

# Aspen Inn & Suites

"The Fishermen's Headquarters"



Smithers, BC Toll Free 1-800-663-7676

For fishermen's specials [click here](#)



**Top Photo:** Posted Sunday September 25, 2011. Hi Noel, here is a photo of a nice Steelhead landed on the Morice River this fall. The angler is Onorio Zotti who is the Vice President of the E.U.F.F (**European Union of Fly Fishers**). Our group really, really enjoyed fishing your waters and hope to return often. Thank you. Carla Paderni of Italy.

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 Friday September 30, 2011 – 7:00pm*

**NOTICE:** The **FULL fishing report for August** is posted on the **Past Fishing Reports** webpage: <http://www.noelgyger.ca/past-fishing-reports.htm> Check it out!

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**New!** **FOR SALE:** Condos **On** the Bulkley River See pics and detail in **Market Place** below:

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**Commentary:** Weather cloudy with light rain showers (+7 degrees C). The recent rains blew out most rivers. Some are cleaning up now. Upper Kalum is borderline. Most of the rain will stay in the mountains as snow if it remains cool. Keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned. Good runs of Steelhead and Coho are noted. **Update:** Product Profile **GLoomis** [www.gloomis.com](http://www.gloomis.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](#) posted. **Click on the photo for a larger size.** **Updates:** for Skeena and Kalum Rivers. **Update:** for Zymoetz (Copper) River. **Update:** from Robin Rowland re Will propane be added to the Kitimat's "hot" energy scene? 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 September 30/11 5:40am**

**Skeena River:**

The whole river and dirty and really not fishable. **Reg:** all wild Steelhead everywhere in British Columbia are catch and release. Good chance to catch both Steelhead and Coho (Silver) Salmon on the same day. I suggest the fishing rod be a **GLoomis** STR 1265c/10'6" MED-HEAVY Moderate Action (GL 2 8-171b – 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.

**Sat September 17/11 8:50am**



Hi Noel, the rivers have come back into shape and we have had some great fishing this past week. Kalum River Lodge guests had some exciting Coho fishing on the Kitimat and some nice Steelhead from the Skeena. Here is a photo of Roger Still with just one of his fish so far this week. Please [contact Noel](#) if you wish to book. Regards, [Andrew Rushton](#) of [Kalum River Lodge](#)

**Mon September 12/11 5:30am**



Hi Noel, fishing for us has been going well despite the high water conditions and our anglers have caught good fish most days. Howard Steiss and his son Hogan from BC were fishing with us for a few days and they both caught their first Steelhead. Hogan was pretty pleased when he landed one that was bigger than his Dad's!! Please [contact Noel](#) if you wish to book.  
Regards, [Andrew Rushton](#) of [Kalum River Lodge](#)

**Thu September 8/11 9:30am**



Troy's Steelhead caught on the last day!



Thomas with one of his Steelhead Assistant Guide Tel helps Marcus with a Steelhead Hi Noel, for Troy Adams and Marcus (**See Marcus with Top Photo**) Ervin of Santa Cruz CA it was their 6th year fishing with **Kalum River Lodge**. They had a great two weeks on the Skeena with Thomas from Germany who joins them every year. The fly fishermen had some superb silver Steelhead, large Coho, Sockeye and Pinks - here are just a few photos of their catches. They are returning next year - same time, same place!! Please [contact Noel](#) if you wish to book. Regards, [Andrew Rushton](#) of [Kalum River Lodge](#)

**Tue September 6/11 5:45am**



Hi Folks, I (Noel) went camping and fishing on Saturday and Sunday with my life-time good friend Dave Sonmor. We were fishing for Coho and Steelhead on the Skeena River. I think we did well once we found the migration path the fish were traveling during high and low tide. We landed 8 Steelhead and 3 Coho and lost a whole bunch more. We also landed a few Dolly Varden (Bull Trout) Char. The [Gibbs "Catch and Release"](#) net was a welcome, useful tool we needed to help us land and gently release the Steelhead we caught from the boat.

**Tue September 6/11 5:45am**



Hi Noel, I thought you would like to see a picture of my beautiful Chum I caught on the Skeena River. Sincerely Carla Paderni from Italy. YES, Carla, I love the pic, thanks for sending. Your big Steelhead is now the **"Top Photo"** See top of this fishing report. Noel

**Fri September 2/11 9:30am**



Troy helps Marcus with his super Steelhead



One of Thomas's silver Steelhead Troy with a super Steelhead

Hi Noel, long time guests Troy Adams and Marcus (Whitey) Ervin of Santa Cruz CA are back at Kalum River Lodge for another season with their fishing buddy Thomas from Germany. These anglers were hoping to catch some large Steelhead again this year - and so far they have not been disappointed!

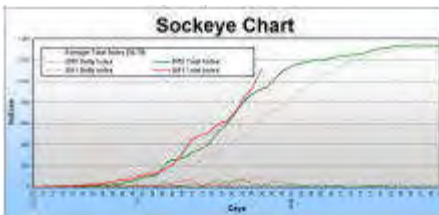
Over the last couple of days the guys have hooked into some large fish and brought a lot of these to the bank. Here are just three of the superb Steelhead they landed yesterday.

The guys are fishing for the rest of the week so we will keep you posted!!

Regards, [Andrew Rushton](#) of [Kalum River Lodge](#)

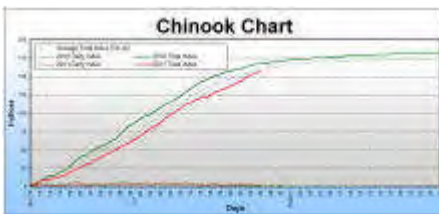
**UPDATED:** Sat September 24/11 9:00pm **Cast on PDF links for current view of Charts**

## 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](#)
- 

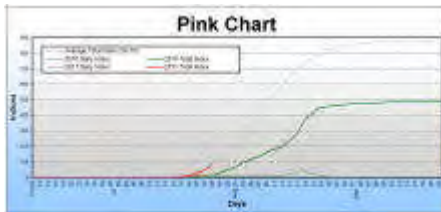
## Coho Charts



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

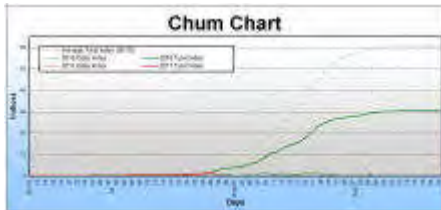
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## Pink Charts



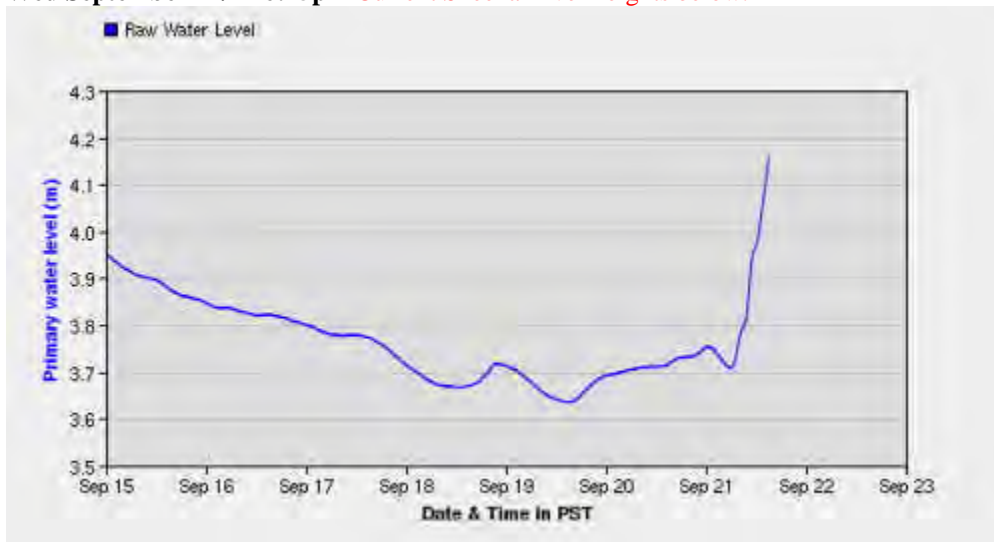
- [Current, Average and Previous Year](#)
  - [Cumulative Index 1956-2010](#)
  - [Average Daily Index 1956-2010](#)
- 

