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Aspen Inn & Suites

"The Fishermen's Headquarters"



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Top Photo: Posted Sunday November 13, 2011. 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](#).

Cast here 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 Friday November 30, 2011 2:30pm

To read Fishing Report for ALL of **October** cast on this link:

http://www.noelgyger.ca/archived-fishing-reports/october-1-31_2011.pdf

To read ALL past Fishing Reports cast on this link:

<http://www.noelgyger.ca/past-fishing-reports.htm>

FOR SALE: Condos On the Bulkley River See pics and detail in [Market Place](#) below:

Commentary: Weather cloudy (0 degrees C). All rivers are in fair shape. Good runs of Steelhead are noted...plus good local Trout fishing. Winter came early this year. 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. **Reg:** Coho fishing closed on October 31st. Please do NOT target Coho anymore, let them spawn in peace.

Update: Product Profile Tuf-Line www.tuf-line.com **Update:** **FOR SALE: Condos On the Bulkley River** - See pics and detail in [Market Place](#) below. **Update:** Cast here to read the [full August report](#).

Update: [Photo of the Week](#) (Nov. 6/11) posted. **Click on the photo for a larger size.** **Updates:** for Skeena, Kalum Rivers. **Update:** the FULL monthly [Fishing Report for Oct 1 to 31](#) is now posted. 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.**

Fri November 30/11 5:10am

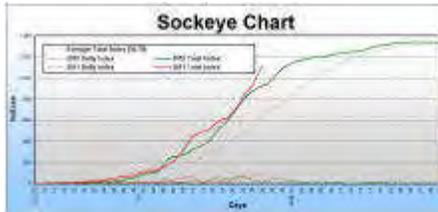
Skeena River:

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**

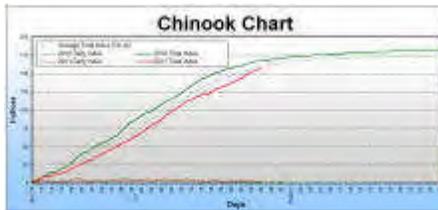
Note: Tye Test Fishery is shut down for this year.

Sockeye Charts



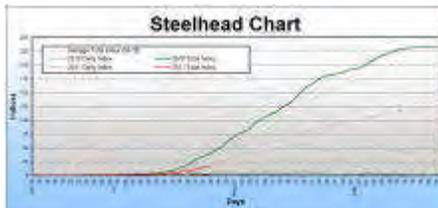
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
 - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
 - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
-

Chinook Charts



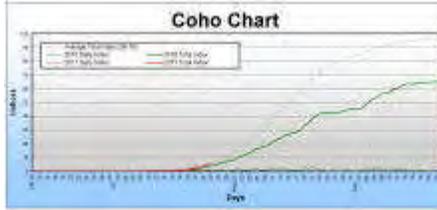
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
 - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
 - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
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Steelhead Charts



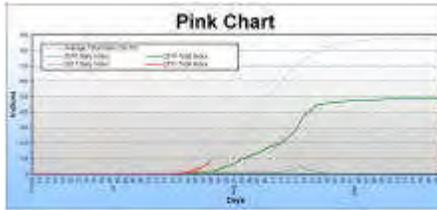
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
 - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
 - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
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Coho Charts



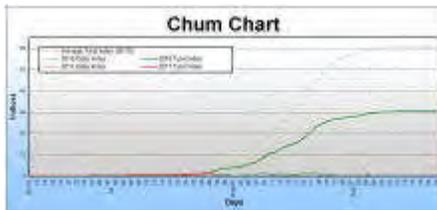
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
 - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
 - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
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Pink Charts



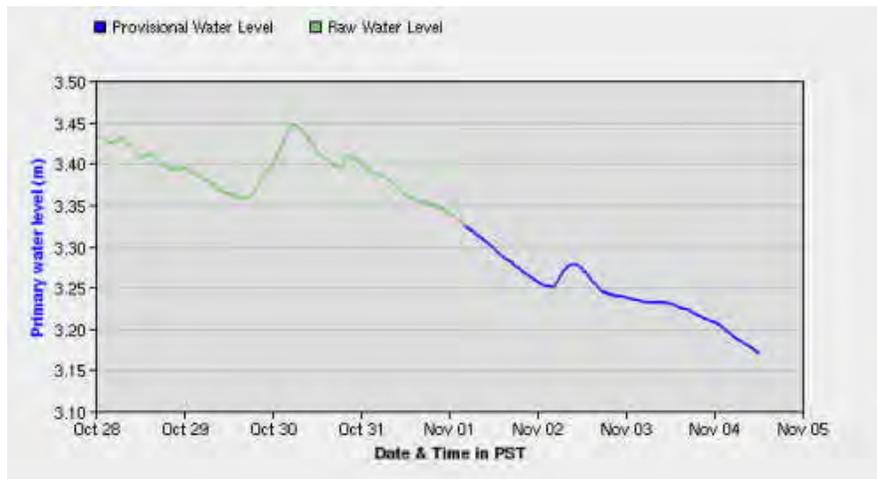
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
 - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
 - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
-

