 rivers and streams, including 3 major salmon spawning rivers.

**[Damien Discusses Cohen Commission and ISA Virus on CBC's Early Edition](#)**

Listen to this 7 min interview of Damien Gillis from CBC's Early Edition this past Monday. Damien and host Kathryn Gretsinger discuss some of the key revelations that have emerged from the Cohen Commission into disappearing Fraser River Sockeye - including a series of new virus discoveries in BC's wild fish and the political pressure faced by several top scientists after their labs confirmed the existence of these viruses.

[http://www.thecanadian.tv/audio/Damien\\_on\\_CBC-Dec19-2011.mp3](http://www.thecanadian.tv/audio/Damien_on_CBC-Dec19-2011.mp3) to go directly to the MP3.

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<http://thecanadian.org/donate>

**Wed December 21/11 9:00am**

Cohen Update

Hello All

I have given an overview of a little what I learned at the ISA virus hearings of the Cohen Commission on my blog. I will post more later, but this describes why government cannot be trusted with salmon farms.

<http://alexandramorton.typepad.com>

<http://www.salmonaresacred.org>

I hope all of you are enjoying yuletide season,

Alexandra Morton

**Mon December 19/11 5:10am**

From [TheCanadian.org](http://TheCanadian.org): ISA Cover-up, PR Hijinks / Miller Reveals New Salmon Virus

**[Winning the Salmon PR "War"? Emails Reveal Government Scientists Acting Like Flacks](#)** - by Damien Gillis

From the Cohen Commission Friday came more evidence of a coordinated government cover-up of ISA virus in BC's salmon. On November 9, Joseph Beres of the CFIA wrote to colleagues who had appeared on a conference call to quell concerns about ISA virus in BC: "It is clear that we are turning the PR tide to our favour - and this is because of the very successful performance of our spokes at the Tech Briefing yesterday - you, Stephen, Peter and Paul were a terrific team, indeed. Congratulations! One battle is won, now we have to nail the surveillance piece, and we will win the war also. Cheers, Joe.

**[Kristi Miller Steals Show Again as Salmon Inquiry Rocked by New Virus Bombshells](#)** - by Damien Gillis

Dr. Kristi Miller took the stage for a curtain call at the Cohen Commission into disappearing Fraser River sockeye, delivering a dramatic follow-up performance to her headline-grabbing run in September. Among the bombshell revelations that emerged from the first of three extra days for the Commission were the confirmation that ISA virus is undoubtedly here in BC, and has likely been for at least 25 years; and Miller's own detection of a new deadly virus in both farmed and wild salmon

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**Sat December 17/11 5:10am**

**TheCanadian.org**

[Kristi Miller Steals Show Again as Salmon Inquiry Rocked by New Virus Bombshells](#) - by Damien Gillis

Kristi Miller took the stage for a curtain call at the Cohen Commission into disappearing Fraser River sockeye yesterday, delivering a dramatic follow-up performance to her headline-grabbing run in September. Among the bombshell revelations that emerged from the first of three extra days for the Commission were the confirmation that ISA virus is undoubtedly here in BC, and has likely been for at least 25 years; and Miller's own detection of a new deadly virus in both farmed and wild salmon. The latter surprise was so fresh it came as a major shock to most everyone in the packed Wosk Centre for Dialogue, where this round of hearings is taking place.

**Thu December 15/11 5:10am**

ISA virus reopens Cohen Commission

Hello Wild Salmon People;

The work we have done together looking for ISA virus and making it public has prompted the Cohen Commission to reopen on the Thursday this week (Dec. 15, 16, 19). In preparation for this I have done a blog quoting government's fierce internal debate over importing Atlantics into BC. You can see there are heroes in DFO and the Ministry of Environment who were silenced by the looming threat of **Trade Sanctions**. Real or imagined you can see this pressure degraded the safeguards. Interestingly, first industry brought in Scottish eggs (1985), but stopped suddenly and lobbied for U.S. eggs. Large numbers of eggs poured in from the U.S. and then abruptly stopped. Industry then pressured DFO to allow Icelandic eggs. DFO drops the regulations further and eggs flood in from Iceland, and then abruptly stop in 2009. April 2010, the salmon farmers decide they don't want the provincial government auditing their farms for viruses. No matter whether we are talking about exotic or endemic viruses, salmon farms destabilize the relationship between pathogen and host. If commerce and not biology regulates how we deal with disease - we are in trouble.

