Executive Summary

The Omineca Region covers an immense wilderness in North Central British Columbia (see Appendix A). The region offers anglers a diverse array of angling opportunities that range from easy access front county fishing to remote back country fishing. As well as having substantial economic value to residents of the region, recreational fisheries also have social and cultural values.¹

The Environmental Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Environment is the provincial agency responsible for maintaining and restoring fish species and habitats, while sustainably managing sport fishing and providing recreational fishing opportunities to British Columbians and visitors.

The Resource Recreation and Tourism Program at the University of Northern British Columbia focuses on interdisciplinary issues of natural resource management with specialization in planning issues surrounding outdoor recreation, protected areas management and nature-based tourism.

To better understand angler’s views and experiences in the Omineca Region, the Resource Recreation and Tourism Program at the University of Northern British Columbia, in cooperation with the Environmental Stewardship Division of the BC Ministry of Environment conducted a mail survey with a random sample of 929 anglers licensed within the region. The following summarizes the information obtained from 255 returned, useable questionnaires:

- The five most common lakes, streams and/or rivers that anglers fished at in descending order were Stuart Lake (35 respondents), Fraser Lake (32 respondents), Cluculz Lake (26 respondents), Francois Lake (22 respondents), and Cobb Lake (21 respondents).

- Most (82%) of the respondents used areas with access via gravel roads. About 6 in 10 (60%) used sites with recreation facilities and half (52%) used sites without recreation facilities. Of those that used areas with gravel road access, areas with recreation facilities, and areas without recreation facilities the percent of the time they spent on average at each was 65%, 44%, and 41% respectively.

- Of all respondents 6% only fished stocked water bodies, 25% only fished non-stocked water bodies, and 66% fished both (4% did not indicate where they fished). Streams were fished by 26% of respondents, rivers by 32%, small lakes by 78%, and large lakes by 46%.

- Of all respondents 2% would prefer fishing stocked water bodies, 23% would prefer fishing wild water bodies, and 70% had no preference (4% did not answer this part of the question). Streams would be preferred by 32%, rivers by 38%, small lakes by 79%, and large lakes by 50%.

¹ Moyle and Cech 2004.
• About 62% of respondents participated in other activities while fishing.

• About 92% of respondents indicated that they fished in the places that they would prefer.

• Respondents spent an average of 24 days per year angling; the mode for angler days was between 10 and 14.

• Most (89%) of the proportion of time spent fishing was in the summer.

• On average respondents expected to catch 5 fish per day, with the most common expectation being 2 fish.

• The average expected size of a fish caught on a typical day was 35 cm or 1.3 kg. The modes were 30 to 34 cm, and 0.5 to 0.9 kg.

• Respondents perceived trophy fish to be on average 4 kg or 58 cm. The modes were 2.0 to 2.4 kg, and 60 to 64 cm.

• The most important factors influencing the timing or location of fishing trips were avoiding crowds, the amount of development on the lake, taste of the fish, ease of access to the lake, and the ability to schedule time off or holidays. The proportion of respondents that found these factors important were 81%, 59%, 58%, 56%, and 55% respectively.

• Respondents were willing to drive an average of 2.5 hours for a one day long fishing trip and an average of 7 hours for a multi day fishing trip. The most common responses for single and multi day trips were 2 hours and 4 hours respectively.

• Respondents indicated whether they fished for a certain species of fish during summer and winter. Only some respondents also ranked the fish species numerically by preference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number of respondents angling for species</th>
<th>Number of respondents ranking species as #1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern brook trout</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolly Varden/bull trout</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake char/lake trout</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kokanee</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic grayling</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitefish</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burbot</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Winter**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern brook trout</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolly Varden/bull trout</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake char/lake trout</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kokanee</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic grayling</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitefish</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burbot</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Most respondents (87%) preferred wilderness settings to urban settings, summer was preferred to winter by 90% of respondents, Non-park settings were preferred to park settings by 71%, few other anglers was preferred to crowding by 87%, low effort access was preferred to remote access by 48%, catch and keep was preferred to catch and release by 59%, and higher numbers of average sized fish was preferred to lower numbers of large fish by 64%.

- Most respondents (83%) said that their preferences for the above angling experiences remained the same regardless of which species they were fishing for.

- Wild fisheries were preferred to stocked fisheries by 78% of respondents.

- A little over half of the respondents (54%) thought that the activities associated with the logging of mountain pine beetle infected forests would affect the aesthetic quality of their angling experience.

- On average respondents had been fishing for 33 years. The largest proportion of respondents had been fishing for 40 to 44 years.

- Most respondents (91%) did not belong to a fish or game club.

- Respondents made an average of 9 day trips and 3.5 multi day trips to the Omineca Region in the past year. The mode for both day trips and multi day trips was 0 to 4 days.

- The average number of anglers per household and most common response was 2 anglers.
• Equipment is listed from most frequently used descending to least frequently used:
  
  o Lures
  o Gas Motor
  o Flies
  o Bait
  o Fish Finder
  o Electric Motor
  o Belly Boat

• Of all respondents that indicated their sex, 196 were male and 53 were female.

• The average age of respondents was 47 years old, with 69% being 40 years of age or older.

• The average income was $73,076.65 with a mode of $75,001 to $100,000.

• Grade 12 was the highest level of education for the largest portion of respondents (70) with university degree second (50) and college third (33).

• Most respondents (82%) were not retired.
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</table>
Introduction

The Omineca Region of British Columbia encompasses a large area with diverse landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities. Recreational angling is a premier outdoor recreation activity with 20,005 licenses bought in the region for the 2005 season. There are hundreds of lakes and thousands of streams in the Omineca Region. Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and eastern brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) are stocked in approximately 90 small lakes in the region. Native game fish in the region include: Rainbow trout, Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), anadromous sockeye salmon and kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), burbot (*Lota lota*), arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*), lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), and White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) (protected), along with more than 20 non-game fish.

The Environmental Stewardship Division is faced with the challenge of sustaining and enhancing public recreational opportunities, while ensuring long term sustainability of the province’s natural and cultural resources. Innovative approaches are used to meet the public’s needs while protecting resources for future generations. The benefits and importance of understanding human dimensions and involving anglers in the management of fisheries are well recognized. Public inclusion in management activities encourages trust between governing bodies and the public. It decreases conflict between resource users and managers, and can increase the appropriateness, efficiency, and equitability of decisions, as well as increase compliance with policy and legislation.

Having an understanding of people’s preferences is also important for reducing conflicts between resource users. As sport fishers are not as organized as other resource user groups, such as the commercial fishing industry, it is more difficult to obtain a collective perspective of their interests. Open-ended and scaled questions in surveys offer respondents a chance to inform us of their likes, dislikes, and needs. Many times it is the public who brings issues to the attention of governing bodies. Through surveys anglers are able to report issues and problems meaningful to them, that fisheries managers may not be aware of.

Recreational fishing can have a significant effect on fisheries, and human exploitation has been a major factor in the decline of fish populations. As information on angler effort and fishing mortality for recreational fisheries is often incomplete and sparse, the more information available the better. Managers are often required to make decisions with limited information and resources. Preference surveys can help in making more informed decisions. Inferring connections between resource availability, user demand, and economic activities, can lead to decisions that maximize benefits and return from limited resources.

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5 Branson 1994; Moyle and Cech 2004;
Information collected from angler surveys allows for estimates of fishing pressure on lakes and streams in the region as well as on fish species. Preferences of fish species is important because the species of fish that anglers focus on significantly affects the probability of one species being caught over another\(^7\). Angler preference surveys can also be used to make predictions of license sales and link management actions with participation\(^8\). Different angling experiences are sought by different types of anglers, thus information describing preferences can help managers provide a good experience for the general angling public\(^9\).

**Mail surveys**

Pollock et al. (2004) identified some important sources of error that cannot be avoided, but should be considered when interpreting the information from angler surveys:

*When asking an individual to recall an event there may be some error in memory. Prestige bias, the tendency for some people to exaggerate events, as well as bias from rounding numbers can affect the accuracy of data. There may also be some cases of intentional deception, or species misidentification and mismeasurement that occur.*

Study design may be the most important factor in receiving unbiased answers when performing a survey.\(^10\) Question design and interpretation of answers is more difficult in mail surveys than in face-to-face or telephone interviews as answers cannot be clarified by the respondent.\(^11\) Anglers that are more serious about fishing, those fishing for more years, and those with more free time may have been more likely to respond. Non respondents may have different characteristics than those who responded to our survey, resulting in a non response bias.\(^12\) Surveys targeting licensed anglers miss anglers lacking mailing addresses and unlicensed anglers such as Treaty Status First Nations peoples, and those under 16 years of age.\(^13\)

Mail surveys are time consuming, however, this method of survey is much simpler to facilitate and more cost effective\(^14\). Mail surveys are more representative of an entire target population over a large geographic area than on-site surveys\(^15\). They are better able to address multiple management objectives, and with proper anonymity reduce prestige bias.\(^16\) If designed properly, mail surveys can ask questions of greater complexity than

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\(^7\) Lowery and Murphy 2003.

\(^8\) Ready, Epp and Delavan 2005.

\(^9\) Connelly et al. 2001.


\(^12\) Pollock et al. 2004; US EPA 1998.


\(^14\) Pollock et al. 1994.

\(^15\) Ditton and Stoll 2003; Pollock et al. 2004.

\(^16\) US EPA 1998.
other survey methods, due to more time for respondents to contemplate questions and refer to other sources.\textsuperscript{17}

\textit{Omineca Region Angler Preference Survey (2006)}

The Omineca Region Angler Preference Survey (2006) was undertaken to provide anglers, licensed in the region, with an opportunity to provide input to fisheries management decisions in the region. The survey focused on the distribution, practices, preferences, and attitudes of recreational anglers fishing in the Omineca Region. The objectives of this study were to:

- Identify the locations in the Omineca Region anglers were expending fishing effort.
- Determine if anglers participated in fishing as a primary activity or in conjunction with other activities.
- Identify areas or situations in which demands are not being adequately met.
- Determine where anglers fishing in the Omineca Region are from.
- Identify the locations, species, quality of angling, and experiences desired by anglers, and the reasons underlying these desires.
- Determine if there is a tradeoff between catch rates and fish size, and whether these change with species.
- Determine the types of fisheries most desired by anglers in the Omineca Region.
- Gather such information in order to allow managers to gain insight that will help prioritize management efforts and address potential conservation risks.

The objectives were addressed by formulating questions regarding the distribution and effort of angling activities within the region, other activities associated with angling, and angler preferences for locations, species, and various conditions affecting angler experience.

This information is an important tool to help guide management strategies. It can help show relationships that tie angler preferences and behaviors to economic activities. As well, it will keep managers informed on public attitudes, preferences, and behaviors. When combined with biological and cultural data it will be useful in planning management strategies\textsuperscript{18}. The information collected from this survey is intended as supplemental information in the management of various fisheries objectives within the Omineca Region.

\textsuperscript{17} US EPA 1998.
\textsuperscript{18} Upneja \textit{et al.} 2001.
Methods

A systematic random sampling method was used to select the sample population of 929 anglers from the target population of 20,005 anglers who had bought their licenses in the Omineca Region. The sample was taken from a list of all licenses bought in the region for the 2005 fishing season. To draw a representative sample from the region it was broken down into 5 representative areas. Samples were drawn in proportion to the total number of licenses bought in each area. A random start number of 18 was used to draw the first sampling unit; sampling units were then drawn at intervals of 20. For example the first name drawn in each area was the 18\textsuperscript{th} license holder on the list, the second was the 38\textsuperscript{th}, then the 58\textsuperscript{th}, and so on.

Anglers within the sample population were sent a 6 page questionnaire, a map of the region, a consent form with a tear off prize draw form, an addressed postage paid envelope, and a cover letter. The cover letter explained the purpose of the survey, the organizations undertaking the research, the voluntary basis of the survey, and any confidentiality issues. To minimize bias people needed to be able to answer questions freely, without fear of having their responses linked to their identities.

The survey was mailed out on January 10\textsuperscript{th} 2006. In order to increase response rate two follow up post cards were mailed out at two and three week intervals after the initial mailing. These reminded the sampled anglers to complete and send back the surveys or thanked them if they had already done so. A prize incentive was offered to improve response rate. The prize was a Sedge fly rod combo donated by Northern Trout Fitters Fly & Tackle Shop in Prince George.