Chum Charts



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

Fri November 4/11 2:30pm **Current Skeena River heights below:**



Direct Link to Skeena River water heights

http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph_e.html?stm=08EF001

18 private all-inclusive suites

- walking distance to Kitimat River
- located mouth of Douglas Channel

Kitimat Lodge
Salmon, Steelhead and Halibut guiding

Fri November 4/11 5:10am



Kitimat Lodge Fishing Report “Fishing the Skeena Steelhead Highway” October 29, 2011

Late October is now upon us and frost is on the Pumpkin. As you can see in the pictures below there is no frost on these happy anglers, as the Skeena River has produced another great run of summer fish, including a nice run of Northern Coho. The past few weeks have not been that easy as the Kalum River has been very milky from a slide, visibility next to zero. We did manage a nice buck Steelhead the few days we fished her. We concentrated our efforts on the Steelhead Highway and produced Steelhead with sea lice. Every fish was chrome bright and the Char were in large numbers creating continuous bites. The Coho were also larger than average and again all sea liced, indicating these fish are fresh fresh fresh. A huge highlight was the fly caught 35lb record steelhead, unfortunately the fish did not want to cooperate and got out of the net and snapped off before we got a picture, our client said it all, its head was the same size as yours! By far the biggest fish our lodge has recorded.

Fishing out of the Douglas Channel in Kitimat has produced Winter Springs and Crab for our clients that want that small window of Salmon and Crab before winter hits and stays. We will be putting together a season in review video and picture display sometime during the winter and I plan to report as the winter progresses on the Steelhead fishery for our arriving spring guests.

Our 2011 season has been another great success and we have also added another ocean fishing vessel to our fleet for 2012 making our services fully operational to provide all tours to the outside of the West Coast for salmon and halibut. See you soon. Regards, [Tracey Hittel](#) of [Kitimat Lodge](#)

Fri November 30/11 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.

Wed November 2/11 9:10am

Lakelse River:

The water is clean and fishing for Trout is excellent.

Wed November 23/11 5:10am

Zymoetz (Copper) River:



Despite the cold and snow a couple of my friends fished the lower end and did very well for Steelhead. I hope the send me some pics. If the road is plowed they will be able to fish the upper end as the winter goes on. **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.

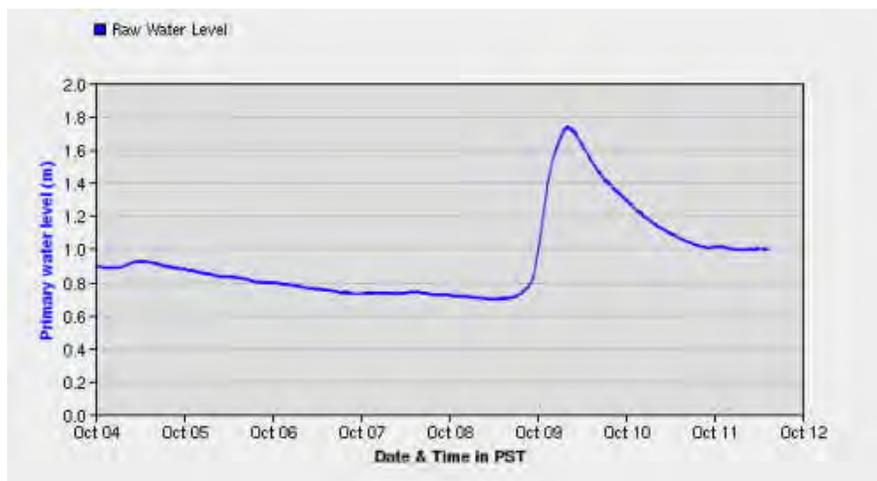
Direct Link to Zymoetz (Copper) River water heights:
http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph_e.html?stn=08EF005

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.

Tue October 11/11 4:55pm 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

Tue September 20/11 5:40am

Douglas Channel: NOTICE: DFO closes recreational halibut fishery as of Sept. 5. The Douglas Channel is still producing some Coho but it is a situation of being in the right place at the right time. Most of the Coho will be migrating to their spawning rivers but can still be caught by the Saltwater anglers. We

also received reports of Bottomfish still being caught further down the Douglas Channel. Weather conditions will start to be more of a factor but fishing for Coho and Bottomfish in the Douglas Channel can still be very productive. Dungeness Crab trapping this time of year is usually very good as the Crab are stacking up at the river/creek mouths expecting a feed of dead spawned out salmon. **Suggestion:** To make it very easy to pull your Crab or Prawn traps use an [Ace Line Hauler](#).

Prince Rupert:

Tue October 4/11 5:10am

Hi Noel, With the Coho fishing winding up in the ocean and fall is upon us, there are still lots of opportunities to take advantage of the superb prawning and crabbing that is available right in the Prince Rupert Harbour. So don't put that gear away just yet. While you wait for your traps to fill up try your hand at Trolling for the Residential Winter Chinook that frequent our waters. Good luck and Tight Lines, Jeff Carlson of J&E Tackle Shop and <http://bcstylefishingcharters.com>

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...

