



TERRACE ROD & GUN CLUB

P.O. BOX 292, TERRACE, BC V8G 4A6

Peter Katinic- North Coast Salmon Section Head

Dear Peter

March 25, 2018

Re: 2018 Skeena-Nass Chinook Fishing Regulations

It is expected that the 2018 Chinook Salmon returns to the Skeena watershed will be low. We are aware that various in-river proposals have been submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans ("DFO") for consideration with respect to the 2018 allocations for Chinook Salmon in the Skeena River watershed. The summary effect of these proposals would be to prohibit in-river retention of Chinook Salmon for 2018, but allowing a catch and release only fishery. Certain proposals include various other restrictions, including bait bans, timing, location, gear restrictions and boat bans in certain cases.

Our Position:

None of the proposals to date provide scientifically defensible data in support of a retention vs. a catch and release only fishery. This puts us in a difficult spot; our association is supportive of the science behind population estimates and conservation. Chinook Salmon and other species deserve a defensible science based approach to management and we rely upon the Regulatory agencies to implement conservation and management measures.

When retention fisheries for a species are closed for conservation concerns, then catch and release fishing for those species must also close because there is a mortality associated with such a fishery.

It is agreed that Chinook Salmon numbers are low; however all fishing sectors must play a role in the recovery of fish stocks. The in-river recreational fishery should not have to reduce their retention rate to zero when the recreational tidal Chinook fishery is still permitted full retention. Even one large Chinook and one Jack per person per season in 2018 is better than zero. In the interest of balancing the impacts of this decision, reductions should also be considered for all including a corresponding reduction to the recreational tidal Chinook Salmon fishery. All such actions could provide for an increase to the exploitation allocations for in-river Chinook Salmon fishing.

If recreational in-river anglers are giving up something for conservation reasons then logic dictates others must do the same. A mixed stock fishery such as the Skeena requires mixed stock management by all parties. It makes no sense if the brunt of the cuts are born by one user group; and if a species is at a critical low or level of conservation concern then all parties must do their best to manage that species for generations to come.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Art Moi". The letters are cursive and connected, with a small dot above the 'i'.

Art Moi – President

Cc. Colin Masson-DFO Area Director

Andy Lewis- C&P – DFO

Urs Thomas- SFAB