I think it is important to recognize there have been and still are heroic efforts from within government to protect our fish from disease. Today, Dr. Sally Goldes who headed the provincial fish health lab stepped forward in the Times Colonist to say we *never* had effective measures against imported viruses. (see my blog). We need to support these people to represent our need for wild salmon.

I understand the Cohen Commission is refusing to allow live-streaming of this public inquiry. There are people who have stepped up to do this at no charge. You can voice an opinion on this:

<http://www.cohencommission.ca/en/submissions/SubmissionForm.php>

Carla Shore [carla.shore@cohencommission.ca](mailto:carla.shore@cohencommission.ca) 604-658-3646, Cell: 604-329-0975 Ms. Shore is only the messenger, you will need to convince Justice Bruce Cohen

This a public inquiry into a public resource, we are paying for the court time, the lawyers, the judge and the salaries of some of the people on the stand. It is open to the public who can afford to make the trip, so why can't everyone listen in as they did earlier this year? What about the people 900km up the Fraser River, don't they get the right listen too?

Check for times and location at [cohencommission.ca](http://cohencommission.ca) go to "Calendar and Transcripts" - it is in a new location

I will be blogging daily at <http://alexandramorton.typepad.com>, there will be live-blogging at the salmon are sacred Facebook page, hopefully we can inspire Cohen to make this public Inquiry - public to the people of Canada.

There is no question we are in troubled times. But I think it is important to remember that the reason industry pressured government allow them to pour Atlantic salmon into the Pacific was to make money off the enormous capacity of the North Pacific to grow fish. If salmon farms contaminate these waters what is the point? They will lose what they came for, and we will lose what we have.

They can make deals, rationalize bad behaviour, give corporations more rights than local people, but if they destroy what they so blindly pursue - what is the point?

We need to find solid ground and stand on it. Salmon disease is not a federal secret. These hearings are very, very important.

Alexandra Morton

**Mon December 12/11 5:10am**

From [TheCanadian.org](http://TheCanadian.org): Pipelines and Battle Lines / Video: Gitxsan Come Together

Rafe: [Pipelines and Battle Lines Drawn by Harper Government](#)

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver jumped into the fray this week: " said the project, if approved by the National Energy Board, shouldn't be held hostage by aboriginal and environmental groups threatening to create a human 'wall' to prevent construction." The minister continued, "Look, this is a country that lives by the Rule of Law - we can't let unlawful, people oppose lawful development." I, apparently, came to Mr. Oliver's mind - and to remove all doubt, sir, I will indeed be part of that human "wall" and perhaps I should tell you why.

[Must-See Video: Gitxsan Come Together, Call for Healing and Strength](#)

A video from earlier this week - produced by Ardea Films in Hazelton, BC - demonstrates how the Gitxsan are banding together in this moment of crisis, brought about by the recent unauthorized signing of a deal with Enbridge by treaty negotiator Elmer Derrick. The situation is summed up eloquently by one of the community matriarchs shown in the video: "Today is a new beginning. Today is the day the healing will begin. Our hearts have been broken, our families have been divided. Today, we'll begin to talk, we'll begin to love; we'll begin to share and honour one another once again."

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**Sat December 10/11 5:10am**

**ISA virus**

Dear Wild Salmon People

The lab reports on ISA virus positive tests are so critical to the health of the Fraser sockeye that the [Cohen Commission](#) is re-opening it's hearings on December 15, 16 and 19. There are reports in the media that 100% of the Cultus Lake sockeye of the Fraser River also tested positive for ISAv - 6 years ago in a study co-authored by DFO. Apparently DFO did not provide the Inquiry with this crucial piece of evidence, calling into question the integrity of statements under oath that there is no evidence of ISAv in BC waters. BC farm salmon have been sold to trade partners as grown in ISA virus-free waters. This may be inaccurate.