Prince Rupert (Chatham Sound area):

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

Thu August 18/11 9:10am

Lakes - Smithers: Lake fishing in the area is still very good. Fishing for rainbow trout and lake trout has been very productive.

Fri November 18/11 5:10am

Summary for Smithers area rivers from [Oscars Tackle Shop](#). Well fishing is not over yet but it does look more and more like Christmas out there.....

Fishing is still really good if you can deal with the colder weather. The water temperature has dropped a bit. We have reports of really nice fishing being caught on the Kispiox and on the Bulkley. Looking at the weather report we might get a little bit more snow & colder weather. Better go out there a few more times before it is all over for another year!

Morice River:

Wed November 2/11 5:10am

The Morice River is also dropping and fishing is good.

Bulkley River:

Wed November 2/11 5:10am

The Bulkley River is dropping and the water is clear. Fish are being caught through out the Bulkley. Dress warm!

Sun November 13/11 5:10am

Hi Noel, things are slowing here, but still catching! Post this if you like, thanks,

WEBFLYZ B.C.- Bulkley/Morice River report. -The colder weather and snow only slowed the fishing, and now it has picked up!

Babine River:

Wed November 2/11 5:10am



Hi Noel, here is another couple of pics from my trip to the Babine River this year. That's me on the left with a large Dolly Varden Char. On the right is a beautiful wild Steelhead in it's fall colours, if you know what I mean. Regards, Bill Johnson

Tue September 20/11 5:40am

Babine is dropping bit by bit. Coho and Steelhead are being caught

Direct Link to Babine River water height at outlet of Nilkitkwa Lake:

http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph_e.html?stn=08EC013

Babine Lake:

Thu September 8/11 5:45am

Babine Lake is still producing lots of fish. The limit has been increased to 4 fish on the lake. Please see notice in the news and events section of [our website!](#)

Past Top Photos:



Posted November 5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13_2011 Here is a photo of a wild Skeena River doe (female) Steelhead landed and gently released by a client of pro fishing guide Darren Bisson this fall. Darren is an AAG (Assistant Angling Guide) for [Tracey Hittel](#) of [Kitimat Lodge](#). I would like to thank Darren for permission to post.



Posted October 28-29-30-31-November 1-2-3-4-5_2011 Hi Noel, Thank you again for all your help with our trip this fall. As you know, we had driven down to Idaho this fall for the first time to fish Steelhead with the rivers in Terrace and Smithers being high. The experience fishing the rivers down there just did not compare to Skeena Country. When we got word from you on Monday October 3rd that the rivers in Terrace were coming down in height, we hopped in our truck and drove 1800km to spend the remaining 5 days of fishing around Terrace and Smithers. We had an amazing trip and hooked several Steelhead and a few Coho. Really appreciate your help and tremendous knowledge of the area! As requested I have attached a few photos. Thank you, Dave Brown **Pic is Dave with a Bulkley River Steelhead.**



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



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...

Steve Hidber - Oscars Source for Sports, Smithers BC www.oscarssports.com



GRAND OPENING

Thank you to everyone who stopped by over the last few days! Also, thank you to all the participants: The car and ATV dealers, Friends of Wild Salmon, Steelhead Society, Ken Driedger, Billy Labonte, Pierce Clegg, Paul's Bakery, BV Wholesale, Schimmels, the Conservation Officers.

We at **Oscar's Source for Adventure** had a fabulous time and we are looking forward to a great fishing season. A new fishing season is upon us and we at Oscar's are very excited to announce the opening of our new store: **Oscar's Source For Adventure**.

The new store will be all about the **outdoors** with fishing as our focal point. In addition to fishing we will carry footwear from **Merrell, Patagonia** and **Lowa** as well as apparel from **Marmot, Simms** and **Patagonia**. Great brands to enjoy the **outdoors**!

The new store will also house a fine selection of family camping products from Camp furniture to sleeping bags, to tents. We look forward to welcoming you to the new store!

Kerry, Alex & Steve

Oscar's Source For Adventure

1222 Main Street

Smithers, BC Tel: 250-847-3377 Email: info@oscarssports.com website: www.oscarssports.com



www.bcstylefishingcharters.com

Tight Lines and see you on the water.

Jeff Carlson – owner



Home Hardware and Sporting Goods

"Kitimat's Largest Tackle Shop"

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Kitimat BC

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

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

Product Profile:

Tufline – The Leader in High Performance Braided Fishing Lines.

Established by Mr. David Lippy in the USA in the late 1930's www.tuf-line.com

TUF-LINE



Western Filament is a worldwide leader in high-performance braided fishing line and fibers. Their leadership with **Tuf-Line** pioneered the use of braided **Spectra** and **Dyneema** fibers in fishing lines. All their braided fishing lines and fishing accessories are manufactured with their U.S. facility and meet the highest aerospace standards for quality. Whether braided superline, **Dacron** fishing line, **Dacron fly line backing** or vinyl coated ice fishing lines, choose the Tuf-Line and Western Filament name for superior performance. **For your viewing pleasure:** Please cast to this link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kyPvojL6rM> and watch Ron Wakita and I test fish the **new** braided line **Tuf-Line Duracast**. Did I say we loved the line and caught a bunch of Coho?

