



Notice of Proposed Angling Regulation Changes

COQUIHALLA RIVER (MANAGEMENT UNIT 2-17) LOCATED NEAR HOPE, BC

The Ministry of Environment is proposing both “in-season” and “annual” regulation changes that will open the Coquihalla River to angling for summer-run steelhead:

1. For 2009, the ministry is proposing to open the Coquihalla from August 21st to October 15, 2009.
2. Effective April 1, 2010, the ministry is proposing to open the Coquihalla on an annual basis from July 15 to October 15.

Currently the river is closed to angling.

Rationale:

- Swim (snorkel) counts completed by the ministry over the last 8 years indicate that summer run steelhead escapements are at levels that can support a heavily regulated recreational fishery. Snorkel surveys are planned for August 2009.
- Proposal #2 will eliminate the yearly consultation and administrative process currently required to open the river to angling.
- Proposal #2 will also allow anglers to plan in advance knowing that the river will be open annually from July 15 to October 15.
- Further, if steelhead conservation concerns arise the river can still be closed to angling through an in-season regulation change.

As in previous openings, the following additional water-specific regulations will also apply:

- open upstream of the lower railway tunnel
- release all trout/char, including steelhead
- fly fishing only
- bait ban
- tributaries to remain closed

Written input to the ministry on the proposed changes will be received up to Friday August 14, 2009, and can be provided in one of the following ways:

Email: Direct reply to Duane Jesson, Fish Biologist @ Duane.Jesson@gov.bc.ca
Subject line: Coquihalla River Angling Regulations

Fax: 604-930-7119
Subject line: Coquihalla River Angling Regulations

Mail: Ministry of Environment
Lower Mainland Region
2nd Floor, 10470 – 152nd Street
Surrey BC V3R 0Y3
Attention: Fishing Regulations Change Coordinator