In preparation for these hearings, I have written a report on what we know about ISA virus in BC and posted it on my [blog](#). At this point we don't know where ISAv came from or even if it might always have been here. We do know government has refused to acknowledge the most recent positive results I have gotten from two labs on ISAv in Fraser sockeye. They only refer to the tests done on Rivers Inlet sockeye smolts. With the help of expert advice, a team of dedicated samplers and funds from you we have tested 14 different rivers in BC for the virus, those results are slowly coming in. I have posted the actual reports on my blog. It is essential that government be prohibited from treating salmon disease as a federal secret. Viruses are highly successful pathogens and we would be fools to allow this one to fester undisturbed. Whether it is introduced or has always been here, what we know about ISAv, through the experience of countries struggling to get rid of it, is that it mutates in the captive environment into highly-virulent strains, like any flu virus. That means salmon farms and enhancement hatcheries have to be tested by open and independent labs. If anyone would like to know how to do this contact me. Why wouldn't we want to know?

If you plan to attend the inquiry please note the new location and time (9am). The Commission has drawn excellent witnesses - the non-government scientists who have found the virus, and the government scientists who can't find it.

Asia Pacific Hall at the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue  
580 West Hastings Street  
(enter via Seymour Street courtyard entrance)  
Vancouver, BC  
[cohencommission.ca](http://cohencommission.ca)

I have put together a slideshow in tribute to the movement to protect wild salmon, showing some of the people who have offered their time, creativity and heart to protecting wild salmon from salmon farms. It is posted on my [blog](#). The diversity and dedication of the people who have stood together for wild salmon gives me enormous hope for our future in this rather Dark Age of reckless, ruthless greed. Thank you all and thank you to the many who do not appear in these pictures, you are truly spectacular.

Thank you also to Justice Cohen for your willingness to reopen the hearings at this inconvenient time in an effort to get to the bottom of what ISA virus is doing in British Columbia.

Alexandra Morton <http://alexandramorton.typepad.com>

**Wed December 7/11 5:10am**

New From [TheCanadian.org](http://TheCanadian.org): Rafe on Gitxsan,

**Rafe: Why First Nations Are Undeniably Opposed to Pipelines, Tankers...and The Sun is Full of Crap**

[131 First Nation chiefs sign an agreement to oppose the Enbridge pipeline and tanker](#) traffic and no front page story - yet one renegade bureaucrat supports Enbridge and is the main front page headline. This is a gross breach of journalistic ethics which does have a clear message - if you want a fair newspaper account of anything that fights big business, look elsewhere... **Note: Since the publication of this story on Sunday, *The Sun* has printed a form of correction story on Monday's front page - though nothing near an apology.**

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<http://thecanadian.org/donate>

**Sun December 4/11 8:50am**

Canada denies ISA virus is here

Dear Wild Salmon People:

The Cohen Commission's rules of confidentiality prevent me from talking about certain documents, but I have posted recent media, in the public domain and not subject to confidentiality, on my website.

<http://alexandramorton.typepad.com>

ISA virus may have always been here or it may have just been introduced, either way we need to deal with it intelligently using everything known.

The Cohen Commission is re-opening for three days to investigate this on December 15, 16, 19. Alexandra Morton [www.salmonaresacred.org](http://www.salmonaresacred.org)

**Rob Brown - The Skeena Angler**

I would like to welcome Rob back to my **Weekly Fishing Reports**. Rob contributes a weekly column to our local **Terrace Standard Newspaper**: [http://www.bclocalnews.com/bc\\_north/terracestandard](http://www.bclocalnews.com/bc_north/terracestandard)

**Rob Brown blog:** [http://web.me.com/skeenaangler/Skeena\\_Angler/Blog/Blog.html](http://web.me.com/skeenaangler/Skeena_Angler/Blog/Blog.html)

**Rob Brown Welcome:** [http://web.me.com/skeenaangler/Skeena\\_Angler/Welcome.html](http://web.me.com/skeenaangler/Skeena_Angler/Welcome.html)

**Sun December 18/11 5:10am**

Dog hunt

Dogs are hard wired to please people. Provided they have a decent upbringing, they are loyal to a fault. As proof, I offer the story my friend Fred told me.

Fred works in the bush. One day, years ago, he was walking in the woods near Kitwanga with his lab, Blackie, when they came upon a grizzly bear. All bears seem large. Fred has seen plenty of them. When he tells me a bear was large, as he told me this particular bear was, I know it was really big. It was soon evident that the bear resented the intrusion. Before Fred could gather his thoughts, Blackie raced at the bear and began barking. The grizzly, who had been focused on Fred until that moment, grew increasingly annoyed at the smaller black yappy creature in front of him and took off after it. Shaken, Fred made for the truck. As he did, he heard Blackie's barking farther and farther in the distance. The speed of grizzlies is well known. If they can outrun a race horse, they can certainly outrun a dog. Fred knew this.