These fine products are available at these **Best Dealers** in the North West, **City Centre Hardware and Sporting Goods** in **Kitimat**, **J and E's Tackle** in **Prince Rupert**, **Oscars Source for Sports** in **Smithers** and **Fish Tales** in **Terrace**.

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®ion=1&zone=18>

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

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:

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Websites:

<http://robinrowland.com>

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com>

<http://taoofnews.com>

Twitter:

rowlandr

nwcstenergynews

Sun November 27/11 9:15am

[Alberta premier says Northern Gateway critical to Canadian economy](#)

Bill Graveland of Canadian Press reports in Alberta premier says Northern Gateway pipeline critical for Canadian economic development.

In an address to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, which CP says was her first major address in Calgary since becoming premier, Alison Redford said that the Northern Gateway pipeline project is of national importance and is critical to Canada's future economic strength.

Sat November 26/11 9:05am

[Using northwest trees for buildings better for keeping carbon out of atmosphere](#), study says

A University of Washington study says that using trees from the northwest as a building material is good for carbon mitigation in the atmosphere, especially if the wood waste is also used as a biofuel to replace gasoline and other fossil fuels.

The article, published in the journal *Forests*, says that if timber from north-western U.S. forests were harvested sustainably every 45 years and the wood used as a building material, where possible replacing substances like concrete or steel, which require greater amounts of fossil fuels to manufacture, that would both remove existing carbon dioxide from the air while the forest was growing and then keep the gas entering the atmosphere for years as long as it is part of a building.

Fri November 25/11 5:10am

[Anti Kitimat pipeline 1977 letter from Tommy Douglas goes viral on Twitter](#)

The environmental group the Dogwood Initiative has discovered a letter from the late New Democratic Party leader Tommy Douglas, opposing a Kitimat pipeline project in 1977.

Dogwood's initial post about the letter, which is on the institute's website, quickly went viral on Twitter at least in British Columbia.

The Feb. 8, 1977, warns that a group called the Kitimat Pipeline Project, a consortium of U.S. owned or controlled companies planned to build a pipeline from Edmonton to Kitimat to then onship oil to ports in the United States.

Fri November 25/11 5:10am

[Carrie Tait writing in the Globe and Mail in First nations seek fresh start with Enbridge](#) over pipeline to coast

First nations groups protesting against Enbridge Inc.'s controversial pipeline to the B.C. coast will reconsider their opposition to the project if its regulatory approval process is put on hold.

Mon November 14/11 5:10am

[Harper says oil to Asia "important priority," Oliver wants to expedite Gateway](#) Joint Review process
Harper says oil to Asia "important priority," Oliver wants to expedite Gateway Joint Review process

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has told reporters at the APEC summit in Hawaii that pushing Canadian energy products to Asia are an "important priority" for his government given the postponement of the Keystone XL pipeline project.

A couple of hours earlier, the industry newsletter *Platts* quoted Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver as saying he wanted the Northern Gateway pipeline approval process .expedited.

Fri November 11/11 9:35am

[Keystone decision means Enbridge must account for climate affect of Northern Gateway](#), environmental group tells Joint Review Panel

A coalition of environmental groups led by ForestEthics says the fact the US State Department included climate change in its decision to reassess the Keystone XL pipeline means that Enbridge just do the same for the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline from Alberta to Kitimat.

Even before the Keystone decision, the environmentalists filed a motion with the Northern Gateway Joint Review that would compel the panel to consider the up-stream impacts of tar sands from the Northern Gateway pipeline, as well as climate change impacts.

Fri November 11/11 3:15pm

[US State Department delays Keystone approval until 2013, new route likely if approved](#)

The United States Department of State has delayed approval of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline until 2013.

A news release posted on the State Department's website confirmed earlier media speculation about a delay in the pipeline project approval until after the current US presidential election cycle.

The State Department release also hints that even if the Keystone XL is approved it will have to be rerouted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas.

Thu November 10/11 5:10am

[Koch owned Flint Hills Resources is intervenor in Northern Gateway Joint Review](#)

Flint Hills Resources Canada LP, the energy and resources company owned by the controversial American brothers, David and Charles Koch, is one of the intervenors in the Northern Gateway Joint Review process, a check of the JPR website shows.

Wed November 2/11 5:10am

[Oliver in media blitz hinting at pushing Northern Gateway in case US stops Keystone XL](#)

Canada's minister of natural resources, Joe Oliver, has embarked on a media blitz, quietly pushing the idea that joeoliver.jpg Canada will go ahead and build the Northern Gateway pipeline to send bitumen sands to Asia if the United States blocks the Keystone XL pipeline from Alberta to Texas. In a meeting with The Globe and Mail editorial board on Friday, and an interview with Reuters Monday, while attending the World Energy Council in Houston, Texas, Oliver warns the American that if they don't buy bitumen sands oil, China will.

