
Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board
Box 577
Smithers BC
V0J 2N0

December 15, 2004

Honourable Bill Barisoff
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection
34853 - 97th Ave.
Box 1768
Oliver, B.C.
VO8 1T0

Dear Mr. Barisoff,

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB), which advises the Province on resource management in the Bulkley TSA, is deeply concerned that the recently released Draft Quality Waters Strategy Resource Document fails to incorporate the strategies contained in the existing Angling Use Plan (AUP) for the Bulkley River and draft AUP for the Babine River. The BVCRB has written numerous letters over the last few years regarding the lack of implementation of AUP's for these two rivers.

Angling conflicts are increasing yearly on both the Babine and Bulkley Rivers due to crowding and an unwillingness by government to implement existing plans that have been specifically designed to address this type of issue. The Bulkley River has had a consensus-based Angling Use Plan (AUP) in place since 1998 and the Babine River has an AUP that has existed in draft form for over 15 years, both of which evolved from a process that was initiated back in 1987. Many members of our community volunteered their time to develop the draft AUP's and to participate in subsequent related processes. They have waited patiently for these well-thought out plans to be implemented.

The BVCRB would like to see the Bulkley AUP implemented prior to the 2005 angling season, and a plan finalized in the next few months for the Babine River that protects a quality angling experience for all anglers, especially British Columbia resident anglers.

Further, the BVCRB recommends using rod-day allocations and the strategies agreed to in the Bulkley and Babine AUP's as the primary mechanisms to reduce crowding on the rivers, rather than "fees" as specified in the Quality Waters Strategy Resource Document. Higher user fees for B.C. resident anglers are not in the best interests of our communities.

The BVCRB looks forward to receiving your assurance that the Babine and Bulkley River AUP's

will be incorporated into the new Quality Waters Strategy Resource Document.

Sincerely,

Dean Daly,
Chair, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

cc. Dennis McKay, MLA
Al Martins, Director Fish and Wildlife Branch
Jim Davidson, Mayor, Town of Smithers