Once returned surveys were numbered, to allow for tracking in case a respondent wanted to be removed from the survey at any time. Names were stored separately from responses and destroyed once the final report was completed. Names were not associated in any way to any of the responses, and only the primary investigator and research assistant had access to the names and responses.

Data analysis was undertaken using Microsoft Excel 2003. The number of useable responses for each question varied. Confidence intervals for a level of confidence of 95\%, using the worst case scenario of 50\% of the population picking an answer, ranged from 6.11 with 254 responses (question 2) to 7.09 with 189 responses (question 31). Open ended comments were summarized in the results, and complete lists of all comments are included in the appendices. A sample survey containing all questions is also included in Appendix B as a reference.

The following are the results of the Omineca Region Angler Preferences Survey (2006). Comparisons are made with previous surveys where appropriate.
Results

Overall, our response rate was 27%, while response rates for other studies ranged from 6.5% to 55%\textsuperscript{19}. In the 2005 season 20,005 sport angling licenses were sold in the Omineca Region. This is a 15.8% drop from a total of 23,747 anglers in the Omineca Region in 2000.\textsuperscript{20}

Water bodies fished

To estimate which lakes anglers were concentrating their effort on, anglers were asked to indicate where they fished (see Table 1). Anglers were also asked to indicate the number of days spent angling on each lake (see Table 2).\textsuperscript{21} For a complete list of lakes and streams fished by anglers please see Appendix C.

Table 1. Lake and stream use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 lakes by angler density \textsuperscript{22,23}</th>
<th>Top 5 lakes by # of anglers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Name</td>
<td>Density (anglers/ha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacKenzie Lk</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian Lk</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hart Lk</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Lk</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eena Lk</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 streams by angler density</th>
<th>Top 5 streams by # of anglers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steam Name</td>
<td>Density (anglers/km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagen Cr</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooked Rv</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheslatta Falls</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKelvie Cr</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackwater Rv</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{20} Levey and Williams 2003.
\textsuperscript{21} Approximately 69% of respondents that listed the lakes they preferred also indicated how many days were spent at each location.
\textsuperscript{22} The density of anglers was calculated by dividing the number of respondents that indicated fishing at each lake by the area of the lake.
\textsuperscript{23} Lake area (ha) data was provided by the Ministry of Environment
\textsuperscript{24} Actually located outside of the Omineca region
Table 2 Water bodies with 10 or more anglers indicating number of angler days spent there (in decreasing order).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake Name</th>
<th>Number of anglers that fish there</th>
<th>Number of anglers that indicated angler days</th>
<th>Average angler days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francois Lk</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser Lk</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart Lk</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluculz</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooked Rv</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hart Lk</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nechako Rv</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eena Lk</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobb Lk</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Tacheeda Lk</td>
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<td>Vivian Lk</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Types of angling locations

![Diagram showing the proportion of respondents using different location types and the proportion of angling time spent at each type.]

Figure 1. Percent of respondents indicating they use a location type (with percent of angling time if indicated).

To determine the type of locations anglers fished in the Omineca Region, respondents were given 6 categories of location types and were asked to check the categories in which they fished, as well as indicate the percent of their angling time spent at each checked location (see Figure 1).27

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25 Angler days were calculated by using full days, as the time unit used by respondents was days.
26 Outside of the Omineca Region.
27 There were 254 useable responses for this question.
Locations with gravel access (209 respondents) were the most popular with anglers in the Omineca Region followed by locations with recreation facilities (153), those without recreation facilities (133), those near population centres (113), those with paved road access (92), and locations in Provincial Parks (75).

The other category was chosen by 13% of respondents (32). ATVs, cabins, rivers and river access were common other locations. For a full list of comments see Appendix D.

**Stocked versus wild water bodies**

Most respondents (165) fished both stocked and wild bodies of water. Of the remaining respondents more fished wild (61) water bodies than stocked (14) water bodies (see Figure 2 and).\(^{28}\)

Most respondents (176) did not have a preference between stocked and wild bodies of water. Of the remaining respondents more preferred wild (58) water bodies than stocked (6) water bodies (see Figure 3).\(^{29}\)

Some anglers also specified the number of days spent on stocked and wild bodies of water and the preferred number of days they would like to spend on these bodies of water (see Figures 4 and 5).\(^{30}\)

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\(^{28}\) There were 250 useable responses for this question.

\(^{29}\) There were 250 useable responses for this question.

\(^{30}\) For those that fished both stocked and wild water bodies 62 indicated days for stocked and 64 indicated days for wild. For those that fished only stocked water bodies, all 14 indicated angler days. For those that fished only wild water bodies 47 indicated angler days. For those that had no preference between stocked and wild water bodies 53 indicated number of days they would prefer to fish at stocked and 56 indicated the number of days they would prefer to fish at wild water bodies. For those that preferred stocked water bodies 4 indicated a number of angler days. For those that preferred wild water bodies 37 indicated a number of angler days.
Types of water bodies

Small lakes were fished by the largest number of respondents (196) followed by large lakes (115), rivers (79), and streams (66) (see Figure 6). Some anglers indicated the number of angler days spent at each type of water body (see Figure 7). The “other” category was chosen by 23 respondents. Names of specific lakes were the most common comment for the “other” category. See Appendix E for all additional comments.

Small lakes were preferred by the largest number of respondents (198) followed by large lakes (126), rivers (96), and streams (80) (see Figure 6). Some anglers indicated the number of angler days they would prefer to angle at each type of water body (see Figure 7). The “other” category was chosen by 23 respondents. The ocean was a common “other” preference, but one that does not occur within the boundaries of the Omineca Region. See Appendix F for all additional comments.

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31 The number of anglers that indicated number of days were as follows: Streams 61, rivers 74, small lakes, 184, and large lakes 103.
32 There were 251 useable responses for this question.
33 The number of anglers that indicated number of days were as follows: Streams 73, rivers 89, small lakes 169, and large lakes 106.
34 There were 250 useable responses for this question.
Other activities and preferences

Most respondents (156) indicated that they participate in other activities while they are angling (see Figure 8). The most common activity that respondents partook in while fishing was camping (82 respondents). Hiking (45 respondents) and hunting (30 respondents) were other activities respondents frequently participated in while fishing. Camping and hiking were the most common activities British Columbian anglers partook in from a choice of 12 recreational activities in 2000. For a complete list of other activities see Appendix G.

---

35 There were 251 useable responses for this question
36 Levey and Williams 2003.
Almost all respondents (220) indicated that they fish in the locations they would prefer to fish (see Figure 9)\textsuperscript{37} and only 18 respondents did not fish where they prefer. The most common reason anglers fished at their chosen locations were for peace and quiet, low densities of other anglers, and easy access. Scenery, wildlife, and the condition of fish were also mentioned in many comments. For a full list of comments see Appendix H.

![Figure 8. Proportion of Respondents that participate in other activities while angling.](image1)

![Figure 9. Proportion of respondents that angle at locations they prefer.](image2)

**Angler days**

Respondents spent on average 24.4 days a year angling in the Omineca Region (see Figure 10).\textsuperscript{38} This is more than double the average number of days fished by anglers in the Omineca Region in the 2000.\textsuperscript{39} Once again angler days in this survey was calculated using the number of days respondents indicated they fished. The survey questions simply asked for a response in days, and thus left it to the respondent to quantify their fishing (i.e. no standardization was given, such as 4 hours = 1 angling day).

\textsuperscript{37} There were 238 useable responses for this question
\textsuperscript{38} There were 240 useable responses for this question
\textsuperscript{39} Levey and Williams 2003.
Seasonal preference

All respondents fished in the summer. The majority of respondents (119) did not fish during the winter (see Figure 11).  

Figure 10. The average number of days angled.

Figure 11. Proportion of angling time spent in summer vs. winter.

---

40 There were 246 useable responses for this question
Catch rates and sizes

On average, respondents expected to catch 5 fish a day (see Figure 12). Some respondents (17) did not provide a numerical value, but gave a comment instead: 12 expected to catch the legal limit, 2 expected to catch enough to eat, 2 stated that it does not matter, and 1 stated whatever they caught.

A survey performed in 2000 indicated that anglers in the Omineca Region caught an average of 3.1 fish per day.

Respondents were asked what size of fish they expected to catch on an average day (see Figures 13 and 14). Of 199 useable numerical responses, 141 anglers expected an average weight of 1.27 kg and 58 anglers expected an average length of 34.5 cm. Some respondents (17) did not give numerical answers but wrote comments. The most common comments were “pan size” and “over the legal limit”. For a full list of comments see Appendix I.

Respondents perceived trophy fish to be an average weight of 3.92 kg or an average length of 57.6 cm (see Figures 13 and 14). Of the 193 respondents that answered this question 119 indicated both weight and length, 56 only indicated weight, and 18 only indicated length (see Figure 15).

---

41 There were 223 useable responses for this question
42 Levey and Williams 2003.
43 There were 175 useable responses for this question
44 There were 137 useable responses for this question
Figure 12. Expected number of fish caught per day.
Figure 13. Expected and trophy weights of fish.
Figure 14. Expected and trophy lengths of fish.
In order to conserve British Columbia’s native fish populations certain species and lakes in the Omineca Region have specific size restrictions. The average length of fish that anglers expected to catch on an average day and the perceived length of trophy fish were represented as different size classes in relation to size restrictions (see Table 3).

Table 3. The proportion of respondents that expected to catch fish of different size classes and those that perceived trophy fish to be in different size classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size Class</th>
<th>Expected</th>
<th>Trophy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 50 cm</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 50 cm</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 40 cm</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 40 cm</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 35 cm</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 35 cm</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 30 cm</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 30 cm</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BC MOE 2006.
Factors influencing fishing trips

To determine how the timing and location of fishing trips were influenced by certain factors, anglers were asked to indicate whether or not these factors were important (see Figure 16). Respondents could answer important, not important, or unsure. In the analysis each answer was scored: 1=important and 2=not important. The average score for each factor was used to assess level of importance (i.e. the closer to 1, the higher the importance). Some respondents indicated they were unsure of the importance of a factor to them.

There were 12 factors that respondents did not find important in influencing fishing trips. The least important was availability of resort accommodations (1.88) followed by catch limits (1.71), the size of fish (1.69), availability of friends (1.64), temperature forecast (1.64), gear restrictions (1.61), the number of fish (1.59), the cost of gas (1.59), distance to the lake (1.55), availability of campsites (1.54), motor restrictions (1.53), and fire hazard (1.50).

There were 6 factors that respondents found important in influencing fishing trips. The most important was avoiding crowds (1.16) followed by the amount of development on the lake (1.38), taste of the fish (1.40), ease of access to the lake (1.41), ability to schedule time off or holidays (1.44), and the rain forecast (1.46).

Useable responses and those that were unsure varied for each factor as follows:
- Temperature forecast: 242 useable responses, 6 of which were unsure.
- Rain forecast: 245 useable responses, 5 of which were unsure.
- Fire Hazard: 243 useable responses, 10 of which were unsure.
- Availability of friends: 238 useable responses, 7 of which were unsure.
- The size of the fish: 243 useable responses, 5 of which were unsure.
- The number of fish: 242 useable responses, 5 of which were unsure.
- Taste of fish: 243 useable responses, 7 of which were unsure.
- Avoiding crowds: 243 useable responses, 7 of which were unsure.
- Ease of access to the lake: 243 useable responses, 10 of which were unsure.
- Distance to the lake: 240 useable responses, 8 of which were unsure.
- Gear restrictions: 240 useable responses, 11 of which were unsure.
- Motor restrictions: 243 useable responses, 11 of which were unsure.
- Catch limits: 241 useable responses, 3 of which were unsure.
- The amount of development on the lake: 242 useable responses, 12 of which were unsure.
- Availability of campsites: 238 useable responses, 9 of which were unsure.
- Availability of resort accommodations: 239 useable responses, 8 of which were unsure.
- The cost of gasoline/fuel: 242 useable responses, 6 of which were unsure.
- Ability to schedule time off or holidays: 244 useable responses, 3 of which were unsure.
Figure 16. Proportion of respondents that found each factor important or not important.
Time to final destination

The average amount of time respondents were willing to drive to a fishing destination for a day trip was two and a half hours (see Figure 17). The average amount of time respondents were willing to drive to a fishing destination for a multi-day trip was seven hours (see Figure 17).

Figure 17. Amounts of time respondents were willing to drive for single day and multi-day fishing trips.