Great Bear photo exhibit makes it to Kitimat

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com/2011/10/great-bear-photo-exhibit-makes-it-to-kitimat.html>

The Great Bear Wild photo exhibit arrives in Kitimat Wednesday. The exhibit will open in a Kitimat store front, in the City Centre mall, for a ten day run, on Wednesday Nov. 2, 2011, continuing to Nov. 12. The opening reception is Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

NOTE: If you can make it into Kitimat I will have a booth at the Riverlodge Craft Fair Friday night, all day Saturday

Wed November 2/11 5:10am

AltaGas takes over Pacific Northern Gas

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com/2011/10/altagas-takes-over-pacific-northern-gas.html>

Pacific Northern Gas, the main supplier of natural gas to much of northern British Columbia, has agreed to be taken over by the much bigger Calgary-based AltaGas Ltd. in a deal worth \$230 million or \$36.75 a share.

The deal gives AltaGas a stake in the natural gas export race, since Pacific Northern's pipelines link Alberta and British Columbia gas fields to Kitimat, where there are at least three projects underway to export liquefied natural gas to Asian markets.

Fri November 11/11 5:10am

Northern Gateway Joint Review hearings will begin in Kitimat on Jan 10, 2012.

[This morning the JRP announced the list of communities it will visit.](#)

The plan calls for two sessions in many communities, the first for official interveners, the second for oral comments

Conservation:

Sun November 27/11 9:15am

Open letter to Minister Ashfield

See <http://alexandramorton.typepad.com> for my response to the Minister of Fisheries' letter to me this morning regarding the ISA virus

Cohen Inquiry has reopened their website for comments from the public and are reopening on ISA virus Dec 15, 16 <http://www.cohencommission.ca>

Wed November 23/11 2:30pm

New From TheCanadian.org: Marine Harvest Pleads Guilty

Shades of Green: Pleading Guilty - "By Their Deeds Ye Shall Know Them" - by Ray Grigg

After two years of pleading innocent, Marine Harvest was now accepting responsibility for "incidental bycatch" in 2009 at two of its northern Vancouver Island facilities. Wild salmon and herring were captured and killed during the netting and transfer of farmed fish, adequate measures were not taken to prevent, recover and release the wild fish to minimize harm and mortality, and the bycatch was neither recorded nor reported as required by law.

Our independent voice for BC's environment depends entirely on your generosity - please contribute to our work: <http://thecanadian.org/donate>

Mon November 14/11 5:10am

From TheCanadian.org: ISAv Confusion

Shades of Green: ISAv - Threat, Fear, Mystery and Warning - by Ray Grigg

The immediate panic subsided with the CFIA's recent announcement that re-testing of the sockeye samples did not find ISAv. Were the samples now too old? Had they been improperly stored? Could the original tests, done by one of the world's reference labs for ISAv, have been faulty? Were the CFIA's tests faulty? Why had the many tests done on farmed fish not detected ISAv? Why had the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) not been testing for the disease in wild salmon? Why did no federal agency have a protocol for responding to an ISAv emergency?

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Sun November 13/11 5:10am

ISA virus Update

Dear Wild Salmon People

On November 8 the provincial and federal governments of Canada announced there is no "evidence" of ISA virus in British Columbia, ignoring 6 positive tests from two of the top world labs for ISA virus. This announcement came amid world headlines that farm salmon prices continue to fall due to over-supply, while the Premier of BC was on a trade mission to China.

Thank you to all of you who are reporting on the condition of the wild salmon in rivers in your area and have kept us going with your donations.

Alexandra Morton

<http://alexandramorton.typepad.com>

Thu November 10/11 5:10am

From TheCanadian.org: En / SA v Cartoon / Rafe's 80th birthday / Oil, Cancer & Bicycles

New Gerry Hummel Cartoon: ISAv Salmon

Check out this new cartoon from Gerry Hummel. In recent weeks British Columbians and concerned media and citizens around the world have been rocked by the revelation that multiple species of wild Pacific salmon are showing signs of being infected by a European strain of the deadly Infectious Salmon Anemia virus.

<http://thecanadian.org/k2/item/1140-cartoon-isav-salmon>

Oil, Cancer & Bicycles: The Unholy Alliance Between the BC Cancer Foundation and Enbridge - by Damien Gillis

The high-profile sponsorship of a BC cancer research charity event by the world's biggest oil [pipeline builder raises serious questions about the ethics of fundraising](#) - and threatens to backfire for both organizations involved. "What I question is whether it is ethical for an organization battling cancer to accept a large donation from a company whose products cause cancer, which they do...Moreover, is it appropriate for this organization to offer Enbridge the opportunity to greenwash its severely embattled image in BC?"