You've been a good dog, Blackie, he said to himself, with resignation and the sadness that later inevitably turns to grief.

It was a fair distance to his truck. When Fred got there, Blackie was waiting for him.

If there is an award for canine valour – a Golden Bone, perhaps – Fred's Labrador retriever certainly deserved it. In less dire circumstances, having a mid to large sized dog is a very useful companion to have in the woods. Because of their acute sense of smell, dogs will sense the presence of other creatures a long time before a man does.

If you watch your dog carefully you will come to recognize the mannerisms, those small perturbations, like a particularly alert posture or twitching of the muzzle, that indicate a wild creature is close by.

By way of illustration, there was one cold and clear March day, about ten years ago, when Pawsome and I were out on Winsman's bar. I was thigh high in the clear and low Skeena. Pawsome was sitting atop the snowbank a dozen feet or so below me.

As I made my way to shore, intent upon finding a log to sit down on for lunch, I noticed that Pawsome was craning her neck to sniff the air.

I scanned the wide distances, upstream and downstream. Nothing, save for the river, moved.

What is it girl? I asked as my dog, who was up on all fours now, grew increasingly agitated.

Would you like a treat? I asked, putting stress on the final word of the sentence, the utterance of which normally brings her running.

Not that time. She stared fixedly downstream and across the river toward the area where a wide high water channel leaves the river. Saying the magic word a few more times would not pry her off whatever it was she was fixed upon.

Strange, I thought, then began to make my way across the hard smooth snow. I'd taken but a few steps when I heard clattering sound. Pawsome began to bark. I turned to see a bull moose emerge from the side channel downstream at full gallop. Without breaking stride it plunged into the icy water and swam the river, only its head and hump visible. In what seemed an incredibly short time, the big animal reached the side of the river we were on, scrambled up the snow bank, loped across the snow covered beach, and vanished into the dense brush.

All of this had taken only a few minutes. Pawsome had stopped barking, but was still visibly agitated. A few minutes passed, then a pack of wolves ran out of the same channel hard upon the scent trail. They stopped where the moose had entered the water, yipped and howled, clearly irritated by the lost opportunity.

At the sight of her larger and wilder cousins, Pawsome stopped barking. The hair on her back stood up. She was clearly cowed. Meanwhile, the wolves soon over their disappointment began cavorting atop the high snow banks on their side of the river. Unconcerned about the two creatures on the far side of the river – for they must have sensed our presence, just as Pawsome had theirs – they played for long time then left the way they had come.

Over the years, my dog has not only widened my apprehension of my surroundings, but, thanks to the border collie instincts in her, has always run ahead only to return a short time later as if to check on my well being and that of my companion when I've had one. When she was young, she treed black bears. I would arrive at the sight of these treeings and find her at the bottom of the tree with a "what now?" look. As she got older, she would simply use a distinctive bark she reserved for bears.

continued next week

## **Sat December 3/11 5:20am**

### **Embracing winter**

Summer failed to happen. We didn't have much of a fall. Now winter's here and it appears that it will be long and full of snow. Still, there is no reason to put the rod away.

Few men go fishing in the winter. Fewer still go out when the snow is deep or when the temperature plummets. Fewer still head for the rivers after the fish of the winter, steelhead and char, with a fly rod, but it is possible and the rewards more than repay the exertion.

When I began prowling rivers in winter I read of the comings and goings of other anglers and saw impressions of their exploits in the snow. On the Kalum, the tracks of winter fishers led often to a forked stick next the bank. More often than not, the snow around the stick would be flattened and garnished with bits of salmon roe and blood spots marking a kill.

It was a long time before I saw another fisherman and then it was only a distant glimpse of a man through a curtain of snow tramping into the bush with a rod in his hand and a pack on his back. The rod was armed with a casting reel, an Ambassadeur, I guessed, since they were the reel of choice then. In all my winter outings since that time, I've seen more moose than anglers – a measure of angler abundance and testimony to how few pursue the sport.