There were 233 useable responses for this question.

There were 221 useable responses for this question.
Target species

To determine which fish species anglers in the Omineca Region prefer, respondents were asked to indicate the species they fish for and rank them in order of preference (see Figures 18 to 26).48 Not all respondents ranked the species of fish they targeted in order of preference.49 Some anglers indicated other fish they preferred fishing for. The most common other fish were walleye and halibut in the summer, as well as steelhead in the summer and winter. For a full list of other fish targeted see Appendix J.

Figure 18. Game species fished in the summer and in the winter (plotted by number of respondents).

48 There were 251 usable responses for this question.
49 The number of respondents that ranked order of preference by species was: Rainbow trout – 160 (summer), 100 (winter); eastern brook trout – 68 (summer), 50 (winter); Dolly Varden/bull trout – 74 (summer), 25 (winter); lake char/lake trout – 108 (summer), 38 (winter); kokanee – 95 (summer), 21 (winter); arctic grayling – 42 (summer), 8 (winter); whitefish – 22 (summer), 9 (winter); burbot – 44 (summer), 33 (winter); salmon – 92 (summer), 11 (winter).
Figure 19. Proportion of respondents, who gave a particular ranking to each fish species that they targeted.
Figure 20. Proportion of respondents, who gave a particular ranking to each fish species that they targeted.

In 2000 anglers reported that rainbow trout made up the majority of their catch (70%) followed by whitefish (17%), kokanee (4%), lake trout (3%), and Dolly Varden (1%).\textsuperscript{50} With the exception of whitefish, the most caught species in 2000 are also those most targeted in our survey. Salmon were not mentioned in the 2000 survey. Differences in structure of questions and data analysis may lower the comparability of these surveys. Although sample size was similar, response rate may also have differed leading to lower comparability.

\textsuperscript{50} Levey and Williams 2003.
Figure 21. Most preferred species in summer (plotted against number of responses).

Figure 22. Second most preferred species in summer (plotted against number of responses).

Figure 23. Third most preferred species in summer (plotted against number of responses).

Figure 24. Most preferred species in winter (plotted against number of responses).

Figure 25. Second most preferred species in winter (plotted against number of responses).

Figure 26. Third most preferred species in winter (plotted against number of responses).
Desired angling experiences

When choosing where to fish anglers make choices between different angling experiences. Respondents were given choices between contrasting angling experiences and asked to indicate which they preferred (see Figures 27 to 33).\(^{51}\)

Respondents were asked to indicate other details of their desired angling experience. Some of the most common responses were that they preferred areas of low angler density, and peace and quiet. Access was a significant factor, along with amenities such as boat launches and basic camp sites (i.e. picnic tables). Many respondents stated that the amount of fish caught did not matter very much. Stocked lakes were desired by respondents and some respondents desired lower license fees. For a complete list of comments see Appendix K.

In 2000 anglers in the Omineca Region released about 60% of the fish that they caught. British Columbians, in 2000, indicated that being close to nature and relaxing were the most important reasons to fish.\(^{52}\)

Angler’s preferences stayed the same regardless of target species for the majority of respondents (181) (see Figure 34).\(^{53}\) Respondents were also asked why preferences did or didn’t change with target species. Common reasons were that number or species of fish did not matter, it was the act of fishing and just being outdoors that mattered. Many indicated that they enjoyed solitude and quiet. Several respondents were only concerned with keeping a few fish to bring home or eat. Some respondents did not care about size, while others targeted trophy fish. A few comments did distinguish between preferences associated to specific species (see Table 4). For a full list of comments see Appendix L.

Respondents preferred wild lakes (191) to stocked lakes (37) (see Figure 35). Some respondents did not have a preference.\(^{54}\)

![Figure 27. Proportion of respondents that prefer a wilderness vs. an urban/close to home angling experience.](Image)

![Figure 28. Proportion of respondents that prefer a summer vs. winter angling experience.](Image)

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\(^{51}\) There were 251 useable responses for the questions regarding catch and release, and number and size of fish. For all other questions there were 252 useable responses.

\(^{52}\) Levey and Williams 2003.

\(^{53}\) There were 228 useable responses for this question.

\(^{54}\) There were 238 useable responses for this question.
Figure 29. Proportion of respondents that prefer a park vs. non-park angling experience.

Figure 30. Proportion of respondents that prefer an angling experience with few other people around vs. social fishing (crowding is OK).

Figure 31. Proportion of respondents that prefer angling experiences with low effort access vs. remote access.

Figure 32. Proportion of respondents that prefer a catch and release vs. catch and keep angling experience.

Figure 33. Proportion of respondents that prefer catching high numbers of average sized fish vs. low numbers of large/trophy sized fish.
Table 4. Summarized comments from individual respondents (unless otherwise indicated), who indicated a specific species in their reply.

- Salmon fishing is crowded (2 respondents).
- Don’t mind crowds when salmon fishing (2 respondents).
- Enjoy salmon fishing; there are lots of other anglers.
- More effort for salmon.
- Catch and keep salmon, kokanee, and burbot.
- For salmon and steelhead only fish rivers.
- Work harder for salmon.
- Salmon are exotic and exciting.
- Lack of lake trout or Dolly Varden, so prefer to catch smaller fish.
- Keep burbot.
- Catch and release grayling and bull trout. Keep 2 rainbow or brook trout for a meal.
- Only fish for trout.

Anglers were given a chance to comment on any other angling preferences or experiences that they thought were relevant to the study. This opened ended question received a lot of responses with a large variety of comments. A few of the more common themes were concerns with the expense of licenses, the desire of more access to remote lakes, the desire for more/better kept campsites and amenities (i.e. boat launches and toilets), and a desire for more stocking or support of the stocking done.

Maintaining wild fish stocks was the top priority for British Columbian participants in the 2000 Freshwater Recreational Fishing consultation survey.\textsuperscript{55} The top priority in that survey for Peace/Omineca Region was improving and increasing access and opportunities for fishing. Other studies have shown catch to be an important part of an angler’s experience, as well as rest and relaxation, enjoying nature, and being with friends.\textsuperscript{56} A survey of


\textsuperscript{56} Connelly et al. 2001; Marta et al. 2001.
Pennsylvanian anglers indicated an overall perception that a decrease in stocking would result in a decrease in their enjoyment of fishing.\textsuperscript{57}

**Mountain pine beetle**

Respondents were quite evenly split in terms of their opinion on the impact of mountain pine beetle logging on their angling experience (see Figure 36).\textsuperscript{58} Slightly more respondents (134) thought that the logging of beetle infected forests would affect the aesthetic quality of their angling experience, whereas 111 respondents did not.

This question was the most answered open-ended question in the survey and elicited the longest responses. A general conception was that, good or bad, the logging of mountain pine beetle infested forests was necessary. Some respondents appreciated a decrease in fire hazard. Many respondents stated that it would impact the aesthetics of their angling experience; some showed concern for the aesthetics of drives to fishing locations, and to associated camping experiences. Some also had safety concerns with the increase of logging trucks on back roads. Many respondents were in favor of the increased access, but some were opposed to it and associated crowding. Many respondents thought of logging to be a better alternative to red and dead trees, and that nature would restore itself quickly. Many respondents thought that there would be environmental impacts to fisheries, increased runoff, water temperature, wind, and decreased water quality. Many indicated that it would negatively impact their wilderness or nature experience. Some responded that it would not affect their fishing experience, that the surrounding aesthetics were not important. See Appendix N for a complete list of comments.

![Figure 36. The proportion of anglers that think the logging of mountain pine beetle infected forest will affect the aesthetic quality of their fishing experience.](image-url)

\textsuperscript{57} Ready et al. 2005.
\textsuperscript{58} There were 245 useable responses for this question.
Previous experience and background

Respondents had been fishing for an average of 33.2 years (see Figure 37). Most respondents (91%) were not members of fishing clubs. For a list of fishing clubs in which the remaining 9% were members, see Appendix O.

![Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents that have been fishing for differing number of years.](chart.png)

Figure 37. Proportion of respondents that have been fishing for differing number of years.

To determine how often respondents used certain types of fishing gear anglers were asked to indicate the frequency of their use (see Figure 38). Frequencies were given scores of 1 to 5. A frequency of never was scored 1, rarely 2, occasionally 3, frequently 4, and always 5. The average score of all responses was used to assess overall frequency of use (i.e. the closer to 5, the more frequent a type of equipment is used). One respondent indicated that they were unsure the frequency of use for electric motors.

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59 There were 240 useable responses for this question.
60 There were 247 useable responses for this question.
Figure 38. The number of respondents that indicated a category of frequency for each piece of equipment listed on the survey.
Belly boats (1.71), electric motors (1.96), and fish finders (2.38) were on average rarely used. Bait (3.06), flies (3.09), and gas motors (3.42) were occasionally used. Lures (3.88) were frequently used.

Respondents made an average of 24 day trips and 9 multi day trips for the purposes of fishing (see Figure 39).

![Figure 39](image)

Figure 39. The proportion of anglers that took different numbers of angling trips in the Omineca Region this past season.

The average number of anglers in a household was 2.3. Of all respondents that indicated their sex 79% were male and 21% were female (see Figure 40). Anglers in the Omineca Region in 2000 were made up of 76% males and 24% females. Previous studies have found sex ratios to be 93% male and 7% female in Pennsylvania, and 74% male and 26% female in the United States.

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62 There were 243 useable responses for this question.
63 There were 226 useable responses for this question.
64 There were 241 useable responses to this question.
65 There were 249 useable responses to this question.
66 Levey and Williams 2003.
The average age of anglers in the Omineca Region is 46.8 years old (see Figures 41 to 43), which is comparable to that in 2000 of 45.3 years old. The overall demographics of anglers in the United States are younger. Based on the response rate, the age demographics in this study significantly reflect the population. This may indicate a decline in angling interest of both younger males and females.

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68 Levey and Williams 2003.
The average income was $73,076.65 (see Figure 44). The income demographics for anglers in the Omineca Region in 2000 were considerably lower. The highest level of education completed by the largest proportion of respondents was 12th grade (see Figure 45). Most respondents (82%) were not retired (see Figure 46).

Figure 44. Proportion of respondents by income. Figure 45. Proportion of respondents by highest level of education.

Figure 48. Number of retired and non-retired respondents

Respondents mainly resided within the Omineca Region (214) (see Figure 47). Some were from British Columbia but resided outside of the region (9) (see Figure 47). The remainder were from Alberta (10), Manitoba (2), the U.S.A. (10), and Switzerland (1). Approximately 61% of respondents resided in Prince George. As 56% of all licenses in the Omineca Region were sold in Prince George, the population appears to be accurately represented in this study.

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70 There were 189 useable responses for this question.
71 Levey and Williams 2003.
72 There were 230 useable responses for this question.
73 There were 248 useable responses for this question.
74 There were 246 useable responses for this question.
Figure 47. Number of respondents that reside in BC.
Conclusions

Anglers in the Omineca Region expend more effort at locations with gravel road access than any other type of location. They fish both stocked and wild water bodies with more effort expended at wild water bodies. They also expend more effort on lakes, particularly small lakes.

A majority of anglers participate in fishing in conjunction with other activities, particularly camping. For the most part, angler’s actual practices correspond well with their preferences. Rainbow trout is the most targeted fish species and is the most desired species in both summer and winter.

The majority of anglers in the Omineca Region are from within the region, specifically from Prince George and surrounding area. As each license holder was equally likely to be selected at random, and all mailing costs were covered it is our belief that there was little bias in responses based on location. However, given that the majority of licenses sold in the region are sold to locals (Prince George and surrounding area), the strong response from such population could have been expected.

Anglers in the Omineca Region have a preference for summer fishing, wilderness experiences, and angling with few others around. They prefer angling for wild fish over stocked fish. If given a choice most respondents would prefer to catch high numbers of average sized fish, rather than low numbers of large fish.

The information and knowledge gained from anglers responses will help in the management of the Omineca Region’s fishery. It can help managers make inferences about the quality of the fishery and allow managers to better serve the public.

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and the Resource Recreation and Tourism Program at UNBC, we would like to thank the participants in this study for taking the time to contribute.
References


Appendix A

Map of the Omineca Region
Appendix B

Angler Preferences Survey
Dear Angler,

You have been randomly selected from 20,000 anglers to participate in a voluntary study titled: **Angler Preferences in the Omineca Region.** The purpose of this research is to better understand angler preference so that 1) fishery management efforts can be prioritized to meet the demand and preferences of anglers; 2) fisheries can be managed for conservation to prevent decline or collapse.