Rafe's Birthday Roast: 80 and Still Kicking Ass

Thursday November 24 from 6:30-9 PM at the Wise Hall (1882 Adanac St., Vancouver), join us as a fantastic list of speakers from the different areas of Rafe Mair's career rib and pay tribute to BC's defender of free speech, the environment and public interest - on the eve of his 80th Birthday. Featuring Rick Cluff, Red Robinson, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Michael Smyth, Moe Sihota, MC'd by CBC's Shiral Tobin - plus many more inspiring British Columbians. Tapas provided. All proceeds go to *The Common Sense Canadian*. **Tickets at TheCanadian.org** <http://thecanadian.org/rafe-80th-birthday>

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Wed November 2/11 9:15am

From TheCanadian.org: ISAv in BC - A Potential Catastrophe

[Shades of Green: The Arrival of Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus](#) - by Ray Grigg

The presence of ISAv in wild Pacific salmon is ominous, a threat that casts a foreboding shadow on the entire marine ecology supported by these iconic fish. The disease is highly infectious, prone to mutation and potentially lethal. As an exotic disease previously unknown in the Pacific Northwest, its effect could cause havoc, shaping indefinitely the direction and focus of conservation efforts. The economic, social and ecological costs could be staggering. In short, ISAv's arrival - almost certainly courtesy of the salmon farming industry - is a potential catastrophe.

Our independent voice for BC's environment depends entirely on your generosity - please contribute to our work: <http://thecanadian.org/donate>

Wed November 2/11 5:10am

ISA virus found in the Fraser River

Dear Wild Salmon People:

The New York Times just published an article on test results from a coho salmon we found dead in the Fraser River. I am glad this got out, thank you to the New York Times, because I was not allowed to tell you.

<http://alexandramorton.typepad.com>

Alexandra Morton

<http://alexandramorton.typepad.com>

[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

Rob Brown blog: http://web.me.com/skeenaangler/Skeena_Angler/Blog/Blog.html

Rob Brown Welcome: http://web.me.com/skeenaangler/Skeena_Angler/Welcome.html

Sat November 26/11 5:30am

Odd decision

Bob phoned. I returned his call.

How's your season going? he asked.

Slow, I said.

It's been fair here, said Bob.

Here, to Bob is the Kispiox. His house is set high on a bank above the river. The shop where Bob crafts bamboo rods is a short cast away.

There's a rumour that the Ministry folks may open the Thompson to fishing and bait, I said.

Bait? from the tone of his voice, I sensed he couldn't believe it.

My friend Pete went down and fished Date Creek yesterday, Bob said.

He fished hard and lost one fish. At the end of the day an Indian carrying a casting rod and a bucket of bait showed up and asked Pete if he could fish through. Pete said he was done and told the guy to go ahead. On his first cast the Indian hooked a steelhead and killed it. On his next cast he hooked another but lost it. Two casts later he lost another.

Yeah, I said, recalling the time when I watched as Mike Whelpley use bait to land 70 steelhead in two days.

None of the salmon rivers in the rest of Canada allow bait, I added. Why, in the name of conservation and common sense do we allow it here?

Not long after my conversation with Bob, I opened my e-box and learned the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) had indeed opened the Thompson River to steelheaders allowing them to use bait. Thompson steelhead are legendary. Until three years ago it was the preferred destination of resident steelheaders and steelheaders the world over. The historic abundance of those hard fighting Thompson fish is unknown, but it was probably considerably more than the figure of 10 thousand that was bandied about.

Salmon eggs were the preferred lure for Thompson River steelhead through most of the river's angling history. The fact that there is a significant mortality associated with the use of roe wasn't an issue during the 50s, 60, and 70s since anglers killed their catches within the legal limits. The fishing managers then were under the impression that there were far more steelhead in all the province's streams than they later discovered there was. The latter realization led to catch and release restrictions and bait bans on many streams. Curiously, the Thompson was one of the last steelhead streams to be declared a catch and release fishery. Stranger still, the use of bait continued.

The imposition of a catch and release fishery dramatically reduced angler impact on Thompson steelhead, but for over a hundred years the net fisheries in the Fraser and at sea and hundreds of years of exposure to the native fisheries were taking their toll on Thompson steelhead. While this was happening, critical spawning habit was under pressure from cattle and the demand for water by ranchers. Not surprisingly, the steelhead population collapsed. Estimates of under a thousand fish surfaced.

The Ministry of the Environment, operating under the management strategy it had adopted in 1996 that established a hierarchy of managerial principles with an emphasis on the precautionary approach to fish management – one that placed the maintenance of a fish populations over social and economic benefits – closed the Thompson to steelhead angling. The managers promised to open the fishery again if the run size estimate reached 1250 fish. Considering that there used to be in excess of ten times as many steelhead returning to the river, this benchmark seemed far too low to many of us who believe that the only sensible way to manage fish is to err heavily on the side of caution to have a better chance of protecting wild fish populations.

For two years the fishery was closed. This year a few steelhead showing up in the test fishery at Albion and in a chum fishery somehow led Robert Bison of the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resources Operations to conclude there is a 50 per cent chance that the 1250 target figure may be reached. Based on this wildly optimistic and scientifically inexact conclusion, FLNRO opened the fishery, ignoring the fact that if there was a 50 per cent chance the steelhead would reach the target figure, there was a 50 per cent chance they wouldn't.