## Chum Charts



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

Wed September 21/11 6:25pm 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)

18 private all-inclusive suites  
● walking distance to Kitimat River  
● located mouth of Douglas Channel  
**Kitimat Lodge**  
Salmon, Steelhead and Halibut guiding

Fri September 2/11 9:30am



### **Kitimat Lodge BC Canada Fishing Report - September 1, 2011**

The past few weeks here in the Kitimat Valley have been very productive and the clients have enjoyed a variety of fishing experiences. I have attached a small collection of our guests who have targeted Coho, Chinook, Halibut and the ever popular Steelhead on the fly.

Our guests from Sweden, Japan, Alberta, Italy, Germany and Saskatchewan all enjoyed the Douglas Channels abundance of fishing opportunities. From coastal rivers fly-fishing and casting jigs for fresh Coho to Saltwater trolling and bottom fishing Halibut.

As September arrives the Kitimat system is full of Salmon as well the Skeena system for Steelhead and Coho.

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)

[tjhittel@telus.net](mailto:tjhittel@telus.net) Skype Address: kitimat\_lodge

**Fri September 23/11 5:40am**

#### **Kalum River:**

Lower end is still high and dirty. Deep Creek coming in a very dark tea colour, other tribs are clean. The upper end is dropping but still dirty. I would say it is borderline fishable. The lake is dirty. It is going to take quite awhile for this river to totally clean out. **Theory:** Under these conditions the fish cannot tell the difference between debris to your terminal tackle. **Fact:** Coho and Steelhead are coming in now! **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.

**Sun September 18/11 2:20pm**

**Lakelse River:** The water is dropping and very clean. Coho are coming in now but NOT in huge numbers. This is "prime-time" for Coho but the fish just are not there in any good numbers. Pinks are in good numbers and most are spawning everywhere. The Bears and the Birds are having a feast. **Update:** I have a report from friends who fished off the bridge today. It was slow, apparently only 4 Coho's landed today. Coho could be seen just below the bridge hovering in the current but they were not biting. **Where:** The



Bridge on the lower end is a popular spot to fish for Coho. **Tip:** Fishing off of the bridge with a marabou jig is the most popular method, so is a [Hot-shot](#) or [Kwikfish](#) plug. **Camping:** There is a rough forestry campsite close to the bridge. **Where:** Fishing on the Skeena River at the mouth of Lakelse River is a good spot to fish for the current migrating fish. I have reports that fishing for Cutthroat, Dolly and Rainbows in the upper end is very good right now. Not Many Coho in the upper end yet.

**Fri September 30/11 5:40am**

**Zymoetz (Copper) River:**



Water is blown out. Lower end is Copper Colour. **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.

**Fri September 16/11 5:40am**



Dennis Therrien with a beautiful Zymoetz (Copper) River Steelhead

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)

**Sun September 25/11 11:15am**

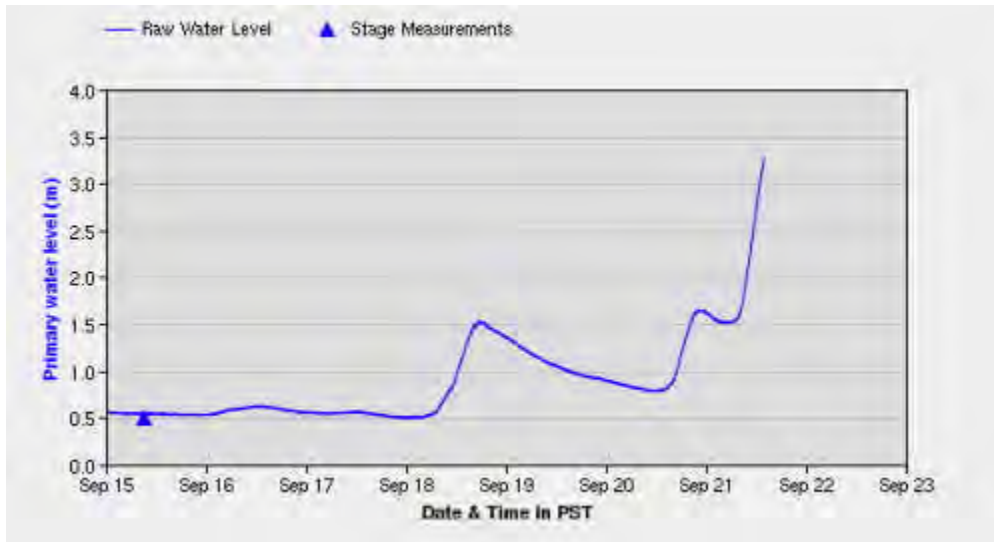
**Kitimat River:**

Kitimat River is blown out, just too much rain. **Upper river campsites are flooded out.** **Fact:** Coho stock numbers will continue to improve throughout September. The challenge will be to figure out the best times and tackle to catch them. Early mornings and evenings are usually the best times. As for tackle, [spoons](#), [hot shots](#), jigs, spinners, float-fishing or bottom-bouncing roe are some of the most effective methods but on any given day one, none or all may work. Coho fishing in this very low, clear water is a challenge. The expectations for the Kitimat River in the coming weeks will be "Big Water" as we can expect our typical fall rain and "Big Coho" as we expect to see more and more of what we locals call the "Northerns". We can also expect to see some Coho starting to change to their spawning colours but we can expect to see some silver that the Coho Salmon are known for. **Tackle suggestion for Coho:** Pull a [Luhr Jensen](#) Hot Shot for a drift boat. The smaller sizes work best.



Here is a couple of very bright Coho landed on the Kitimat River. Thanks to Mike Herzberg for sending these pics. Mike is an associate/assistant guide for [Ron Wakita](#) of [Reliable Guide and Charters](#). Mike has been guiding for Ron for many, many years and really knows his stuff. BTW that is Mike on the left.

**Wed September 21/11 6:25pm** **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)

#### Sun September 11/11 5:45am

##### Kasiks River:

Water clean but very high. I fished the mouth, no current and no Coho. Saggd a few old Pinks. Coho are coming in now and run up river quickly with the recent high water. Most would be holding in the lower end under trees and in deep pools. Jigs and lure work well. **Where:** Early in the Coho season try fishing the pool right below the highway 16 bridge. **Tip:** don't fish for them unless you see them rolling. This is the first river to go out of shape from rain but is the first river to come back into shape once the rain stops. Sometimes, when the rain stops you can see the river cleaning right in front of you.