The research is being undertaken by a faculty member from the Resource Recreation and Tourism Program at the University of Northern British Columbia, in cooperation with the Omineca Regional Office of the BC Ministry of Environment.

Your participation in the study should take no longer than 10 minutes and is entirely voluntary, so if you need to withdraw at any time you may do so without prejudice. We do not anticipate any risk associated with this research, but do believe that there will be notable benefits. The survey will allow you, as an angler, to have a say in the fisheries management decisions that affect the region.

After you respond to the survey, please place both the survey and consent form in the reply envelope provided, and mail it back to us before **February 10th, 2006.** Once we receive your completed survey, the results will be grouped with the other surveys and analyzed. Your responses are confidential and will be kept anonymous, and we will not be recording your name with the data.

The consent forms we ask you to return and the survey responses will be stored separately, with only the principal investigator, and research assistant having access to both. After analysis is completed, all data will be stored for 5 years, at which point it will be shredded. For your participation in the research, you may choose to enter the prize draw for a Sedge Fly Rod Combo kindly donated by **Northern Trout Fitters Fly & Tackle Shop** in Prince George. To do so, simply complete the survey and check the box at the bottom of the consent form. This portion of the form will be torn off and treated separately to choose the winner of the prize.

In case of any questions about the project or survey, please contact the principal investigator, Patrick Maher. The final report will be available after the completion of the project (April 15th, 2006). If at this time you would like an electronic copy, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick. If you have any complaints about the project, please direct them to the UNBC Vice-President of Research, at 1-250-960-5820.

Whether or not you choose to participate by completing the survey, we would like to thank you for your time spent in reading over the above information.

Kind Regards

Patrick Maher  
Resource Recreation and Tourism Program  
University of Northern British Columbia  
3333 University Way  
Prince George, BC  
V2N 4Z9  
Phone: 1-250-960-5235  
Email: maherp@unbc.ca
Angler Preferences in the Omineca Region
Research undertaken by Patrick Maher, Resource Recreation and Tourism Program, University of Northern British Columbia

Consent

I have read and understood the information about the above-named project.
I understand any risks and benefits.
I have been informed that my participation is entirely voluntary, and that I may withdraw at any time.
I have been given the opportunity to contact the researchers should I have any questions.
I have been informed about confidentiality and anonymity issues related to this project.
I understand that only the principal investigator and research assistant will have access to the raw data I provide.
I understand that by completing the survey, I am giving my free and informed consent to take part in this research.

Tear Off Portion

If you would like to enter the prize draw please tick (√) the box and provide information, so that we can tear off this portion of the consent form and contact you should you win.

I would like to be entered into the prize draw for a Sedge Fly Rod Combo kindly donated by Northern Trout Fitters Fly & Tackle Shop in Prince George, to be drawn following completion of the project.

Name: ___________________________ Phone # or Email: ___________________________
Angler Preferences in the Omineca Region

Having read the information letter and signed the consent form please complete this survey honestly and in as much detail as possible. Once you have completed the survey please enclose it, along with the consent form, in the reply envelope provided; then simply drop this envelope in your nearest post box, no postage is required. Your time and assistance in this research project is greatly appreciated.

Section A: Angler Distribution

1) Using the map on the opposite sheet as a guide to the Regional Boundaries, please list the top five lakes, rivers or streams you have fished at in the Omineca Region during this past season? If possible, please indicate the approximate number of days you spent fishing at each.

1) ______________________________________________
2) ______________________________________________
3) ______________________________________________
4) ______________________________________________
5) ______________________________________________

2) Where in the Omineca Region do you fish?
For all the categories that apply, please indicate the approximate percentage of your fishing time spent at each

☐ Near population centres (e.g. Vanderhoof, Prince George etc.)
☐ Areas with access via paved roads only
☐ Areas with access via gravel roads
☐ Sites with recreation facilities
☐ Sites without recreation facilities
☐ Provincial Parks
☐ Other: ____________________________

%
3) What type of locations do you fish at?
√ the appropriate box(es) in each column and indicate the approximate number of days you may spend at each

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stocked</th>
<th># of days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural or wild fish populations</td>
<td># of days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Either (I don’t really care)</td>
<td># of days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Streams (e.g. Crooked or Stellako rivers)
- Rivers (e.g. Nechako or Parsnip rivers)
- Small Lakes (up to 1000 Ha e.g. Cluculz Lake or smaller)
- Large lakes (e.g. Fraser or Stuart lakes)
- Other: ____________________ ____

4) When you go fishing, is it the only activity you do?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If you answered no to question 4, what other activities do you usually combine with your fishing (in order of preference)?

________________________________________________________

5) In questions 2 and 3, you indicated where you do fish, are these the types of places you would prefer to fish?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Why/ Why not?

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

6) On average, how many days per year do you fish (an approximation is fine)? ________

7) As a percentage, what proportion of your time spent fishing is in summer vs. winter?

Summer ________ % Winter ________ %

8) How many fish do you expect to catch on an average day? ________
9) What size range of fish do you expect to catch on an average day? _________

10) How big/long is a trophy fish for you?

   Weight (lbs or kg) _________ Length (cm or inches) _________

---

**Section B: Angler Preferences**

11) What types of locations would you like to fish at?

   √ the appropriate box(es) in each column and indicate the approximate number of days you may spend at each

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of days</th>
<th># of days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stocked</td>
<td>Streams (e.g. Crooked or Stellako rivers)</td>
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<td>Natural or wild fish populations</td>
<td>Rivers (e.g. Nechako or Parsnip rivers)</td>
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<td>Either (I don’t really care)</td>
<td>Small Lakes (up to 1000 Ha e.g. Cluculz Lake or smaller)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large lakes (e.g. Fraser or Stuart lakes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12) What is the importance of the following factors in influencing the timing or location of your fishing trips?

   √ only one box for each factor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temperature forecast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain forecast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire hazard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of friends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The size of the fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taste of the fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avoiding crowds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ease of access to the lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance to the lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gear restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catch limits</td>
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<tr>
<td>The amount of development on the lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of campsites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of resort accommodations</td>
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<tr>
<td>The cost of gasoline/fuel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to schedule time off or holidays</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
13) On average, how many hours are you willing to drive to your final destination for:

A one day long fishing trip? _________  A multi day fishing trip? _________

14) What species would you like to fish for in summer?
√ all boxes that apply and number these in order of preference

☐ _____ Rainbow Trout  ☐ _____ Arctic Grayling
☐ _____ Eastern Brook trout  ☐ _____ Whitefish
☐ _____ Dolly Varden/Bull Trout  ☐ _____ Burbot
☐ _____ Lake Char/Lake Trout  ☐ _____ Salmon
☐ _____ Kokanee  ☐ _____ Other: ______________________

15) What species would you like to fish for in winter?
(√) all boxes that apply and number these in order of preference

☐ _____ Rainbow Trout  ☐ _____ Arctic Grayling
☐ _____ Eastern Brook trout  ☐ _____ Whitefish
☐ _____ Dolly Varden/Bull Trout  ☐ _____ Burbot
☐ _____ Lake Char/Lake Trout  ☐ _____ Salmon
☐ _____ Kokanee  ☐ _____ Other: ______________________

16) What type of angling experience do you desire?
√ only one box for each pair

☐ Wilderness  ☐ Low effort access
☐ Urban or close to town  ☐ Remote access
☐ Summer  ☐ Catch and release
☐ Winter  ☐ Catch and keep
☐ Park Setting  ☐ Higher numbers of average sized fish
☐ Non-park Setting  ☐ Lower numbers of large or trophy fish
☐ Few other anglers
☐ Social fishing (crowding is OK)
If you have any other details about your desired angling experience, please indicate below.

17) Do your preferences mentioned in question 16 remain the same for all fish species?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Why/ Why not?

18) What type of fishery do you prefer?

☐ Wild  ☐ Stocked

19) Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your angling experience or angling preferences in the Omineca Region?

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20) Do you think that activities associated with the logging of mountain pine beetle infected forests will affect the aesthetic quality of your angling experience?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Why/ Why not?

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Section C: Background Information and Previous Experience

21a) What is your postal code? 

21b) If you do not reside in Canada, what country do you normally reside in? 

22) How many years have you been fishing? 

23) Are you a member of a fishing or fish/game club? (If Yes, please specify the club name) 

24) How often do you fish each year (please estimate the average number of days)? 

25) How many day trips did you make to the Omineca Region this past season? 

26) How many multi-day trips did you make to the study area this past season? 

27) How many members of your household fish (including yourself)? 

28) How often do you use the following type(s) of gear/equipment while fishing? 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gear/equipment</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Frequently</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bait</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish Finder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas Boat Motor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Boat Motor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belly/Pontoon Boat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29) Are you? 

☐ Male 

☐ Female 

30) Please indicate your age: _______ years at last birthday. 

31) What is your approximate total household income? 

32) What is your highest educational qualification (completed, and/or in progress)? 

33) Are you retired? 

☐ Yes 

☐ No 

Thank you for completing this survey. Your contribution to this effort is greatly appreciated. Please remember that if you wish to be included in the prize draw for a Sedge Fly Rod Combo kindly donated by Northern Trout Fitters Fly & Tackle Shop in Prince George you must check the appropriate box and provide contact information on the consent form. If you would like a copy of the final report, please contact the principal investigator.
Appendix C

Lakes and Streams Fished

(As written by respondents; thus spelling, duplications and non-Omineca Region sites are due to responses given)
### Lakes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aiken Lk</th>
<th>Gantahaz Lk</th>
<th>Punchaw Lk</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angly Lk</td>
<td>Germanssen Lk</td>
<td>Puntzi Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anzus Lk</td>
<td>Ghost Lk</td>
<td>Purden Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artic Lk</td>
<td>Grassham</td>
<td>Rainbow Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babine Lk</td>
<td>Graveyard Lk</td>
<td>Rum Cash Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batinnui Lk</td>
<td>Grizzly Lk</td>
<td>Sawmill Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Lk</td>
<td>Hallet Lk</td>
<td>Saxton Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bednesti Lk</td>
<td>Hart Lk</td>
<td>Shesta Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bentzi Lk</td>
<td>Hobson Lk</td>
<td>Simpson Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berman Lk</td>
<td>Hollet Lk</td>
<td>Slender Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binta Lk</td>
<td>Honsard Lk</td>
<td>Squaw Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobtail Lk</td>
<td>Inaza Lk</td>
<td>Stuart Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borel Lk</td>
<td>Indata Lk</td>
<td>Summit Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhorn Lk</td>
<td>Inzana Lk</td>
<td>Suscha Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bugle Lk</td>
<td>Kalum Lk</td>
<td>Tabor Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burden Lk</td>
<td>Kathy Lk</td>
<td>Tacheeda Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burns Lk</td>
<td>Kenney Dam</td>
<td>Taiga Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin Lk</td>
<td>Kinbastket Lk</td>
<td>Takla Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camsal Lk</td>
<td>Kuyakuz Lk</td>
<td>Teapot Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carp Lk</td>
<td>La Salle Lk</td>
<td>Teardrop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Lk</td>
<td>Laurie Lk</td>
<td>Teebutt Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte Lk</td>
<td>Lavoic Lk</td>
<td>Teter Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chiefgray Lk</td>
<td>Lintz Lk</td>
<td>Tez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Lk</td>
<td>Lost Lk</td>
<td>Tezzheron</td>
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<td>Chubb Lk</td>
<td>Lynx Lk</td>
<td>Tlencho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chuchi Lk</td>
<td>Mabel Lk</td>
<td>Top Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cicuta/ Rumcash Lk</td>
<td>MacKenzie Lk</td>
<td>Trembleur Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluculz</td>
<td>Mallard Lk</td>
<td>Triangle Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co op Lk</td>
<td>Manson Lk</td>
<td>Trout Lk</td>
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<td>Cobb Lk</td>
<td>McLeod Lk</td>
<td>Trysata Lk</td>
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<td>Merton Lk</td>
<td>Tudyah</td>
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<td>Crystal Lk</td>
<td>Moosehead Lk</td>
<td>Tureen Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cub Lk</td>
<td>Morfee Lk</td>
<td>Tuttizzi Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dahl Lk</td>
<td>Nalsby Lk</td>
<td>Upper Summit Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeCrer Lk</td>
<td>Narrow Lk</td>
<td>Usiliika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dina # 1</td>
<td>Ness Lk</td>
<td>Valentine Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dina # 3</td>
<td>Nina Lk</td>
<td>Verdant Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dina # 7</td>
<td>Norman</td>
<td>Vivian Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon Lk</td>
<td>Nukko Lk</td>
<td>War Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eaglet Lk</td>
<td>Nulki Lk</td>
<td>Warhorse Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Echo Lk</td>
<td>Oona Lk</td>
<td>West Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eena Lk</td>
<td>Opatcho Lk</td>
<td>Whale Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson Lk</td>
<td>Ormond Lk</td>
<td>Wicheeta Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fern Lk</td>
<td>Otterson Lk</td>
<td>Williston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finger Lk</td>
<td>Outs Lk</td>
<td>Windy Point Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firth Lk</td>
<td>Pelican Lk</td>
<td>Woodcock Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish Lk</td>
<td>Peta Lk</td>
<td>Yellowhead Lk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisher Lk</td>
<td>Phinetta Lk</td>
<td>Zippermouth Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francois Lk</td>
<td>Pine Lk</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser Lk</td>
<td>Pinichi Lk</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Streams