At the end of the day, the people charged with reducing the harm to Thompson Steelhead presided over a bait fishery on an endangered species. The ramifications of this decision will be far reaching and of no help to Thompson steelhead, and will do considerable damage to the credibility of fisheries management staff.

Sat November 5/11 5:10am

Fish farm harm

When I first heard about fish farming I thought of inland ponds filled with catfish. Then I learned that people were raising salmon in pens in the sea. BC had experimented with the practice but after a short run the industry failed.

At the time, The Steelhead Society of BC was campaigning against the overfishing of salmon stocks on the approaches to the Fraser, Skeena, and Nass rivers.

My fellow steelheaders and I did discussed whether this ocean based animal husbandry might offer an alternative to the plunder of wild fish stocks and ultimately supplant the environmentally reprehensible and economically bogus practice of chasing salmon around the sea with nets.

Chris Bennett, a lanky young sandy-haired salt water guide, was the first to raise doubt about fish farming. Chris made the trip from Central Coast to Vancouver every year to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Steelhead Society. He fished the waters in and around the Broughton Archipelago. His excursions took him to the former sites of fish farms that were part of the failed enterprise I mentioned earlier.

Those places are dead zones, he told me. We never catch fish there.

I remember his words precisely. Dead zone is an evocative term, when used to describe part of the ocean. It took me back to the time when I was kid fishing Burrard Inlet, when we watched beaches and parts of the sea floor shorn of life by oil spills and wood waste from logging booms.

I wasn't troubled by those concerns until I heard that the provincial government was entertaining the idea of reintroducing aquaculture in our coasts. At that time, two members of the Steelhead Society's German Branch arrived in BC. They were avid anglers of Atlantic Salmon, an avocation that took them to Norway, which had the finest Atlantic salmon rivers in Europe. The Germans told us that Norway had lost its best salmon streams due to the invasion of farmed fish escapees carrying disease they passed to wild stocks.

At that time I was certain that fish farming posed so many problems that it wasn't worth pursuing, but thanks to the environmentally challenged corporatists in the Liberal Party, we were saddled with them anyway.

I can't think of a single instance where the introduction of an exotic species has brought good to a local environment, but despite our protests, the BC Libs introduced Atlantic Salmon to the Pacific coast. A few sea surges later, some of those fish escaped. Hearing of this, I phoned Mike Lough, of the Ministry of the Environment, for confirmation. He told me that the catch of Atlantic salmon had exceeded that of steelhead on Vancouver Island's Salmon River that year.

Are they spawning? I asked.

Well, said Mike, if they're driven by the same biological imperatives as every other organism in the biosphere, they probably are.

Another big strike against salmon farming, but not the biggest. A few year later I came across the work of Alexandra Morton and John Volpe who had zeroed in on the fact that sea lice which bred abundantly in salmon farms were sucking the life blood from migrant pink salmon who had the misfortune of migrating within spitting distance of salmon farms.

Following this revelation came a heated debate. A debate, I thought, what debate? Why is there a debate, when one has only to phone or email Norway and ask them about sea lice? If you do that the Norwegian fisheries authorities tell you that, sea lice pose a serious problem to wild fish and that the fact that they do is the reason they fine farms that are especially lousy.

Killing the ocean floor; introducing exotic species; putting wild species at risk: It seemed abundantly clear to me that anyone with a modicum of common sense would recognize the absurdity of fish farming, then Yvon Chouinard added another nail to the coffin.

Yvon is very rich because he is very smart. He is living proof that smart guy can get rich and influential on the strength of brain power, creativity and hard work. Sure all the environmental ills associated with fish farming are important, said Yvon, but the average citizen is not aware of them. What those folks are concerned about is what they are feeding their kids.

I looked into it. When you contain so many creatures in close quarters, dye and fungicides are the order of the day. Oh yeah, and the end product doesn't come close to the real deal when you want a salmon meal.

...continued next week. Stay tuned.

Thu November 10/11 5:10am

Farm harm two

The introduction of alien species is fraught with peril. Examples are legion. For instance, some dolt empties the contents of his aquarium into some insignificant waterway in the midwestern US, and before you can say Jack Sprat, Eurasian Tiger fish large enough to knock down a man in an open boat (which some of them do) are hurtling toward the Great Lakes at neck breaking speeds to the alarm of wildlife officials on both sides of the world's longest undefended border.

Daguerreotypes of Haida elders picture them against a backdrop of tropical shrubbery that no longer exists thanks to the depredations of fallow deer introduced to the misty isles by misguided Englishmen yearning for game that would evoke memories of hunting in their homeland.

And, speaking of Haida Gwaii, Langara Island off that archipelago's northern tip was the site of the largest rodent extermination ever, an eradication necessitated by the discovery that Norwegian rats brought there by ship were about to wipe out one of the world's largest colonies of ancient murrelets. When Eurosettlers all but exterminated the bison and introduced an exotic animal known as the cow to Western North America, they unleashed a destructive force that profoundly altered the prairie landscape. Had they cultivated the Bison instead, the animal programmed to thrive in its native environment – an animal that doesn't chomp indigenous grasses roots and all or trample streams denuded of riparian vegetation to the point where they are no longer viable biological entities – the prairies would still be wonderful diverse grasslands and calamities like the dust bowl would not have happened. [Ted Turner](#), father of CNN, is, with 2 million acres of personal ranch land, the largest single land holder on this continent. In his quest to meld economic viability with economic sustainability, Turner did a simple thing: he kicked cows off his land and brought in Bison. Like moose, Bison crop grasses. They are hard wired against overgrazing. That smart move, and the reintroduction of native plants, has turned Turner's lands into the prairie of yore.