#### Sun September 11/11 5:45am

##### Exchamsiks River:

Water dirty but cleaning fast. Should be OK in a day or two-three. Coho are coming in now. **Tip:** don't fish for them unless you see them rolling. Jigs and Lures works well most of the time. This river is closed for Chinook (King) Salmon above the highway 16 bridge. **Tip:** Below the highway bridge can be a good spot to fish for Coho.

#### Sun September 11/11 5:45am

##### Exstew River:

Water totally dirty. Coho are coming in now. How to: This is one of the best rivers in the world to fly fish for Coho...but first conditions must be perfect. This rivers is usually colored up and fishing is not that good. Timing is everything. This river is closed for Chinook (King) Salmon above the highway 16 bridge.

#### 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](#).

#### Thu September 8/11 5:45am



Hi Noel, I thought your readers would be interested to see this pic of a monster Halibut from the Douglas Channel before the closer on Sept. 5th. It really did take three of us to hold it up. How much did it weigh? Not sure, but it was a big one! Coloured up water in the rivers have driven us out to sea, so to speak...so we can continue to catch fish. Did I say all 5 species of Salmon, Bottom Fish and Dungeness Crab? Have your readers [contact us anytime](#), we will be happy to get them into fish both river and ocean.

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)

[tjhittel@telus.net](mailto:tjhittel@telus.net) Skype Address: kitimat\_lodge

### **Prince Rupert:**

**Tue September 6/11 11:15am**



Hi Noel, as the Sport Halibut season has officially been closed by DFO after reaching our quota on the 5th Sept 11:59 2011 I did manage to get out and catch some nice Hali's on the 4th. Apparently there is Halibut Quota There is also lots of Coho Salmon in the Prince Rupert Area. Sincerely, [Jeff Carlson](#) of **J&E Tackle Shop** and [BC Style Fishing Charters](#) **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...

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**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.

**Morice River:**

**Wed September 28/11 5:40am**

The Morice is high and dirty. It has snowed there today as well. 3 inches of snow striking to the ground... If it warms up....

**Mon September 26/11 5:40am**

The Morice is still fishable.

**Tue September 20/11 5:40am**

The Morice is still in excellent shape and it is dropping. Again, some Steelheads are being caught on the Morice. Fishing is not very consistent. Good for a day or two than very poor.... Fishing should improve as water levels drop....

**Tue September 13/11 5:45am**

The Morice is in excellent shape. It has been a busy place over the last few days. We have had reports of some Steelhead being caught.

**Thu September 8/11 5:45am**

The Morice is in very good shape and Steelhead and Cohos are being caught. Now is the time to fish it... Not many people on the Morice.

**Thu September 1/11 3:00pm**

The Morice is in very good shape. Steelhead being caught in the lower parts of the river.

**Bulkley River**

**Wed September 28/11 5:40am**

The Bulkley River is "fishing". 2-3 feet of visibility. Fish tight to shore and light..... It is snowing at higher elevations so the river could come up again in a flash.... if it warms up.

**Mon September 26/11 5:40am**

The Bulkley above the Telkwa is still in good shape. Below the Telkwa visibility is 1-2 feet.... Lots of rain in the mountains..... Beware of a big grizzly bear between Telkwa and Smithers close to the "dump".

**Tue September 20/11 5:40am**

The Bulkley is dropping. The water is looking fantastic. Fishing for Steelhead is sporadic... Some huge fish have been caught last week. Coho fishing is fairly slow above Morice Town for now.

**Tue September 13/11 5:45am**

The Bulkley is still high for this time of year but it is fishing good. The river is great shape above the Telkwa. It is "greening" up below the Telkwa. Some Steelhead being caught through out.

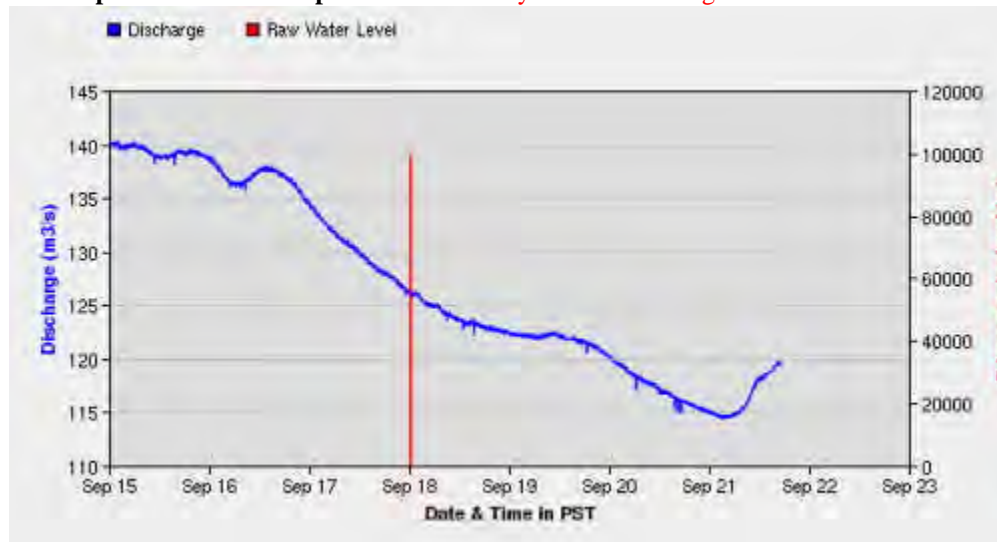
**Thu September 8/11 5:45am**

The Bulkley above the Telkwa River is in prime shape although a bit high for this time of year. The Bulkley below the Telkwa is somewhat coloured but fishable. Cohos, Pinks and Steelhead in the system.

**Thu September 1/11 3:00pm**

The entire Bulkley is in good shape. The water level is still fairly high for this time of year however. Let's hope for a drier fall. Pinks and Coho are being caught in the Bulkley. Use jigs, spinners or spoons for Coho. Blue, green and silver are the top colours. Colorado blades are also working. Fishing for Coho seems to be best in the lower parts of the Bulkley. Fish for them early in the morning for best success. A few Steelheads caught this week as well. Some on dry flies.... Way to go Lane....

**Wed September 21/11 7:05pm** Current Bulkley River water height near Smithers BC below:



Direct link to Bulkley water height near Smithers:

[http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph\\_e.html?stn=08EE005](http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph_e.html?stn=08EE005)

**Kispiox River:**

**Wed September 28/11 5:40am**

Borderline fishable yesterday at the bottom. Better higher up. Some fish caught. Busy place....

**Mon September 26/11 5:40am**

The Kispiox is high again.... If the weather gods cooperate it should be fishing great in a day or two again.... Fishing was so good over the last few days.... Big fish.

**Tue September 20/11 5:40am**

The Kispiox is in really good shape at this time. The water level is still a bit high. Some nice fish have been caught over the last few days. The Kispiox is a very busy place.....

**Tue September 13/11 5:45am**

The water level is coming down on the Kispiox. What an ugly week it was last week. It is now fishing again..... We have had reports of some Steelhead being caught on Sunday.

**Thu September 8/11 5:45am**

The Kispiox is high and dirty. Cohos are in and so are some Steelhead.

**Thu September 1/11 3:00pm**

Is high. It should come down unless we get hit with more of the wet stuff... Coho are in... Steelhead should not be far off...