Hagen Cr
Crooked Rv
Cheslatta Falls
MCrelvie Cr
Blackwater Rv
Cut Thumb Cr
Bowron Rv
Nechako Rv
McLeod Rv
Willow Rv
Middle Rv
PaCr Rv
Weston Cr
Parsnip Rv
Collins Cr
Mugaha Cr
Small Cr
Stuart Rv
Dore Rv
Nation Rv
Canoe Rv
Murtle Rv
Hominka
Holmes Rv
Kitimat Rv
Morkil Rv
Mishichinka Rv
HerriCr Rv
Fraser Rv
Mesilinka
MacGregor Rv
Chilako Rv
Finlay Rv
Skena Rv
Tatu Cr
Tachi Cr
Appendix D

Comments - Question 2:

Where in the Omineca Region do you fish? (Other category)
River access, not much fishing pressure

Areas with access Via ATV trail 70%

Bush only

Lots of small lakes in the middle of nowhere - by forestry blocks (cut blocks)

Sites that restrict the use of gas powered engines 30

Where ever you can camp

I like to ATV or sled into small lakes

Family cabin

Logging road access

4WD lakes remote access

Summer place on Fraser Lake

Any where

Boat

Burns Lk

Family Cabin

Foot access

Hike in access

Like to leave from the dock on Stuart River.

Out of Omineca Region

Private Campsites

Purden Lake has a cabin on the lake. I have only fished at Purden Lake in the last few years but intend on going elsewhere again and use all the above equally

Region 6

River access

Rivers or creeks

Walk in /secluded

Walk in lakes

We use a float plane

Wilderness
Appendix E

Comments – Question 3

What type of locations do you fish at? (Other category)
Ocean fishing once/year or twice
Skeena
Francois
Remote small lakes
Trembleur
Bills etc.
Bowron River
Kinbasker
Kinbasker Reservoir
Day trips
Babine
Ootsa
Medium Size
Euchiniko Lake Chain
Trembleur
Creeks
Hike in Lakes
Coop Lake
Appendix F

Comments – Question 11

What types of locations would you like to fish at? (Other category)
Ocean
Ocean
Remote lakes
Kitimat
Skeena and Tributaries
More in the future
Kinbasket
Kinbasket Reservoir
Ocean
Ocean
Sail fishing
Ootsa
Ocean
Medium
Estuary
Fly-in
Skeena
Creeks
Hike in Lakes
Salmon River out of region
Appendix G

Comments – Question 4

When you go fishing, is it the only activity you do?

(If answered no, these are the respective other activities)
Mining/prospecting

Camping, Outdoor Cooking, Horse shoes, Photography.

Swimming, campfire gathering, Hunting archery and other related "cabin activity"

Burn weiner! Travel on quad see country.

Camping and Relaxation

Camping, Hunting, hiking

Camping, hiking

Camping and fishing

Weiner Roast/Snowmobiling (Ice fishing)

Camping

Camping, sight seeing

Hiking, lawn games with friends

Resting and relaxing

Camping and Hunting

During the fall I fish during the hunting season

Camping and swimming

Hiking

Canoeing

Camping, boating, small hikes

Lay around, camp, canoe, live, fishing is very low priority

Sightseeing

Camping, boating, ATV

Gold panning, Grouse hunting

Hunting, camping

Hiking, shore exploring, berry picking.

We hunt or just drink beer

Camping, hiking

Hunt

Camping
Camp out, explore area with ATV, ice fish in winter which includes snowmobiling, also hunt in the fall.

Most of the time, late fall moose hunt from boat while fishing.

Camping

Hunting, camping, family gatherings.

Camping

Sightseeing via lake

Camping, ATVing

Go for wildlife, pick berries, play with my grandson.

Camping, exploring lake by boat.

Swimming, Hiking, playing with kids, camping.

Camping, hiking

Hunt, camp, explore.

Hunting

Camping, exploring the area, viewing wildlife.

Hike, bike, camping,

Fishing and camping.

Boating, nature viewing, exploring, hiking.

Camping, hunting, quading, hiking.

Boating, sightseeing.

Wildlife viewing, walking.

Hiking, camping, sightseeing.

Camping. Hiking, hunting/shooting.

Sometimes 1 to 2 times a year we would camp an overnighter.

Hiking and camping.

Camping - swim if possible. Take picture - exercise lab dog.

When I go fishing it is just fishing only.

Hike, golf, BS

Walk, camp
Camp
Camp, relax, go for walks.
Hunting, camping
Camping, and bird watching.
Camping, golfing, hiking.
Sight seeing, photography, hunting.
Hiking, biking, exploring.
Camping, hiking.
Camping, hiking, enjoying outdoors.
Hike around look for mushrooms and take pictures.
Also we cut and haul wood.
Camping
Hunting, sailing.
Drive, camp, hike.
Camping, cut wood for fire, we enjoy ourselves on the lake.
Hunting, target practice, camping, hiking, photography, outdoor survival.
Gold panning, hunting, trapping.
Get firewood
Dirt biking, 4 wheeler, camping, rock hounding, gold panning, water skiing.
Hiking, socializing
Hunting, hiking/exploring, camping.
Hike, explore, visit friends.
Biking
Hunting - guiding (I'm an outfitter and resort owner).
Camping, rock collecting, sight seeing.
Hunting
Camping, other recreational activities.
Hunting
Canoeing, photography, camping.
Camping, hiking.
Camping, sight seeing, pleasure

Visit with family and friends.

Often just fishing, but also include it with camping and working. I work in forestry - take a bit of time to check out small lakes.

Snowmobiling, ATVing, swimming, hiking.

Camping with family

Hunting, camping.

ATVing

Quading, camping, hiking, touring.

Fishing and hunting.

Camping, ATV on snow machines, walking.

Wild crafting, firewood gathering, hunting.

Swimming, hiking, biking, camping, skating, canoeing.

Quading

Drink beer, suntan, and read book.

Boating, camping, drinking, cooking.

Hunting, hiking, camping.

Camping

Camping, hiking, swimming.

Camping, working away from home (staying in a logging/ or tent camp)

It's usually at a church camp so I fish in my spare time.

Camping, swimming, walking.

Camping, biking, hiking.

Snowmobile trips and canoeing

Target shooting, ATV riding

Hunting, hiking, swimming, family picnics, photography, camping.

Camping, hiking, sometimes hunting.

Hunting, camping.

Camping

Canoeing, camping.
Mainly family camping (lake fishing)

Panning.

Walking, biking, swimming, relaxing.

Firewoods, berries, mushrooms.

Camping, dirt bike.

Gold panning, camping, hiking.

Camping, hiking, exploring, tubing, sitting around campfire.

I take a swim too.

We canoe while we fish, but that's all. Only on lakes. Streams/rivers only to fish - no other activities

Hiking, boating

Hunting

Quading/trail riding

Camping, biking, swimming, hiking.

Camping and quading.

Some hiking, canoeing.

Camp

Mushroom picking, hiking.

Hiking, canoeing, birdwatching, reading.

Hiking and mountain bike. Pick berries.

Camping

We're building a cabin on our property at Naltby Lake - That's why I hardly fished last year!

Camping, hiking, 4x4ing.

When I go fishing I like to make a day of it. So if we catch a couple of fish we cook them up then, have a shore lunch. If we don't catch fish we cook hotdogs and have fun.

If not just fishing, we go camping and swimming.

Go hiking if trails available or free lance sight seeing/nature walks

Motorbikes, hikes

Hunting, camping, driving around.

Camping
Hiking, sightseeing, driving.

Have cabin at Cluculz, there's always something else to do.

General vacation (sleep, read, eat, hike, etc.)

They are family outings, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, camping, and ATVing, boating.

Drinking, playing games, listening, hunting.

Camping, ride quad.

Camping, swimming.

Canoeing, camping, hiking.

Site seeing

Camping, hiking, photography, cross country skiing, canoeing, casting (practice, I'm still learning!), swimming.

Camping, hiking

Hiking, sightseeing, bird watching.

Walking, camping, enjoying nature.

Camping, hiking.

Off road, (guitar) music, campfire.

Travel, jeeping off road.

Moose hunting
Appendix H

Comments – Question 5

In questions 2 and 3, you indicated where you do fish, are these the types of places you would prefer to fish? (Why/Why not comments)
Why because there are a limited number of people around. We camp with our dogs.

Close to home and you get a fish most of the time. If I had to travel too far and the price of the fish license for a year is not worth going fishing at all fishing over before it starts.

Many areas to explore. Many different kinds of fish and wildlife.

The cabin is my "space" and it's one of the activities I can do with my family

Only time I have for fishing and the fishing is always superb

I own a small boat (prefer small lakes)

Less people - quieter - better fishing - scenery - wildlife

Prefer West Coast Rivers and inlets

Enjoy the scenery - not many people there most of the time

Easy access/Can use small boat

Camping with family

I prefer small lake for flat tube fishing. I also enjoy small streams by fishing has gone down hill greatly over the past 20 years

Larger fish les people

We like to go to different places and lakes

I generally like to fish in small lakes further away from cities. However, I do fish in lakes close to cities when I don't have the time to travel long distances

Less people usually means more fish

Babine for salmon

I really am open to going anywhere and do who I am with decides where I go.

I don't normally fish in this region we have a cabin on Quesnel Lake and that is where I normally fish at this time.

With limited days available I fish where I can be assured of the experience I am after

Love the scenery, the quiet, the social contact with other people who enjoy fishing or boating

I live seasonally long access, good camp site with minimal noise and the ability to catch the odd fish.

We have a cabin at Cluculz

Quiet

Enjoying the outdoors

Yes it quiet. Fresh air.

Use belly boat, fly fish 95% of time. Seclusion
Ease of access. Usually a family affair

I hike to go to smaller more remote lakes to get away from the larger crowds that tend to be with the larger lakes

Easy access, nice accommodations, nice catch, nice persons, easy boating facilities.

Easy access (boat launch), good sites, good fishing.

Because it's a variety of fishing

Lots of fish, good fishing

Not far to travel to/close to home. Are nice and quiet areas

I like to get away from people

I like to fish in the more secluded lakes which are hard to access by the general public.

No people, boat access, not bad fishing.

Must have launch and rock.

Less people, quiet camping, more wildlife.

I like the idea of finding places that are quiet most of the time.

Quick access in a day, easy to get into and facility has boat launch

Usually easy access is a priority to get a 12 foot trailer in (aluminum boat). If not, use ATV and belly boat.

Because we have boat and we like those places.

Easy access, close to home. Don’t have a lot of spare time.

Small boat keep to small lakes. Generally camp and fish, have small kids so provincial parks are good and rec sites. Day trips are OK too.

Good access, good hiking.

Hike more remote and quiet areas.

Prefer quiet uncrowded spots.

A small lake close to home is likely going to require stocking. I expect this type of lake to be very slow unless it is stoked.

Scenery and wildlife. Like to take pictures and relax.

I fish several species of fish and depending company I fish with determines my preference where I go. E.g. Wife/son/ or fishing buddies.

Camping with areas for our dogs.

Like to fish stocked lakes because I know there are fish there to catch. Like to fish wild fish because it seems more of a challenge.
Mostly we stay in towns so our fishing is near them. Almost all access to where we fish is on gravel road. Almost solely fish rivers.

I prefer small lakes

Prefer quiet locations with few people.