The most dramatic and cataclysmic introduction of alien species in history began when Homo Sapiens of the Euro variety hit the shores of North America in search of yellow metal. On his first assault, Cortez was easily beat back by the Aztec. On his second, the same greedy conquistador was astounded by the ease with which his Spanish force overcame the formerly mighty Aztec army, ultimately attributing his triumph to god's will.

Since then we've learned it wasn't god's will at all but the ineluctable will of another irresistible invisible force, namely diseases borne of animal husbandry. Crossover plagues, like tuberculosis and small pox, diseases carried by conquistatorial vectors, had killed untold millions on two continents since Cortez' initial assault, making villages of cities and transforming villages to tribes on the two continents that now bear the name of [Amerigo](#).

With all this historical precedent - and much more besides – at hand, you might think that your provincial government would be averse to the importation of alien species into your province's environment. Nope. The liberals under convicted felon, Gordie Campbell, did just that, when they introduced Atlantic Salmon into our Pacific waters. More than a few of us, including yours truly, warned publicly that introducing exotica into our offshore was courting disaster. but because they are corporate fascists with no concern for public opinion, the hybrid neoconservative party known as the Liberal Party of BC introduced the alien species nonetheless.

So, here we are in 2011 and fisheries scientists have discovered a couple of native salmon juveniles carrying a salmon anemia, ISA, that heretofore was alien to this coast. The anemia is brought on by a virus that is well known to fish farms in eastern Canada, Chile, Scotland, and Norway. It doesn't take a super sleuth to figure out that to get here ISA required a mode of transport, a vector, and that the transmitter had to have been an exotic fish from away. And where do we find such fish? If you said fish farms, move to the front of the class.

The scary thing is that ISA has the potential to destroy Pacific salmon, leading us to the inescapable conclusion that the only way to prevent that from happening is to close ALL salmon farms on this coast immediately. Failure to do so will ultimately result in replacing wild evolutionary programmed salmon that will feed us in perpetuity with exotic salmon of questionable nutritional value that are subject to massive collapse.

Sat November 5/11 5:10am

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

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

Total Uploaded Views as of November 4, 2011 were: 580,558

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!**

Advertise:

Want rates for sponsorship? Just click here <http://www.noelgyger.ca/advertise.htm>

Check the website stats for yourself: <http://www.noelgyger.ca/stats>

It is a "good" idea to **advertise online** because Canadians spend more time on their computers than watching television. They spend 18.1 hours per week online compared with 16.9 hours watching television.

[Click here to read the survey](#)

My GOAL is to increase TOURISM

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- over 25 years promoting tourism and fish guiding experience
- join your consumers on an angling journey of a lifetime
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- gain an edge over your competitors in this ever-expanding market

Current Fishing Report webpage <http://www.noelgyger.ca/current-fishing-reports.htm>

\$50/week, \$150/month (4 or 5 Weekly Reports) or \$1500/year (52 Weekly Reports) for your Banner Ad to be displayed at the top of the report. **Only one top (front page) spot available.**

EXCLUSIVE TO ONE COMPANY

Left Column Bar:

Tower Ad \$150/month

Tall Button Ad \$100/month

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Small Button Ad \$50/month

Large Banner Ad \$100/month (within the body of the report 500x80 pixels)

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

Fishing Regulations:

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

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

On-line tidal waters fishing licenses:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish

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

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

Buy your fishing license online at:

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 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.

Fri November 30/11 5:10am

Market Place:

The Riverfront

For Sale: Condos On the Bulkley River



Town Homes on the River from \$290,000

Life should be good. There are not many waterfront homes in the Bulkley Valley. Each of the eight condos are on the beautiful Bulkley River – one of North America’s Premier Steelhead Fly Fishing Rivers. And that’s just the beginning...

Your future home features energy-efficient, modern, affordable new homes with low maintenance. A riverfront strata development is a special way to live. The location, convenience and security allow you to enjoy all that life has to offer here.

Whether you are new to the area, first time buyers, downsizing, or looking for a holiday home with outdoor activities (fly fishing, lake fishing, skiing, hiking, birdwatching, etc.) this is a unique opportunity. The view from the balconies and the decks, with lawns down to the river, are stunning. These new properties, give you worry-free living right on the rivers.

Contact: Jane Matthews

PO Box 291, 1400 Yellowhead Highway 16

Telkwa, near Smithers, BC V0J 2X0
Tel: 250-846-6000
E-mail: info@theriverfront.ca
Website: <http://www.theriverfront.ca>

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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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 is always welcome

"You meet the nicest people on the river banks"