Direct Link to Kispiox River water height:

[http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph\\_e.html?stn=08EB004](http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph_e.html?stn=08EB004)

**Babine River:**

**Tue September 20/11 5:40am**

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

**Tue September 13/11 5:45am**

Water levels on the Babine are still high.

**Thu September 8/11 5:45am**

The Sockeye fishery on the Babine River is now closed (no more retention). There are still lots of Sockeye in the river/lake. Some beautiful Steelhead have been caught already.....

**Thu September 1/11 3:00pm**

The Sockeye fishery on the Babine River is now closed (no more retention). The water is still fairly high. Steelhead season is fast approaching on the Babine.

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

[http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/graph/graph\\_e.html?stn=08EC013](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!](#)

**NOTE:** Don't forget that it is **September 1<sup>st</sup>**, and on most rivers you will now need your **classified waters stamp** and regardless if you are targeting them or not; your **steelhead stamp**.

Check your regulations book to be sure you have the correct licence!

**Special Thanks:** to [Oscar's Source for Adventure](#) for **FISHING REPORTS** from the Smithers area including Bulkley, Morice, Kispiox and Babine Rivers PLUS Babine and other local lakes.

**Lakes - Meziadin:**

**New** content for August coming soon..

Tight lines,

*Marvin Reid*

[marvin\\_reid@telus.net](mailto:marvin_reid@telus.net)

250-639-9856

Internet problems are preventing Marvin from sending his report. Hopefully they can solve the problem soon. Please stand by.

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**Guest Reports and Photos:**

**Thu September 8/11 5:45am**



Hey Noel, I finally got together with [Tracey and his crew](#) to do some salmon fishing. Fished in the rain for 2 days but caught a pretty nice Coho.

I really enjoyed the experience, and had a good time.

Jason Henderson  
[Rapala](#) Prostaff  
Edmonton, AB

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**Past Top Photos:**





**Posted September 20-21-22-23-24-25\_2011.** Hi Noel, here is a pic of a fresh northern Coho (Silver) Salmon. I hope you like it. Thanks for posting [Noel](#). Best regards, [Tracey Hittel](#) of [Kitimat Lodge](#)



**Posted September 17-18-19-20\_2011.** Hi Noel, I thought your readers would like to see this photo of a Zymoetz (Copper) River Steelhead I caught a few days ago. This may be the largest Steelhead I have ever landed. It was quite the "tug-of-war", my small [Gami](#) hook and split rings were stressed to the max. Your favourite son-in-law, Dennis Therrien.



**Posted September 14-15-16-17\_2011.** Hi Noel, I thought you and your readers may like to see this photo of a Skeena River Coho (Silver) Salmon. The angler is Germano Bana. He is president of E.U.F.F. (European Union of Fly Fishers). Our group really enjoyed fishing your beautiful waters. Best wishes, Carla Paderni from Italy.



**Posted September 11-12-13-14\_2011.** Hi Noel, fishing for us has been going well despite the high water conditions and our anglers have caught good fish most days. Howard Steiss and his son Hogan from BC were fishing with us for a few days and they both caught their first Steelhead. Hogan was pretty pleased when he landed one that was bigger than his Dad's!! Please [contact Noel](#) if you wish to book. Regards, [Andrew Rushton](#) of [Kalum River Lodge](#)



**Posted September 8-9-10-11\_2011.** Hi Noel, for Troy Adams and Marcus Ervin of Santa Cruz CA it was their 6th year fishing with **Kalum River Lodge**. They had a great two weeks on the Skeena with Thomas from Germany who joins them every year. The fly fishermen had some superb silver Steelhead, large Coho, Sockeye and Pinks - here are just a few photos of their catches. They are returning next year - same time, same place!! Please [contact Noel](#) if you wish to book. Regards, [Andrew Rushton](#) of [Kalum River Lodge](#)



**Posted September 5-6-7-8\_2011.** Hi Noel, I thought you would like to see a picture of my beautiful wild Steelhead I caught on the Skeena River. Sincerely Carla Paderni from Italy. YES...thank you Carla. I also posted another picture, this time of your Chum Salmon. Best regards, Noel



**Posted September 1-2-3-4-5\_2011.** Hi Noel, my guest from Japan had a ball, to say the least, catching these beautiful Skeena River Steelhead with his spey fly rod. Thanks for posting Noel. Best regards, [Tracey Hittel](#) of [Kitimat Lodge](#)



**Posted August 26-27-28-29-30-31\_2011.** Hi Noel, with the Skeena dropping, **Kalum River Lodge** guests are enjoying some exciting fishing. Anglers today caught Coho, Sockeye, Pinks and Steelhead. Here are a few photos of our guests, David and Annella from Australia and Kermit from the USA, with just some of their super catches. The pic above is Dave. See my other guests pics in the Skeena River section below. Please [contact Noel](#) if you wish to book. Regards, [Andrew Rushton](#) of [Kalum River Lodge](#)



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

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

Tight Lines and see you on the water.

*Jeff Carlson* – owner

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Kitimat BC

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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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**G.Loomis Rods are the "Rod of Choice" of many of the Fishing Guides in the North West.**

**G.Loomis 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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**News Bulletin:** <http://www.noelgyger.ca/news-bulletin.htm>



**Remembering a fly fishing pioneer**

**Brian SMITH**

*Special to The Citizen* <http://www.pgcitizen.ca>

Bob Melrose succumbed to cancer this month. Our deepest condolences go out to his soul mate and partner Maria Brown, and to his two daughters Marni and Jayme and their families. If we consider Bill Nation and



Jack Shaw as pioneers of fly fishing in B.C.'s Southern Interior, Bob deserves the title in our Central Interior. He was the guy you would seek out for information if you wished to fly fish B.C. north of Williams Lake during the 1970s all the way to his passing. When I published my book Fly Fishing BC's Interior in 2009, I had the pleasure of interviewing Bob for a chapter I wrote on fly fishing history in the North. Born in Eastern Canada, Bob's family migrated to Lethbridge in the early 1950s, where he grew up fishing the local prairie reservoirs.

Fortunately, hitchhiking was pretty safe in those days, for every weekend he could be found with fly rod in hand thumbing rides toward southern Alberta's foothills and mountain streams – fly fishing became a passion that Bob enjoyed all of his life. Bob arrived in Prince George in late 1966.

Being a self-taught fly fisherman who loved to sell, it seemed only natural that in 1974 he opened Bob's Sports and through customer service, grew the business into the largest selection of fishing tackle north of Vancouver. It was through his business that Bob Melrose became a famous fly fishing name in the North: selling, guiding, discovering and challenging the country and its fledgling fishing resource for his clients and customers. Throughout the years Bob spent in the North, he contributed his time and knowledge to many endeavours. He wrote a weekly fishing column for The Citizen, conducted video fly fishing programs at Kelly Road elementary school and held fly fishing instruction classes in the lakes and rivers of our region.

He published many fly fishing articles, authored book segments for other writers, and from 2002 to 2004 designed and authored the weekly Internet column BC North [www.bcnorth.ca](http://www.bcnorth.ca). In one article, Bob writes: "I embrace the new and have a great fondness for the old. I've enjoyed the journey and hope it's a long one. I hope I never arrive." Those words pretty much summed up Bob's thoughts on life. Bob's favourite places are also our haunts: the Stellako, Anzac, Blackwater, Crooked, Morice and Bulkley Rivers. And also our clearest and most challenging lakes: Opatcho, Vivian, Everett, Pinkerton, Hart, Wicheeda and Dragon.