I prefer larger river systems with salmon such as the Skeena and tributaries as I have a jet boat.

I usually choose smaller stocked lakes for family type outings, larger lakes for bigger fish, remote small lakes for wildlife viewing.

Close to home. Quiet and peaceful.

Better fishing/ remote

Because roads are often rough and lakes are over pop. With fishermen.

Close proximity to Bobtail Lake for day fish trips!

I enjoy getting away from the public most of the time and enjoy the silence of the lake to myself.

The fishing is usually pretty good. The type of lake (prefer fly fishing).

Enjoy fishing and camping - outdoor in general. Enjoy outdoor cooking and campfire.

Sometimes I prefer to fish where there is quietness not where is city bustle. I go to way out places.

Like big lakes and fish different areas

Quiet

Rivers - most often not a lot of people.

Visiting family at Cluculz

Go out of the region to fish rivers.

Prefer to fish areas that are remote and do not get a lot of activity.

Dragon lake is my favorite lake in May, June and October but is not in Omineca of course.

Easy access - close to town.

I'm not a good fisher woman, lake trout are easy targets.

Small, not too busy, firm fish - pan fry -

Not as many people at most of the lakes

Easy access.

Close to home

Would prefer more remote venues but prohibited by time available.

Lake fishing is very relaxing and we do well.
Prefer areas where others do not fish.

Close to home. Nice place to camp with family.

Streams are more interesting with running water; They are usually more difficult to access than lakes therefore few people and less noise.

I answered yes to the stocking helps the outcome of the trip. No the garbage left at the non provincial places, no because I don’t believe you should deactivate roads that have been built.

I like to fish in remote lakes.

Size of boat limits size of lake.

Reasonable driving distance; pretty lakes and streams.

Doesn’t matter

Mostly fish at Francois lake for lake trout and ling (enjoy catching larger type fish, although most are released).

Very little equipment needed. Access in the evenings after work.

Because I only like to fish where there is good fishing so I try numerous different lakes and rivers throughout the year summer and winter.

Cabins are available for rent. Always have caught fish (limit out). Only 3.5 hours from Prince George.

Because we enjoy it.

Easy access, good fishing, good canoe lakes

I live the adventure of fishing somewhere no one else fishes. I parked a boat into Moosehead lake to fish it, and cut a trail (I had a permit) to get the boat in, very satisfying and exciting.

Not as busy with other fishermen.

Close by, some are also isolated to get more privacy.

Fraser Lk - paved access - close to home - 5 min. drive. Others - good fishing usually - easy access/ launching - within an hour of home.

I prefer small lakes; I am not equipped to boat on large lakes or rivers.

Prefer river fishing for wild steelhead/salmon ex. Bulkley, Kispiox, Kalum rivers, etc.

They aren’t crowded with other fishermen, they are relaxing

Easy access, scenic location.

We would like to try other places.

Easy access.

To get out in nature.

I prefer privacy and peace and quiet. Also success is often better in less accessible lakes.
A little off the beaten track.

It is very quiet.

I find there are less people at these small lakes

I like the isolation

More seclusion and less people always makes for a better fishing day.

New here, will find better places to fish.

I generally prefer isolated areas, but I am new to the area and haven’t had a chance to fins as many as I’d like. Most of my fishing was done outside the regional area last year.

We’ve gone to Babine for many years.

Less crowded spots.

I like fishing in the ocean for big salmon.

The lake provides a good range of places to fish, it’s big enough to not get crowded if there are a lot of people fishing. Nice scenery.

Because they are comfortable relaxing and I get my favorite fishing spots.

Avoid crowds

Stuart Lake is out the front door why go anywhere else. I would like to see Stuart Lake stocked with rainbow because over the years the number of big rainbow (over 5 lbs) has dropped off a lot.

Because these areas are close to home and easily accessible.

Because Moberly Lk, where I now live, has a greater variety.

Cabin at Clucluz or just where we decide to go.

There are large rainbow and char.

These places are easy to access. There are an abundance of fish. More opportunity to catch and release. Boat launching available for small watercraft.

Fraser Lake have fished for years. Always good luck. A good variety of fish.”trout …” Nukki – Stocked fish nice size.

I like being able to find spots that are not crowded and are remote. The trout in Outsa are wild, strong and can be very large.

Easy access, close to home, simplest with children.

Not crowded or over fished.

Enjoying fishing from a boat and having success.

Part of canoeing trip.

Having a young family the smaller local places are easier to get to and provide places to teach the kids the basics.
They are usually close and familiar.

An “enjoyable” fishing trip has evolved into a planned excursion.

Like river fishing.

Really doesn’t matter.

Save on time and gas.

Mostly where I can take my trailer to and camp. Private or provincial. Odd time forestry.

I go where I can, when I can. I have no best spots

Familiar with them.

Large lakes with large trophy sized fish (which we photograph and release). Also, fish for meals when on trip as well as for smoking.

They are popular fishing spots and have been here forever. Also have success in these spots.

Fish are firm, good tasting and 80%+ parasite free, also the lakes look clean.

Not much, populated.

I don’t camp overnight. Usually prefer lakes within 1.5 hours of city.

I paddle a canoe - smaller - less wind - less danger.

Easy access. Can get out in the evenings after work. Lakes are good for the entire family to come along - I’m the only angler in the household.

I prefer lakes that are hard to drive to. I prefer less populated areas.

Close to home

So 2 get a better change to get my fish

Close to home

Places like Murtle Lake, however park rules day otherwise.

Because I have only went salmon fishing for Chinook but I would like to do more trout fishing.

Less crowded less pressure on the fish population.

Not many people, great natural fish.

Like small quiet lakes. Dislike big boots, jet skis and crowds.

Have little time for fishing so like to find uncrowded areas that are convenient to access. If I had more time, would go to more remote areas and spend several days fishing.

Small, quiet, uncrowded, good fishing.

I like smaller, more remote lakes - better fishing and fewer people, no power boats!

Smaller lakes more secluded. Fewer people go really far down gravel roads to fish. Also there are good sized tasty fish in these areas.
Would normally prefer to fish rivers. In the large lakes, I focus on river mouths.

Because it is close to my community.

Where I live you need to enjoy the outdoors to stay happy, and I have it here. I moved here from Sask. And did not start fishing till I moved here. I really enjoy the fish here.

We live a Trembeur July and August.

Less people and I live close to these places.

I like a variety. For a quick getaway, I’ll go to Salmon river or Vivian Lake. For good fishing and camping I don’t mind going out a little further.

Willing to try any areas that provide either fishing or camping/hunting, hiking, etc.

No people

It’s remote and beautiful.

I prefer dry fly, still water fishing.

Different species of fish. Would fish more remote lakes, if they still had a few facilities left intact - toilets and campsites and roads.

I like to get away from the crowd and be alone with nature. Teach my son how to get away from the crowds.

We really enjoy the area and fishing.

Because they satisfy my need to be in the outdoors occasionally and they are away from city crowds.

It’s enjoyable, convenient and comfortable.

Semi-accessible locations with facilities

We like to get away and be on our own.

They usually have bigger fish.

Easy access, quiet, not a lot of people.

Prefer moving water over lakes

But also like lake fishing.

We like to fish for large and small fish. Also sometimes we like to be around people and other times by ourselves.

Privacy and scenery

Not too many people, good fishing.

Remote access
I enjoy camping, but not around crowds. I am not opposed to the facilities provincial parks offer, however I usually prefer forestry camps for the adventure and scenery. My family has a cabin on Stuart Lake, it's a favorite, and I want to try more rivers and streams soon!

Good fishing, not too many people around, easy access, quiet.

Any type of fishing.

They are close

I like larger lakes because you can be more secluded. I don't like fishing on top of other people. I want to get away from the crowds.

Quality of fish

Easy to get to.

I would fish near populated areas if I lived near one (I live in Mackenzie), depends where the fish usually are being caught. I love being outdoors and fish anywhere.

Actually prefer small streams
Appendix I

Comments – Question 8

How many fish do you expect to catch on an average day?

(Comments, when listed with, or in place of a number)
1 would like to catch quota
1 to Limit
2 enough for lunch
6 to10 loaded question … Dragon Lake 2 to 20

Daily quota
Does not matter
Does not matter
Don't expect
Enough for dinner
Just enough for eating
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit
Limit

What ever we catch
Appendix J

Comments Questions 14 and 15

What species would you like to fish for in summer (14) and winter (15)?

(Other category)
**Summer**

- Pike and walleye
- Don't know
- Halibut
- No preference
- Cutthroat trout
- Steelhead
- Halibut
- Steelhead
- Sturgeon
- Halibut
- Steelhead
- Walleye, perch
- Pickerel/perch
- Steelhead
- Walleye
- Bass/Walleye
- Halibut
- Squaw/Sockeye
- Walleye
- Northern Pike
- Pickerel
- Lingcod
- Cod

**Winter**

- Don't ice fish
- Not interested in fishing in the winter
- None
- Cutthroat trout
- Steelhead
- Steelhead
- Walleye perch.
- Pickerel/perch
- Steelhead
- Steelhead
- Walleye
- Northern Pike
- Steelhead
- Lingcod
- Perch, Northern Pike.
Appendix K

Comments – Question 16

What type of angling experience do you desire? (Additional comments)
Prefer fishing in uncontaminated waters

Would like the license fee's to be more reasonable because of gas and tackle costs

Traditional hook and worm.

Low effort, lots of bites and nice for kids

It's unfortunate we have no pike or walleye; I go to Alberta or the Yukon for 2 to 3 weeks.

Mostly float tubing if boating - other then that stream fishing.

Catch enough to eat and if possible will take 1 home

Enjoying lakes where you can rent a cabin

No

Prefer to go to lakes where people only fish. No motor boats or personal water crafts

Sunshine!!

Fishing license is too expensive for the 1to4 fish I catch each year. I am considering not fishing in future.

Not really

Variety of species either in one lake/stream or variety of fishing options close in proximity

More number of fish to keep

Good boat launch is important. Basic facilities: Fire pit and firewood, outhouse, picnic table.

More satisfaction and adventure in fishing very hard to access lakes

We enjoy eating a few of the smaller fish and so a combination catch and release and catch and keep is best

Lower licensing fees, better mapping for forestry roads.

Availability of camping location close to the lake

Not sure I like the stress on barbless hooks. Kids learning to fish don't have much of a chance.

The fight is more important than the size.

The peace and quiet is a very important part of the experience.

I really dislike use of gas motors on lakes smaller than 200 acres.

I love to eat fish

I … Affordable fishing, charging classifies waters to Can. Residents the same as Non-residents really hurts and can restrict the amount of f…..

How good or bad the fishing is, the size does not matter so long as I don't have to fight crowds.
In the next two years I want to visit Queen Charlotte Islands, have a guided salmon fish trip. Enjoy river fishing.

I find there is too many squaw fish and leaches in the lake, along with weeds.

I desire fishing without harassment and have to pack a stone to stand on.

The triploids of Dragon Lk are very nice to play with.

I would rather spend all day fishing for big fish and catch none, than fish for guaranteed small fish.

Mostly fly fishing catch and release opportunities.

We don’t fish for more than we can eat at the lake the same day.

I just enjoy the peace and quiet at the lake.

I do like to keep some fish. By using barbless hooks it makes it easy to release.

Just wish I had more time off to go fishing.

Having been involved in outdoor (fishing/hunting) recreation for 40+ years, I have a preference for a good trip involving friends and family rather than catching lots of fish.

I would like to fish the Kitimat River more often but the costs of tags are too expensive and classified waters is also too expensive.

Would like to experience fishing on Langara Island however it is very experience.

Noise at campsites, i.e. Radio-motorbikes

I want to have a small lake entirely to myself.

Enjoying a brief shore lunch each day is great.

Would love to see non salmonid waters cultivated aggressively for walleye and striped perch.

I wish that all anglers were aware of, and used common-sense fish etiquette! Ex. Don’t overlap someone’s line of casting.

Fishing is more of a chance to relax for me, it’s not really a sport, I’m into the fresh air, scenery and wilderness.

My preferences vary, some days I want more action, others I want bigger fish. Sometimes I like to fish closer to town. I support catch and release as well.

I like the idea of trophy lakes, stocked lakes with easy access for families.

I enjoy traveling to the …. Of the salmon streams outside the district.

Access management points (restricted areas) in the Vanderhoof forest district - access management plan - are restricting my access to fishing - this is not good.