Back then, fly fishing in Skeena for steelhead at any time of year was rare. Fred Hall was one of the earliest practitioners. After Fred, there was Ted Rawlins, then the Chapplow and the Benoit brothers, Finlay Ferguson, and Ray Tank. None of these pioneers fished much after the first snow fall. When I first began doing it, I doubt that anyone else was, and for good reason. Winters were generally colder then. Fly lines are thicker than monofilament nylon and the guides on a fly rod are smaller in diameter than those on a casting rod. Because casting a fly requires waving a rod in the cold air and shooting the thick wet line through the narrow guides, freezing was an ever present annoyance.

Winter water is low clear water, which would normally benefit a fly fisher, but steelhead are always hovering close to the bottom of the river and are increasingly reluctant to move as the water nears the freezing point. The fast sinking fly lines of four decades ago sank slowly by today's measure. Dolly Varden and the hope of catching a steelhead kept me interested and helped me endure the trials of winter fishing.

In 1980, I began reading books on Atlantic Salmon fishing in Britain. British anglers, I learned, favoured long rods, some as long as 16 feet, which they manipulated with both hands. I ordered a fifteen footer from the House of Hardy through Dave Elkins, who was then the proprietor of the North West Sportsman. When the rod arrived, I quickly learned how to cast it overhand, but the plates in the books I'd been reading showed Brits in the act of casting with large loops of line behind them, and text was filled with references to Spey casting. Art Lingren, who had recently acquired a long rod made by Bruce & Walker, sent me a video tape of the famous English salmon fisher, Hugh Faulkus, spey casting.

As I watched Faulkus cast the traditional way, I noticed that no line was being shot through the many guides of his 15 foot rod. Once he had 60 or more feet of fly line on the water, he picked up the whole lot, repositioned it and sent it out again. Here was an answer to my icing woes. Additionally, I learned that the Brits fished in winter using brass tubes and fully sinking fly lines. I wasn't interested in casting tubes, but the long rod meant I could cast a heavier fly and sink it deeper, thanks to the additional line control conferred by the long rod.

In a series of articles published in the Totem Topics, the magazine of the Totem Flyfishers, Art Lingren described how the long rod enabled him to cast faster sinking tips that he simply affixed to the end of a 40 yard double tapered floating fly line. Convinced of the utility of Art's discoveries for winter fishing, I put together a series of heads by cutting up a thirty foot ultra fast sinking line that Scientific Anglers began marketing at the time into 15, 10 and 5 foot lengths respectively.

My flies were tiny in comparison to the feathered jigs favoured by the Intruder Generation of today, but they were, and still are, those patterns dressed on size 1 and 2 salmon hooks, big by my standards.

My adventures with the long rod began in the Spring. By winter, I could make a decent Spey cast most of the time. That winter my studies and practice began to pay off. I began hooking steelhead regularly: one a day, sometimes two or three.

More on winter angling next week...

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Sun December 4/11 5:10am

**[Noel Gyger has 96 fishing video clips on YouTube:](#)**

**<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=noelgyger>**

**Total Uploaded Views as of December 3, 2011 were: 592,717**

**PLUS Noel has another 50 or so posted on his webpage:**

**<http://www.noelgyger.ca/video-clips-web.htm>**

**Kind of like: [Fishing videos until you drop!](#)**

---

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**Highway webcam:** <http://images.drivebc.ca/bchighwaycam/pub/html/www/111.html> to view road conditions. This one is near Terrace BC and is located at the junction of Highway 16 and Highway 37, looking east on Highway 16. The image will update every 15 to 30 minutes

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### Fishing Regulations:

**2011-2013 BC tidal waters and fresh-water (Federal)** Salmon fishing information (including recent updates):

[www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish)

**Effective April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2013 (Note:** regs good for two years)

Shellfish Contamination Closures:

[www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/PSP](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/PSP)

On-line tidal waters fishing licenses:

[www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish)

**2011-2013 Freshwater (Provincial)** Fishing Regulations Synopsis:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations)

**Effective April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2013 (Note:** regs good for two years)

Check for In-season Regulations Changes at: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/#Inseason](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/#Inseason)

Buy your fishing license online at: [www.fishing.gov.bc.ca](http://www.fishing.gov.bc.ca)