Bob, we miss you and will remember you when we reminisce of the great fly fishers we have known. Thank you for all you have given to us, for your grace and friendship, your encouragement and willing smiles, and for your dedication to the sport of fly-fishing.

You have arrived at the place we will all inhabit – keep the Sage fly rod handy and tucked under your arm during your journeys – I hear there's some great fly fishing just over that far ridge.

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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>

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

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**Skeena Wild Film Fest:**

HELP CELEBRATE THE WILD PLANTS, ANIMALS,  
PLACES AND PEOPLE OF THE SKEENA!

# SKEENAWILD

# FILM FEST

## FILM AND PHOTO CONTEST | GREAT PRIZES

**CONTEST DETAILS:**  
CONTEST OPENS: JUNE 1, 2011  
EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: JULY 29, 2011  
CONTEST CLOSES: SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

 **CONTEST INFO AND ENTRY DETAILS:**  
[skeenawild.org/events](http://skeenawild.org/events)

The **2011 SkeenaWild Film Festival: Film & Photo Contest** is looking for your 'Skeena'-centric films & photos! Why you're passionate about the Skeena Watershed – the scenery, the ecology, the adventures? **This is your chance, to tell your story!** We are accepting submissions in 2 categories as either a short or feature length film &/or photos this year: **Wild People of the Skeena:** Adventure/ Eco-tourism and **Wild Animals & Plants of the Skeena:** Environmental/ sustainability Vision or story; etc. For all of you **Wild People of the Skeena**, show us how you and your friends enjoy the amazing Skeena watershed – the amazing places you go – the wild adventures you experience!

For all of you **Wild Plants, Animals & Places of the Skeena** (...or people who can speak on behalf), it's your chance to 'show-and-tell' an incredible creature, an awe inspiring spot or YOUR VISION for a vibrant and sustainable Skeena. Any genre of film is fair game; from adventure or documentaries to drama or even comedy.

The selected films and photos will be shown on the SkeenaWild Film Fest Tour, clips may be included in the festival trailer, films will be posted on the SkeenaWild website along with hopefully more locations to be announced shortly! There **will be great prizes in each category, so get out & get shooting.**

For more contest details & how to enter, download the Film Submission Guidelines & Entry Form at [www.SkeenaWild.org](http://www.SkeenaWild.org) or e-mail [rod@skeenawild](mailto:rod@skeenawild)



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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

**Fri September 30/11 5:40am**

[Will propane be added to the Kitimat's "hot" energy scene?](#)

The energy industry monitor Argus Media speculated Tuesday that propane could be added to Kitimat's energy scene, as an ingredient to upgrade the natural gas that will be exported to Asia.

**Mon September 26/11 4:35pm**

We're not afraid of Kitimat, Oregon rivals say, as papers filed for LNG export terminal permit

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com/2011/09/jordan-cove-energy-project-often.html>

The Jordan Cove Energy Project, often cited by energy industry experts as Kitimat's chief west coast rival as a liquified natural gas export project, sent a \$50 filing fee to the United States Treasury on Friday, thus notifying the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that the company is seeking to export liquified natural gas from its planned \$3.5 billion terminal at Coos Bay, Oregon.

Although testimony at June's National Energy Board hearings cited Coos Bay as a rival that could take LNG business away from Kitimat, the view from Oregon appears to be just the opposite.

Jordan Cove project manager Robert Braddock told the industry newsletter, Platt's Gas, that he is "not afraid of competition from the north, where Kitimat LNG is planning an export terminal in British Columbia."

**Sun September 25/11 4:35pm**

[How Kitimat harbour will look if both Northern Gateway and KM LNG go ahead](#)

A recent filing by the Enbridge Northern Gateway project with the Joint Review Panel shows just what Kitimat harbour and the town's service area will look like if both the liquefied natural gas projects go ahead and so does the Northern Gateway.

Three maps show areas where the two pipelines follow the same routes and where they diverge on their way to Kitimat harbour and Bish Cove.

**Thu September 22/11 9:30am**

[Harper appears to endorse Northern Gateway in TV interview](#)

In an interview with Bloomberg News, Prime Minister Stephen Harper strongly endorsed the bitumen pipeline from Alberta to Texas, the controversial Keystone XL project and then went on to apparently push for the Enbridge Northern Gateway project by saying "there is all the more reason why Canada should look at trade diversification and particularly diversification of energy exports."

**Thu September 21/11 9:30am**

[Christy Clark flies to Kitimat, spins on LNG, flies out again](#)

BC Premier Christy Clark made a flying visit to Kitimat Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, dropping into Kitamaat Village to meet with the leaders of the Haisla First Nation and, as part of the flying, boarded a helicopter to take a look at the KM LNG at under construction at Bish Cove, before flying out again.

It was all part of the premier's campaign style job strategy which sees Clark touring the province this week and unveiling a complete jobs package on Thursday.

Clark's visit to the Kitimat region is controversial here because from all appearances, there was little or no substance. If the visit had in been the early decades of the last century, when politicians traveled by train rather than helicopter, it would have been a "whistle stop," nothing more.

**Sat September 17/11 5:40am**

Salmons' extra large guts are a survival tactic

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com/2011/09/salmons-extra-large-guts-are-a-survival-tactic.html>

Salmon have extra large guts—up to three times larger than its body would suggest—that help it survive, scientists at the University of Washington say.

The study "Excess digestive capacity in predators reflects a life of feast and famine" is published in Nature.

A news release from the university calls the large gut a "previously unrecognized survival tactic."

**Fri September 16/11 8:40am**

Kitimat takes halibut fight to BC municipal convention

[Kitimat is taking the fight over halibut allocation](#) to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention to be held in Vancouver September 26 to September 30.

The resolution is one of two that the union will consider on the halibut controversy, the other comes from the Capital District on Vancouver Island.

**Fri September 9/11 8:45am**

Harper kills bitumen export ban, support for ocean monitoring group: reports

According to media reports, [Prime Minister Stephen Harper has killed support](#) for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Area Management Initiative (PNCIMA) set up to monitor the ocean on the northern BC coast, while at the same time killing a plan to ban export of bitumen to countries with poor environmental records.

**Fri September 9/11 5:45am**

More objections to halibut closure

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com/2011/09/links-more-objections-to-halibut-closure.html>

Letters and op ed opinions to various media continue, objecting to the early closure of the recreational halibut fishery.

**Tue September 6/11 5:45am**

Kelp has great potential as green [biofuel studies suggest](#)

Kelp, which is abundant on the west coast of North America, has potential as a renewable biofuel resource because it is a fast-growing, large "macro-algae" that could be harvested, processed and turned into ethanol, methane or bio-oil, according to a recent study in Wales

**Tue September 6/11 4:45am**

International backing for Northern Gateway pipeline grows: new [Chinese investment](#), more Joint Review interveners

The Globe and Mail and Reuters are reporting that Enbridge has more Chinese support for the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline project. One large Chinese group, China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. (Sinopec), is already backing Enbridge's efforts to build the Northern Gateway. The Globe says that the list of funders also now includes MEG Energy Corp., which is partly owned by CNOOC Ltd., another Chinese state-owned energy company. The Globe also reports that more international companies are intervening at the Joint Review Panel in favour of the pipeline.

**Fri September 2/11 10:10am**

Shell considering giant floating [LNG platform off BC Coast](#)

Alberta Oil is reporting that Shell's plans for a liquified natural gas export facility somewhere on the northern British Columbia coast will likely be a giant floating platform, similar to the platform planned for the coast of Western Australia.