If the big lakes can’t be stocked then the number of fish netted at the creek mountain in the spring should be controlled. Nests catch larger fish only, and they are the breeding stock.

Only keep a few but then like to catch/release.
My grandchildren and I ice fish on Fraser Lk most of the winter.

Stuart lake at one time was very good fishing - not so good now - too much netting in Tachie River.

No

Quiet wilderness setting!

General fishing catch and keep, stream fishing I do the catch and release (usually fly fishing).

Purchase of fishing license, should include tax free GIAs and paid time off.

Prefer 2wd road access with camping.

Fly fishing

Smoke fish are difficult to transport “whole” - head/tail removed should be allowed.

Would like to see more brook trout populations.

Like untouched wilderness, hike in or remote access.

Outhouses at recreation sites are very much desired.

None

What can be done to the many fish in Trembeur Lake with worms??

I am mostly a catch and release fly fisher. I live on Ness Lake.

Good access into lake (boat ramp of sorts). Maintained campsites (weeds cut down, clean).

For all to follow the laws.

I would love to be able to catch fish for the rest of my life and for my kids lives.

There are too many road deactivations. Seniors have spent a life time helping to get access, and now they’re not allowed to use them.

Stream should be small enough to wade in safely.

I like catching big fish

Fly only, barbless hooks, catch and release.

More angling experience, catching fish with flys I’ve tied myself (I was raised by a trolling father)

More access to lakes, even if it is a rough gravel road.

Love to hike to remote streams of lakes.
Appendix L

Comments – Question 17

Do your preferences mentioned in question 16 remain the same for all fish species? (Why/Why not comments)
All the time and money I spend to get to the lake. I would like to catch a fish at least.

Like the peace and quiet

Stopping to look for worms on shore is a good part of the experience.

Family not keen on too much wilderness!

All species and sizes of fish can be caught at most lakes, why go out of my way and spend lots of time and money on difficult access?

To me catching fish is 1/2 the experience  Love the outdoors - no cell phone allowed - wildlife.  

I fish to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings

Because I am loner and want to be left alone to enjoy nature

Fish of any species

Just started fishing, and like going out with the family and friends

Ocean fishing changes all of it

Because those are the fish we like to eat

There usually is not that many lake trout, or Dolly Varden around so I prefer to catch more smaller fish.

It is going out that counts no matter where or for what

I am willing to go through more effort for larger fish species

Because that is what I prefer

Do not fish for all species

Summer fishing.

Places that have the trophy fish often busy (Hart/Dragon) still enjoy

Our trips usually involves 2 or more family members including grandchildern who are learning the beauty of both the outdoors and the sport.

I just like to fish, it does not matter to me if I can keep 1 or more I go for fun.

Makes it a relaxing experience

The only difference is I keep burbot

Doesn't matter what species, as long as the setting/ place is nice.

Because I am me!

I enjoy the adventure in getting to a hard to access lake, and is usually better fishing.

Quiet, peaceful relax, nice to catch a few nice fish and have fun.

For short day trips you may want to bring one home for supper I would like to show my grandchildren the pleasure of catching and eating fish.
Fishing is only half the experience, getting away from home and camping is important.

No because I do not keep all of them.

I like to take kids out for exposure to wilderness not populated areas with modern conveniences. Reasonable access to lake important.

The type of places I like to fish have these species and I’m happy with that.

Except for salmon fishing (crowds are fine)

Just prefer to enjoy nature alone or with selected friends.

Like to catch several fish in quiet locations.

Been from the east coast, yes I love fish, yum!!!

I mostly fish BC for salmon and steelhead and only fish rivers for these. Access to everything on a river.

These are the fish I prefer

Enjoying the outdoors and the experience of fishing.

Two types of fishing, one with wife and camper, one with jet boat and friends and tent.

I go fishing for the wilderness experience. I enjoy eating fresh, firm fish.

In crowded area the limit should be lower.

Because I like wilderness fishing with few other anglers, but still have easy access.

Prefer to have the lakes to our selves.

I don’t mind being on the ocean (vast size) with other people. Hart lake with 50 other boats is a little small.

Because the pay spent out in the bush exploring is a big part of the day/weekend, the fish/ultimate goal is icing on the cake.

When salmon fishing it does get crowded sometimes.

Want catch and keep experience. Like frying fish and also smoke fish.

I respect the laws in place and not those whom disrespect them: by many I have seen having their own laws.

Where ever I go fishing I like to bring home a few fish to eat.

Big fish

No reason

Because sometimes I prefer to go for a quick fishing trip close to town with my family.

I just like to eat what we catch at the lake - no take home.

I’d work harder, more remote for trophy or regular salmon opportunities.
Be there and enjoy the great outdoors we up here have plenty equal.

Course fish treated with less care.

One of the special things about BC is the abundance of different species to fish for and places to fish.

I catch and release Grayling and bull trout. I occasionally keep 2 rainbows or brookies for a meal.

Because those are the ways I like to fish regardless of what I’m fishing for.

Because we do not have a RV and when I go out fishing I go with friends who have a 16 ft run about boat.

Only a trout fisherman - not really interested in other species.

I go fishing to get outdoors and enjoy the calm wildlife.

If I catch anything other than I need for food it is released.

I like catching fish - a few big ones is nice, but smoking or frying is what I do with most of mine.

River fishing for salmon near Kitimat is enjoyable, and there are many anglers that at any given time.

These are more geared towards river fishing in ocean - fed waters (rivers)

Because I like to fish for fun.

Please see comments for Question 16

Different abundant in different areas, I adapt - go where the fish are.

Self sufficient

I just like to go fishing.

Like keeping and eating fish, don’t like crowds.

Salmon fishing on the lower mainland rivers is very crowded and unavoidable. This is unfortunate.

To me salmon are exotic enough and exciting enough to make the trip worth while.

I do not like crowds.

Fish in essence, is the same whether your in freshwater or saltwater.

Not to worried about what species I catch. Fishing is a fun relaxing sport.

Don't like crowds, nice to get away.

I like to catch and release big fish in a non crowded setting.

Because I fish to catch fish not just specific species of fish.

To me it doesn’t really matter. I fish simply for the fun of it.
Do not need much “meat” so a few large will do usually.

We set line for ling cod in the winter total catch for the winter would average 25 to 30 ling.

Enjoy the wild and nature.

Catch and release with in respect to your daily limit keeps you in action all day. Does not deplete fish stock.

I like to fish at one or two lakes, learn the fishing holes.

Fishing is a personal experience and needs to be experienced without distraction.

My preferences depend largely on my time available and who, if anyone, I am fishing with.

I’ll make more of an effort on rainbow trout (preference) than on other species

A matter of personal preference.

“Enjoyable” fishing trips are "without", stupid, inconsiderate, loud people, generally found at low effort access park settings.

Like quietness, scenery, like action on the rod, and not so crowded.

If I fish for salmon or kokanee or burbot I catch and keep.

Remote access is better for char.

From what I find, there is an abundance of other species.

I go for peace and quiet ambiance at one with nature.

Limited experience to draw upon….

A trophy fish is a trophy fish.

Not all species are fished for in similar manners.

In summer time - it is easier to go on closer short trips to fish at more urban areas (close to home and work due to the work week)

With salmon I don’t mind a crowd.

Not always. If fishing for trophy fish like lake trout, char. Must go to larger/ crowded lakes.

Often fish the Stellako which is catch and release.

Yes, and the exception that if I can’t keep or eat the fish I catch and release them.

I am out there more for the experience going to a stocked lake for a big fish is too easy.

I care more about the fishing experience than the actual fish.

Because the species taste better in that particular season.

Lots and big is good.

Mainly Rainbow
I fish for salmon out side of the Omineca Dist. When ice fishing catch and keep.

Looking for quiet, park like, easy access, not too crowded, not too far away, and good fishing - camping.

Fishing for sustenance/ hate crowds.

Less people, pan size is good.

I care for all species.

Without access to lakes, seniors can't partake in any activity.

I live to eat fish not mount them as prizes.

Some I would prefer lots of average size fish, but others I would prefer fewer trophies.

I would prefer a wilderness or remote access trip for a 1 time experience per year, but for weekend trips throughout the year easier access is preferred.

Because of the fight

I like the bush.

Not every fishing trip is the same. Sometimes a quick trip out for a couple of small fish is OK.

Camping and canoeing is more important than fishing - fish only for food.

Species isn’t a huge concern but sometimes the desired catch requires more travel time, and is dependant on regulations whether we catch and release.

More selection and options

No complaints, I have only lived in BC for 3 yrs and have not had enough experience learning all the fish. I have not learned many fish yet.
Appendix M

Comments – Question 19

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your angling experience or angling preferences in the Omineca Region?
It's harder to acquire firewood nowadays at some camp sites because you are not allowed to burn drift wood or dead wood. They (campsites) should lower the cost of firewood.

Make the licenses more reasonable price.

Hope to do more fishing when I retire soon.

A quiet day trolling in a canoe is great.

I'm concerned that lake char don't get over harvested. Catch and release only would be fine or very limited catch limits.

It would be nice if all the COs knew the regs in the area - RE especially during salmon runs as up dates can be daily or hourly - hard to get access to internet when I'm camping for 5 to 6 days. Several times there has been confusion between stated regs in books - regs on net and then what we're told when we're at the river.

I don't agree with catch and release as fish are wounded and left to die on top of the water. That is why I don't fish at catch and release lakes.

Why not both - whatever keeps stocks up.

Maybe stocking a local lake with a different species of fish for variety i.e. Walleye

More access to lake, boat launches

Fish that are attracted to fly patterns are preferred

Yes, why doesn't the survey cover other important aspects like cost and catch limits

Doesn't matter what type. It's just nice to catch a fish once in a while.

We enjoy fishing. Carp Lake graded. Always lots of wash boards.

Literature for people inexperienced in region may add to their experience (river/lake historic uses)(wildlife in area)(rare flora/fauna in regions)

No

Increment the catch at Francoise Lake

Stayed most at forest service campsites. Would like to see more environmental awareness info posted. E.g. take out your garbage, beer cans, caps, containers.

Do most of my fishing outside Omineca region

I have no preference

Yes, stop native fishing in Kiakus lake using monofiliment gill nets. Have watched stocks decline past seven years to point I will not return. It was one of the best higher … lakes with over abundance of good top quality fish. Used to limit out 45 minutes all 18to24 inch. Last time now took 2 days 7 fish.

Would like to see boat launches at Inzana and Talka forestry red maintained

There needs to be a program to develop and maintain pit toilets, campsites with tables and fire pits and boat launches. This is for environmental protection and hygiene.

Nope, love to take my family out fishing, finding new holes.
Keep stocking lakes and ensure a recreational opportunity is stable. Stocked lakes help diversify angling pressure off nature's stocks and leads to wild stock conservation.

To much logging, no reforestation, too much illegal fishing.

I don't like road deactivation in the backcountry we need to access more lakes. Section A 9 and 10 size and no. of fish depend on type of fish I am after. 2 lb Kokanee or 4 lb rainbow will fight harder than 8 lb char. I like to catch lots of fish but only keep approx. 20 per year.

Game Wardens should not make you feel inferior or that you automatically are in the wrong.

We would like to see updated maps of the region
i) This is one of the best areas in BC to fish, for diversity in size and number. And I hope that doesn't change. 2) Need to educate the future fishermen to the importance of maintaining pristine lakes.

Many of the forestry rec sites are not in very good shape.

I have been fishing all my life and I will never stop no matter what.

Prefer to access lakes with road access within .5 km of the lake.

No

All lakes around Prince George are fished out. - Fishing regulations are way too hard to understand.

Should go back to monitoring the basic level of service to the camp sites: toilet paper/outhouse, maintaining picnic tables.

No, wide variety of fish and good number of lakes and streams. Have to keep tight regulations so we keep it this way.

If you really get out there off the beaten track there are more lakes/places to visit/fish then there is in a lifetime and 90% of the places you have all to yourself.

Not really - Just enjoy the fishing trip very much -

One place in the Omineca region which has over fished has been Artic lake north last of Bear Lake. Where the Alberta fishermen have come in and camped played lord over the lake with all means if fishing, such as netting. My last trip I was unable to catch any fish of size on the last end of the lake from an army of fishermen.

As long as a few fish is caught

Excellent fishing in area. You don’t have to travel very far. All fishing hooks should be mandatory barbless. Also no ice fishing on lakes under a certain size.