## Safety and survival on water:

### **A good set of Oars and Oar Locks is NOT just for Drift-Boaters:**

The smartest thing you can do is install a good set of oars and oar locks in your jet-boat and learn how to use them. If your engine quits just snap in your oars and turn your jet boat into a drift boat and either row to shore or float to the boat launch. I have had to do this a few times myself when I was guiding. I've seen too many jet boats and all they have is puny paddles. One person with one paddle is useless and even two persons with two paddles are difficult to control a large or even a small jet boat. Throw those paddles away and get yourself a good set of oars and oar locks. **Do it now! It may save your life.** Drifting out of control into a sweeper, log jam or boulders is no fun. [Contact me anytime](#) and I will be happy to give you tips how to row your jet boat.

### **Attention Anglers Cold Water Kills:**

The waters of British Columbia are cold year-round.

If you fall in the water, remember the 1 – 10 – 1 Principle

#### **YOU HAVE:**

- 1 minute to get your breathing under control;
- 10 minutes before you are too numb to hold on or to tread water effectively; and
- 1 hour before you become unconscious due to hypothermia.

#### **PREVENT COLD WATER SHOCK:**

- Always wear your lifejacket on board. Make sure it fits properly and is in good working order.
- Check the weather before departing.
- Don't overload your boat.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

Over 90 percent of anglers who die while boating are not wearing a lifejacket. When you fall overboard, a lifejacket stored under your seat will do little to save your life.

Anglers are reminded to carry proof of competency such as a **Pleasure Craft Operator Card** on board at all times.

To prepare for a safe trip on the water, visit [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca) or call 604-666-2681 to speak with a Boating Safety Officer. Courtesy Transport Canada

### **Do this to your life jackets NOW:**

Sew on an elongated pocket on the back and near the bottom edge of all your life jackets. Have either a zipper or Velcro closer. The pocket should be clearly labelled with large letters:

#### **SURVIVAL ITEMS ONLY**

You should put the following items into the pocket:

- Silver space blanket
- Fire starter
- Water-proof matches/lighter
- Candle
- food/candy
- Pocket knife, etc

These items can be vacuumed packed so your pocket does not have to be water proof. Actually some drain holes in the bottom may be a good idea.

Anything that will help a person survive at least one night and not die of hypothermia is a good idea, I think.

Thank you and please be safe...

Noel F. Gyger

**PS** I have friends who almost died of hypothermia in a boating accident. Wearing their lifejackets saved them from drowning but the cold and damp almost did them in. They would have been more comfortable during the night if they had some survival items in their life jackets.

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Market Place:

**For Sale**

**Telkwa BC**

**Handcrafted log home on 1.41 acres **Bulkley River** frontage**



Beautiful handcrafted log home on 1.41 acres Bulkley River frontage on the edge of Telkwa BC. 2/3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, chefs kitchen, custom carpentry throughout, landscaped. Too much to list.

**Excellent fishing for salmon and steelhead out the back door.** \$410,000.

**Contact Noel Gyger** for much more detail and even a slide show. **New!** May 16/11

**For ALL the postings in Market Place cast here:** <http://www.noelgyger.ca/market-place.htm>

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**It is NEVER too late to book a guided river or ocean fishing trip RIVER FISHING** Lots of lodge or day bookings still available on classified or non-classified waters. Guiding fly or spin fishermen with raft, drift-boat or jet-boat. **Contact Noel** to book NOW!

**OCEAN FISHING** Chinook Salmon, Bottom Fish and Crab in Prince Rupert or Kitimat Douglas Channel has started. To book warm, covered charter boat please contact Noel Gyger anytime. Phone: **250-635-2568**  
E-mail: [noel@noelgyger.ca](mailto:noel@noelgyger.ca)

**NOW BOOKING for 2011:** Let me know if I can be of service to book you with the "best" fishing guide and/or fishing lodges for both river and ocean. **There are NO extra charges to book through me**, just a lot of free information and advice from a person with years and years of fishing and fish guiding experience. **It is like hiring two guides for the price of one.** I will promptly answer your questions and concerns. **Contact Noel Gyger** to book NOW

I hope this fishing report, "*meets with your entire satisfaction*".

**Your Feedback to [noel@noelgyger.ca](mailto:noel@noelgyger.ca) is always welcome**

*"You meet the nicest people on the river banks"*