Alaska legislature [looks at state's halibut crisis](#)

With a deadline fast approaching on a federal plan to reduce the number of fish allocated to Alaska halibut charter businesses and hand them over to commercial fishermen, a handful of state legislators say they are going to take a look at the issue

**Fri September 2/11 9:30am**

Anger in Homer, Alaska over [halibut allocation](#)

There is growing anger to the north of us in Alaska, over halibut allocation policies by the US National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration. If Kitimat is the centre of opposition by the recreational halibut sector in British Columbia, in Alaska, much of the opposition is in the town of Homer.

Japan seeking more sources of LNG

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com/2011/08/links-japan-seeking-more-sources-of-lng.html>

Post-earthquake Japan is said to be one of the main markets for liquified natural gas that will flow through the LNG terminals under construction and proposed for the port of Kitimat. Since the earthquake Japan has been making major purchases of LNG from both Qatar and Russia.

The Doha, Qatar-based, Gulf Times is reporting Qatar is about to overtake Indonesia as the third-largest exporter of liquefied natural gas to Japan.

Halibut controversy continues

<http://nwcoastenergynews.com/2011/08/links-halibut-controversy-continues.html>

Local newspapers in coastal BC are reporting more opposition to DFO's closing of the halibut season

### **Conservation:**

**Sat September 24/11 5:40am**

From **TheCanadian.org**: Why Cohen Salmon Inquiry Matters

### **Why Cohen Matters: Salmon Inquiry's Many Benefits - by Damien Gillis**

Like most of the observers at the recent Cohen Commission hearings on aquaculture and diseases, I had a mixed reaction to what I saw. I shared the consternation of many in attendance at the continued obfuscation from the scientists and managers of DFO, the Province and the aquaculture industry on the stand. Yet, I also believe the Commission will prove, in the fullness of time, a worthy exercise. Not necessarily because of whatever official recommendations eventually emerge, but because of the Inquiry's many ancillary benefits.

**Tue September 20/11 5:40am**

From **TheCanadian.org**: Rafe: Pt.3 on Civil Dissent / Sockeye Murder Mystery

### **Rafe: Public Can't Rely on Government Processes to Stop Tankers and Pipelines**

Consider the Harper government's position – to reject the pipelines and tankers would be to reject the Tar Sands, especially if the US Keystone XL pipeline is rejected by President Obama. We must face the fact that neither government will stand in the way of these projects. We must prepare for the worst...We must assume that the projects will be approved and, govern our actions accordingly. Clearly, then, we must be ready for civil disobedience.

### **Shades of Green: Sockeye Salmon Murder Mystery - by Ray Grigg**

The puzzle of British Columbia's disappearing Fraser River sockeye is unfolding like a classical murder mystery. Suspects abound. Suspicion has fallen on such culprits as atypical ocean predators, unusual algae blooms, overfishing, inadequate food supplies, and threatening high temperatures in both marine and river ecologies. Each suspect has been carefully investigated and each may have inflicted some injury on the hapless sockeye. But the prime suspect is the salmon farming industry...

**Thu September 15/11 5:40am**

Alexandra Morton reports: Hello Wild Salmon People, I wish I could report better news regarding the Cohen Inquiry. Canada and the Province of BC did what they could to prevent me from reporting on the content of the 500,000 documents submitted to Cohen. At some point my testimony will appear on the

Cohen website on the dates September 7, 8 so you can verify what I have written on my blog.

The salmon farmers are already telling everyone:

[Salmon farmers confident Cohen will not link wild fish decline to farmed fish](#)

I guess they have the inside scoop...

Here is my report on my two days on the stand:

<http://alexandramorton.typepad.com>

Here are several other articles:

[Cohen commission Morton vs Industry Govt Juggernaut](#)

[Cohen Inquiry Ignites debate over DFOs ability to regulate and promote salmon stocks article](#)

**Fri September 9/11 5:20am**

Hello: It's Day Two for me on the stand at the Cohen Inquiry. Damien Gillis of the Canadian.org [summarized yesterday](#) better than I ever could.

I am sorry the live streaming was intermittent please go to [www.salmonaresacred.org](http://www.salmonaresacred.org) and they will direct you to where you can hear today's proceedings.

We begin at 10 am pacific time until 12:30, then 2-4 pm

Thank you all for the flood of email support. I will do my best to bring the issues to light, but it will be up to you and society in general to decide if salmon farm feedlots should remain on the Fraser sockeye migration routes, whether you want to know if there are brain tumours in the Fraser sockeye and whether salmon farm-origin viruses were responsible for the majority of Fraser sockeye that went missing.

The European shareholders of this industry need to consider the ethics of the situation here in BC.

Alexandra Morton

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

**Thu September 8/11 5:45am** [Tar Sands Pipelines: Our Moment of Truth](#) - by **Rafe Mair**

We are, I think, at the moment of truth. Either we stop these pipelines or the environmental movement becomes like unions were under communism, pallid burlesques of what we once were now reduced to patronizing speeches by corporations and governments when they feel the need for some fuzzy warmth from the inert masses that now do precisely as they are told...I might as well spit it out. We must march and picket and refuse to give way - we will, then be called upon to disobey the law. And, we must be prepared to go to jail.

**Rafe: [Precautionary Principle Missing in Protecting Wild Salmon](#)**

The precautionary principle simply states, "if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those taking the action." This is a huge matter, for the onus of proving the unsafeness of fish farms does not rest upon Alexandra Morton; rather, the onus of proving its safeness rests upon industry and the government departments in question.

**Wed September 7/11 10:25am**

Hello, [Today and tomorrow I am on the stand at the Cohen Inquiry](#). I will try to pull this thing into focus so that society can make an informed choice.

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

Alexandra Morton

**Fri September 2/11 9:30am**

**Pants on Fire**

Hello, testimony at the Cohen Inquiry Aquaculture Hearings hit a new low yesterday. The lengths scientists are going to cover up the marine anemia outbreak that occurred on salmon farms in the Fraser sockeye migratory corridor is extraordinary. If DFO succeeds in disassembling Dr. Miller's lab, the truth about this disease, its impact on sockeye and the concern voiced in the 1990s regarding its potential for health concerns will never be reveal. If these vets want to tell us all the research done on marine anemia, also called Plasmacytoid Leukemia was wrong, they are going to have to retract the papers they wrote in journals such as Cancer Research, Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, The Canadian Veterinary Journal, the Journal of General Virology and Dr. Stephen's PhD Thesis.

The media is not reporting on this so please forward this email to your contacts.

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](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)

**Mon September 26/11 5:40am**

#### **Smoking gun**

The biggest mystery in Canadian fisheries over the last decade has to be the case of the troubled Fraser River sockeye. One year they return in numbers resembling what is thought to be historic abundance, the next they are in steep decline. Only a few years ago the pathetic returns of sockeye to the upper watershed of the Fraser had the First Nations of the region in a state of high dudgeon.

Many culprits have been fingered in this whodunit. Some accuse the First Nations who fish the river from canyon to coast claiming that illegal black market fishing, in particular, is to blame. Others point to the years and years of gillnet fishing at the mouth of the river. Still others speculate that the changing climate and the resultant high water temperature regimes might explain the plight of Fraser sockeye, while others claim that subtle changes in the ocean due to a climate change are the root cause.

While the debate over whether some or all of these factors may in part explain the baffling sockeye predicament, scientific super sleuth, Dr. Kristi Millar, of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, appears to have found the smoking gun.

Dr. Millar is a profiler; a genomic profiler. Genomic profiling is a leading edge scientific tool that enables detectives, like Kristi Millar, to examine how cells have switched on and off in response to stressors like disease or lack of food. After an alarming decline in Fraser Sockeye in 1992, her bosses at FOC/DFO put Dr. Millar on the case. Miller ran genomic profiles on the Fraser sockeye as they approached the coast and found that most of the fish were fighting a virus that weakened their immune system.

Two years earlier, Dr. Michael Kent, then the Director of the Pacific Biological Station, had found tumours in the brains of farmed salmon while studying a leukemia outbreak in salmon farms located near the Discovery Islands. He subsequently named the disease, plasmacytoid leukemia and published his research on it. In an attempt to soften the connotative blow, the fish farmers renamed it marine anemia. Millar observed tumours in the Fraser sockeye. She read the salmon cells attempting to track down make a viral match. She found it. Plasmacytoid Leukemia.

Salmon farms, like pig farms, chicken farms, and feed lots for cattle, are incredibly filthy places. Situating them in the world's richest and most biologically valuable habitat on the planet was a sin of the first order. The fact that the people responsible for siting for these foul, lousy operations were working according to the antediluvian principle that the solution to pollution is dilution, and were completely unconcerned with the migratory routes of salmon, is a big time crime.



In 1992 fish farm feedlots were built on the migratory route of Fraser sockeye. The numbers of those fish promptly went into steep decline. Many discrete stocks make up the entire Fraser sockeye run. Most of the sockeye migrate past the Discovery Islands. The sockeye bound for the Harrison River do not. In contrast to the many Fraser Sockeye runs, the Harrison fish increased in abundance. Then fish farms were sited along their migratory route. A generation after these farms went into production, the Harrison sockeye began dying unspawned in alarming numbers.

It turns out that a single salmon farm with 1,000,000 fish can shed 60 billion viral particles per hour during a disease outbreak. It seems obvious that the big killer of Fraser Sockeye may be viral leukemia they are picking up when swimming past fish farms.

Dr. Millar published her findings in the prestigious *Journal Science*. For her efforts she should have been given the highest praise and lavish funding to continue her good work on behalf of fish and us, right? I'm afraid not.

The privy council has forbidden her to speak to the press. She has not been allowed to attend meetings. Her research funding has been cut. The behaviour of her colleagues in FOC suggests that they have been told to treat her as *persona non grata*. When she arrived to testify before the Cohen Commission, an inquiry into the problems of Fraser Salmon, she was flanked by men in dark suits with ear buds, as if she was a Nazi war criminal on trial in Israel.

The scandalous treatment of Dr. Millar goes right to rot and disease in the highest echelons of the federal government. This is not Syria. In this country, we expect our leaders to encourage free and open scientific inquiry, especially when one of our most precious resources, Pacific Salmon is clearly at great risk.

Write the PM and your MP. Ask Harper how this could happen Canada.

## **Tue September 20/11 5:40am**

### **Bear wars**

Summer, or whatever you want to call the cool uncool monsoon season we just experienced, is almost done. The cool temperatures of the last two and a half months guaranteed that the Saskatoon berry bushes would be busted. The abnormally enduring high waters in all our rivers combined with abysmally low numbers of pink and chum salmon ensured that dramatically low numbers of fish carcasses reached the river banks. Other than a strong suggestion that climate is a-changin', what does this all mean?

It means that there will be bears in town. You can't blame the bruins for making like *homo sapiens* and heading for urban environs. With a dearth of the aforementioned feed, the price of apples, garbage, and almost every other digestible substance soars on the ursine stock exchange, guaranteeing that the bears will be back walking out streets.

A bear is spotted on Halliwell. A relative is seen strolling across the playground on the South Side. Jim tells me he saw one clawing over the chain link that surrounds the park where his mobile home rests, and I have a five footer in my back yard.

I'm sure I know the brute. I'm almost certain that he's one of the cubs that was shown the way here by the sow that arrived in the neighborhood some eight or ten years ago to dine on garbage. When she first appeared, Karen and I would turn off the TV and open the living room curtains and watch bear TV, with exhilarating episodes like *Climb the Front Yard Willow*, and *Cavort About the Front Lawn While Eating Trash*.

The return of the former cub was heralded by the demolition of the expensive squirrel-proof bird feeder that Karen had bought me for Xmas. A few days after that criminal act, Karen looked out the back window and saw the perpetrator saunter across the back yard, pluck a woodpecker feeder from its perch and bite through it as if it were a cob of corn.

We're at war, I said, to no one in particular, as I examined the remnants.

A week passed until Pawsome's spasmodic, barely audible barks alerted me to a presence under the feral apple tree growing on the margin of my property. I scrambled for my bear banger and discharged it. The flare rocketed to spot just above his head discharged with a bang that made rifle report seem like the sound of a BB gun.

The bear lit out like a thorough bred. We marked his passage by the barking dogs along Westview Avenue. Someone else must have noted his passage, for the next day a tall Dutch conservation officer was baiting a trap across from my house. A decaying rump roast hung in the back of the trap. Rotting salmon lay on its floor. I felt for the bear. He was in need of correction, not terminal discipline, which, I knew, was the inevitable outcome of his entrapment.

Two days later the bear made a close inspection of the trap, ignored its meaty promises and shook it so violently that the door snapped shut. After this metaphorical, furry middle finger, he ambled off. After a week of fruitless trapping, the CO service removed the cage.

He won't be back, I said. Karen was sceptical. Her scepticism was justified. He came back today. I discharged another banger. Again he left at light speed. Two minutes later two young woman arrived and were about to strike out on the Terrace Mountain Trail until I persuaded them otherwise.

After that, I left for an important meeting of the Terrace Yacht Club only to discover, upon my return, that the bear had returned, clambering from spruce tree to spruce tree along the back of the property like Tarzan of the Apes, before sucking the peanuts from my squirrel feeder.

Even though he's caused me a bit of heartburn, I don't want this bear shot. With the apples gone, the bird feeders on high, and the neighbours keeping their garbage in until just before the arrival of the truck, he will leave, as bears crossing my homestead have for thirty years.

**Unfortunately, the media over reports the extraordinary and ignores the commonplace with the inevitable result that the extraordinary seems commonplace. The distorted reality this engenders causes well-meaning moms to believe that menace lurks in every park and moves them to bus their offspring to school in minivans thus exposing them to the far greater risk of a car crash while denying them exercise of walking.**

Similarly, each of the extremely rare dangerous bear encounters, gets slathered in coverage, creating the mistaken impression that these mishaps are frequent and almost always deadly.

Not so. It's September. It's Terrace. Soon the bears will be gone, denned up. It will be winter, and we'll all be left wondering what happened to summer.

**Fri September 9/11 5:45am**

### **Homage to Walt**

After crossing the border at Blaine, drive south on the I-5. When the road signs begin to mention Everett, keep your eyes peeled for the turnoff to Arlington. When it you spot it, take it and head east, away from the billboards and the roaring traffic, through a few miles of sprawling, nicely appointed farms until you reach Arlington. If you want proof that bucolic little towns like TV town of Mayberry existed and continue to exist, stop and stroll the main street, then carry on, past more pastoral land alongside the Stillaguamish River, east toward Whitehorse and Darrington until you cross the Deer Creek Bridge. Just there, next to the Deer Creek Riffle, you will find the village of Oso. There are 180 people living in the 10 kilometre area around Oso these days, when I was last there, some three decades ago, there were considerably fewer than that. One of them was Walt Johnson.

In the 1940s Walt, then a lake fishermen, heard that sea going rainbow trout inhabited the waters of the Stillaguamish. New to fly tying, Walt cobbled together a crude shrimp like pattern and, after getting directions from angling journalist, Enos Bradner, he made his way to the confluence of Deer Creek and the Stillaguamish.

Deer Creek had been made famous by the famous wild west novelist, Zane Grey. An avid fisherman, Grey vividly described the wild and then unexploited watershed of Deer Creek, recording episodes where he and his partners caught shimmering sea run trout to ten pounds using silk lines and bamboo rods. But, Walt didn't happen upon Zane Grey. His interest in steelhead was kindled by a fishing buddy who told him of hooking a fish in water near Oso that ran and fought so hard that the automatic fly reel he was using exploded. On his first morning on the river six steelhead grabbed Walt's crude fly. He fought them. They beat him up. He lost all six and his flies along with them. Soon after, Walt had a cabin built close to the Elbow Hole, where he spent the next 40 summers with his wife June.

Walt joined the *Washington Fly Fishing Club*, and worked with that cohort to have the Stillaguamish's south fork declared the first flyfishing only river in the state, a measure that did much to prevent the demise of the Deer Creek summer steelhead. Walt and his fellow fly fishers tried to halt the wasteful logging of the steep slopes of the Deer Creek watershed, but big business prevailed. When we talked Walt lamented the downstream effects of that habitat destruction, but he was optimistic that, despite logging and the hatchery in the upper Stilly, the rugged little Deer Creek fish would survive. They have, though there are far fewer of them,.

Walt became a superb fly dresser and flyfisherman over the years, fishing beautifully crafted original patterns, wet and dry, on a floating line with his trademark, six to eight foot bamboo fly rods.

To have a greater chance of being noticed a fly had to stand out, Walt reasoned. Since his flies were fished in, on, or just below the surface, they had to stand out against the colour of the bottom as reflected by the

mirror-like underside of the surface film. For dark bottom rivers use purple and pink, he advised; If the substrate is light, use black, he said.

Walt's most productive lure was his *Deep Purple Spey*, Like all great flies, it's recipe was simple: a body made of purple wool garnished with five turns of silver tinsel, a palmered hackle of golden pheasant, a throat hackle of soft purple rooster, finished off with a wing consisting of a single cock pheasant breast feather.

I was reminded of Walt when I came across a gold pheasant skin dyed pink in a local tackle shop. Pink and purple were his prescription for the best steelhead patterns. I took the cape home and tied an homage to Walt, a purple spey with a pink tag and two ribs instead of the one Walt used to add glint and durability to the fly. I stuck it in my fly box until Art Lingren, Jim Culp, and I were fishing the confluence of Remaillard Creek and the Skeena two weeks later.

In my mind, I carved up the expansive reach into smaller rivers. The clear water of the creek made a small, manageable beat. I tied my take on Walt's purple spey onto four pound test tippet of six weight fly line wound on the Hardy Saint George that hangs from my 6 weight Bob Clay bamboo rod that recently returned home and cast it out ten metres. After a few casts there was a thump, and the line stopped. I lifted and a silver steelhead of five maybe six pounds, a fish the size of a Deer Creek steelhead, leaped into the air. The four pound tippet held. I released the fish and thought, *perfect. A little fish on a little bamboo rod, Walt Johnson lives on.*

### **Fri September 2/11 9:30am**

#### **Discards**

In my home, and I suspect in yours too, we have a prohibition against waste, a sense that a fish killed then poorly cooked, or allowed to spoil, is a fish that has died in vain. Wasting a fish that has such an important role to play in the river environment is more than a shame, it's a sin.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the putative stewards of the fisheries resource, the very people charged with the welfare of salmon, don't share this ethic. I offer some examples as proof of this statement. As of the beginning of August this year, commercial fishermen reported that they had discarded 574 steelhead in Skeena sockeye fisheries. This claim is problematic. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC) estimated the steelhead harvest rate was around 15% at that time. The average Skeena steelhead return is very conservatively estimated at around 30,000 fish, which means the number of steelhead discards should be around 4,500 fish, the vast majority of which did not survive. This is just more evidence that salmon and steelhead discards in commercial fisheries are under reported.

Where does this negative bias come from? Every gillnet boat should have a camera on board to monitor its catch. The camera should be paid for by the skipper and should be a condition of license. The recorded tapes should be reviewed on a random basis by FOC personnel. The tab for this service should also be borne by the vessel operator. This is what happens on other types of fishing craft, but something very different happens on gill netters. Gill netters operate on the honour system. They provide hail data. In the past, fisheries officers, who live in the same community as the fishers they are canvassing, powered up alongside and asked the gillnetters if they'd caught any steelhead. The fisherman, knowing that a large steelhead interception could lead to a reduction in his fishing time, or a possible end to his fishing, then told the officer his steelhead bycatch. I understand that fishers can now phone their hails in. This lack of managerial rigour belongs to the century before last. It underscores the disdain FOC has for the principles of biodiversity and how wedded that bankrupt government institution is to the commercial fishing industry at the expense of all other users and the demands of the environment.

North Coast commercial salmon fishermen had discarded almost 22% of their total catch by August this year, including 1.2 million pounds of chum salmon, many coming from stocks FOC has described as being a special conservation concern. One-half of these chum discards came from areas in and around the Great Bear Rain forest.

Unlike most other BC fisheries, there are no independent observers to confirm the accuracy of the discard information provided by fishermen. At least two DFO science papers and a recent report by contractor J.O.Thomas and Associates have expressed concerns about fishermen under reporting their discards. This means that the number of fish reported by DFO as having been discarded should be considered a minimum estimate.

In addition, the absence of independent observers means that fisheries are not monitored to ensure fishermen abide by their terms of licence and return the discarded salmon back into the water with the

least possible harm. There are no scientifically defensible estimates of the proportion of discarded chum that survive to spawn, but it is believed to be relatively low.

FOC requires that chums be discarded as a conservation measure. Yet, DFO cannot provide scientifically defensible estimates of how many chum salmon are discarded, the proportion that survive to spawn, the consequences of killing so many salmon from depressed populations, or the associated ecological costs. Chums are of no commercial value on the north coast. They are a cost to fishermen. Discarding chums slows the fishing process. The objective is to discard the unwanted salmon as fast as possible, rather doing all that can be done to ensure they survive the encounter. Most of the impacted chum stocks are located in wild and remote areas of BC like the Great Bear Rain forest, isolated from the majority of BC's population, and therefore out of sight, out of mind.

Chums are of enormous value to the ecosystems of the north. They carry the energy of sea inland where everything from aquatic benthos to bears benefits from their abundance. Yet, the institution charged with their well-being, and paid for by your tax dollars, is happy to leave them to the crabs.

**Fri September 2/11 9:30am**

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

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

**Total Uploaded Views as of September 2, 2011 were: 552,716**

**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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#### **Advertise:**

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

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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)

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### 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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**Fri September 30/11 5:40am**  
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...

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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](mailto:info@theriverfront.ca)

Website: <http://www.theriverfront.ca>

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**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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E-mail: [noel@noelgyger.ca](mailto:noel@noelgyger.ca)

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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"*