So very beautiful

There is an abundance of bull trout/ Dolly varden and I feel there should be a catch limit. Is it possible to open the McGregor Rv and/or Tropy Rv for salmon.

Ease of access is important. Cost for licenses are important. Some fish variety brook trout are good i.e. mixed fishery. Rules are far to complex.

I would prefer to see more angling opportunities for catch and release during periods which would otherwise be closed.
I have always enjoyed being able to go to the small lakes in the area. The campsites, in my experience have been well-maintained and respected by those who use them. I feel that the fish are clean and not polluted and am thankful that I live in the area.

I dislike the trash and broken liquor bottles left by silly people who think the own the lakes. I generally spend some time cleaning after them.

All good fishing

All hooks should be barbless.

Wild salmon. Hatchery trout are OK.

Increase size limit for keepers 2 inch more.

Disagree with no bait on Crooked river.

I'd love to see of the dollars of pine beetle management go towards developing the rec sites at lakes and streams for 2to6 sites with picnic tables, fire grates and an out house… and a portion of these funds to use to maintain these sites now and in the future.

I voice the same complaint as our tourists in regards to the confusing regulations to gear bait.

Whats open - whats not.

I would like to see more of the smaller lakes stocked for the winter fishing so we can stay away from the larger lakes that may have dangerous ice amounts or unpredictability.

No

The boat launches at the Provincial Parks are closed too early at the end of the season fall fishing is just as good as summer but all the provincial boat launches are closed.

All is OK

Logging to the lakeshore ruined Johnson lake for me. With so much logging remote areas are disappearing. We need strict access management to manage some lakes for remote.

I enjoy the fishing but am concerned with the loss of pine trees to the pine beetle. They must be stopped.

Very few hours are spent fishing, I only fish what we can eat which is under the limit.

It seems the older I get, the less time I spend fishing. Last year I fished only 4 times, each for less than 2 hours. The year before, I never even purchased a license. In BC license fees are very high and regulations are increasing in complexity. Special licenses are also required to operate small watercraft. Too much hassle for many casual anglers like myself...A rough calculation told me I paid at least $200 per pound for the fish I caught and ate last year... Probably at least $50 per fish. I did not encounter any conservation officers last year while I was hunting or fishing. Friends of mine who did indicated they felt as though they had been treated disrespectfully by the officers - as though they were assumed to be guilty of some infraction until they proved themselves innocent. Hardly a welcoming attitude to the sport. BC seems to be going out of its way to discourage people from taking up angling as a sport.

Due to increased traffic on secondary/logging roads, safety has become more of an issue.

I think the Omineca Region is a good place to go fishing because it has a large variety of fish species, and areas to go to, no matter what type of fisherman or women you are.
Make the regulations easier to use and understand. i.e. Quick reference.

It's just nice when you get to go out.

I prefer wild, but stocked is fine too. I support the stocking process where there is high pressure by anglers, and I appreciate the stocking of brook trout for example. I definitely like the quiet outdoors experience, I like to be alone or with just with my friends when fishing.

Yes, Witcheda Lk off Artic road should be closed for several seasons so stock can gain in size again, it is over fished.

Big region, lots of opportunity to grow into a well managed fishing program. This survey is a good start.

Tight lines, conserve your catch and good luck to everyone on the water. Be safe.

Overall I have been very pleased with my angling experience here, good tasty fish, lots of choices. Overall very good access.

Access to lakes should be the same for all! I understand that this plan is trying to promote a variety of experiences for all. But - the locations of these management points and areas is primarily to protect lodge and guiding resort use. This is wrong! I want access (vehicle access) down all roads to the lakes even if it is very primitive access.

Stock the lake or stop the spring netting and the big fish should come back.

Most of the fishing that I do is on my way back to the camp/ at random creeks/streams. Access via logging roads.

Stocked lakes are good for winter fishing.

I have resided in the Mackenzie region for more than 32 years. There are so many beautiful areas to fish. Here you may experience wilderness fishing at its best. The outdoors and nature, away from the hustle and bustle. Peace and serenity are what this wilderness brings to me.

The fishing was very good last year. The stocked trout were a good size and seemed to be very healthy.

A much better job of providing access to the rivers would enable more people to participate and enjoy all of nature.

Both have good points and downfalls.

Fishing in places where success rate is high. We fish with other children aged 8 and 10 and success is important.

Great campsites on nations lakes canoe routes

I wouldn't mind boat motor restrictions on smaller lakes for the sake of quiet and cleaner. A bigger problem are the water toys (jet-ski type) on larger lakes.

No

Have not really had the opportunity to fish the Omineca region as yet. Just moved here 1.5 years ago.

A lot of lakes seem awfully slow, maybe stoking more lakes is the way to go.
Like to fish for lake whitefish and burbot. Most lakes will not tell you if there is these species in the lake.

I love fly fishing.

Although I prefer wild fish the stocked triploid fish in recent years have been great.

Overall good fishing.

Rod limits should be eliminated. Transport of "whole" smoked fish is difficult - change the rules to accommodate transport of smoked fish (I have to pack them for flights back to San Francisco). Purden, Babine - just to name a few - have severe long white parasites in them. There should be more studies done to find out why and how to prevent it. E.g. Fish regs - should have info on parasites (why and how to eliminate them). If they have parasites - how to prepare and cook them.

No

Doesn't matter

No

No

We have found that local residents have for less environmental concerns for the area than we do. They leave their garbage, fish over the designated limits and almost always never purchase the appropriate license. Then claim we are fishing their lake. (Please!!).

It was a very nice trip and I hope to return next week.

My preference is to fly fish.

This is a great place to be an angler. I prefer out of the way places because if you do get a big fish it makes for a better story. If we mess with genetics to produce big fish it removes the thrill of the chase. I would prefer to fish in unmanipulated systems. Even if I have to walk to get there.

The natural wildlife and environment is breath taking and people should work to keep it that way.

Less garbage.

This is the only area that I fish so I think it is great.

No preference, though when I take my sons fishing, it’s nice if they catch something, it keeps them interested. Stocked lakes are easier catching it seems.

Have fished stocked lakes with good success - However I understand why they are stocked as high traffic areas - Love the outdoors so wild lakes are my preference plus the challenge to see if I can master the waters.

It’s awesome.

As I stated in # 16 and # 17. The present BC government has ruined the fishing for many people, by closing so many lakes access, and removing the facilities, the public paid for, and putting them up for bid by this fiend many of us cannot afford to pay for parking, camping, and boat launch.

These lakes and access belong to the public, not Liberal friends or cronies. This is very important and needs to be returned to the people.
I really have no preference to wild or stocked, most fish in our local lakes could be either, there is nothing wrong with either. It is definitely good to have lakes closer to urban areas well stocked as they sustain the most pressure.

No

I've had average success fishing.

The fact that the forestry deactivates roads bothers me. There used to be nice drives on country back roads that were not busy to get to nice little secluded lakes. Now you have to get in by ATV i.e. More Noise more equipment needed etc.

Like to fish remote little lakes for the wilderness experience more than for trophy/species varieties. Fish only when fishing is good because fishing is not the only activity. Basically fish for food and fun.

As good or better than fishing the Bow river in Alberta.

More accurate maps to lake and areas. Signage is often lacking or vague. Directions in guide books often lack details and quality map routes.

I was attending school full-time this past season (and all through summer) so unfortunately I was not able to get out fishing as often as I do other years or would have liked to have done this year.

More chance to catch fish.

No

I would like to do a lot more fishing with my wife and kids, I would do a lot more if we had a safe boat for the kids or a canoe for me and my wife. Shore fishing is OK but getting out on the lake is 100% better. If I had a boat I would be fishing every other weekend. I work 40-60 hrs a week

Haven't really fished there enough to give a really learned response to most of your questions.
Appendix N

Comments – Question 20

Do you think that activities associated with the logging of mountain pine beetle infected forests will affect the aesthetic quality of your angling experience? (Why/Why not comments)
Part of nature doesn’t affect fishing in my view whatsoever. Would probably put more roads to areas that had none, so it would be beneficial. Con though pine beetle infestation is unfortunate

We went to Francois Lake, didn’t catch any fish the first two days because they (the fish) were well fed from the Pine Beetle sitting on top of the lake.

It ruins the view for a while but it would make access to more small lakes to try. And logging would reduce the chance of fire hazard.

It will probably open up more wilderness access.

The area greens over soon. It will look different with maybe different wildlife…. Depending of course on the quality of the harvest procedure.

Black rather than green mountain sides

Without logging you wouldn’t have drive-to access to most lakes. The pine beetle and increased logging needs to be understood and accepted, no need for that to ruin an otherwise great fishing experience. The fishing here is very good, you can catch a wide variety of fish anywhere, any time and rarely if ever get skunked.

Dead trees are not aesthetic, also affecting wind patterns and runoff. Two examples - cicuta and halleti lake.

Mother nature quickly take over what man destroys bringing back natural habitat. It is always better when man helps restore what nature has created.

The only thing that I can see that affects fishing is beaver dams built on streams where fish can not return to spawn

It's natural - the forest will grow back - what does aesthetics got to do with catching fish

I think it may hurt the fish and ruins the enjoyment of the great outdoors

Will fish anyway, trees will grow back

Was fishing out Nazco way and it looked awful dead trees for as far as the eye could see

Who wants to look at a clear cut after driving 8 hours and spending huge money for gas, tackle and gear

One reason we like the wilderness is because we like the possibility of seeing wildlife. Logging pine beetle pine is necessary but will make the wildlife move elsewhere until the undergrowth develops over the years and it will once again be good feeding areas for moose, deer and such.

Most campsites are inactive logging areas. It is normal to see the results of the logging industry

They (logging operations) usually cut far enough away from the lakes as to not disturb them

I would much rather look at a reforested area in 10 years than a whole lot of dead standing trees.

More roads, more rain runoff

There will be no bush left water quality could suffer wildlife will suffer.

the dead trees are depressing to see and are a fire hazard etc.
Yes but not logging ….. Extensive areas of snags, only to be burned in the future is not the answer either. I prefer to see the area logged and reforested quickly. I can live with the short term impacts.

I doubt they will log the riparian zone. Standing dead trees are not aesthetically pleasing but it is nature. Time will heal. A bonus for the woodpeckers in the short term.

Possibly limited access

It still will be nice to see the lake. Its only to bad the trees will be gone.


The more logging companies log, the more lakes that people never saw or knew about are going to be exposed, but the bug wood has to be logged.

They interact with the natural habitat of the fish

However, if it needs to be done, then it doesn’t matter.

Fish are bigger because they eat pine beetle

I don’t like to see the cut banks on my way to the lakes

Either was eventually this will impact all waterways, increased sun and temperature (no shade) silt in the river.

A logged area will look green sooner than a stand of grey trees.

Will open up access to more remote lakes

Just to look at it, the only effect on fish will be faster runoff and muddy water, and warmer temperature from loss of shade.

It will change the viewer’s look but won’t affect the fish.

This can be minimized by proper cleaning and re-planting, forest silviculture, thinning, etc.

Not the logger’s fault, it’s the beetles fault, but the view sucks more and more.

Tree dead or live after shield to disturbance from man.

I presume more lakes/streams will be more vulnerable due to increase in access. Ensure large buffer strips are maintained around these areas (also important to maintain habitat features around these places too).

Noticed changes at Ootsa lake over 3 year period. Whole hillside is covered in dead trees.

Red trees or no trees equally ugly but in a few years things will green up after logging and will still look bad if left unlogged. A balance is important near lakes and streams for erosion.

Fishing is usually combined with camping. Nobody wants to camp in the middle of a clearcut.

Too much damage, hot logging should not be allowed. No considerations for wetlands at all.

More roads

I don't think pine is the main species around the lakes I fish at. Whether the forest is red or gone I don’t prefer one over the other.
Over the years the clearcutting around Trembleur has become very noticeable and takes away from its beauty.

To much cleared land and too many dangerous logging trucks driving unsafe on roads.

Yes it will affect the aesthetics but for future forests, logging (but for economic reasons) or burning (for quicker results) should be considered to bring back our forests. In other words willing to put up with logging activities.

The effect of the mountain pine beetle, logged or unlogged, will lower the aesthetic quality.

Beetle can’t swim

Having logging blocks visible while fishing doesn’t bother me.

Logging affects the amount of silt getting into rivers. When it rains rivers blow out much faster in areas that are logged off.

Clear cut or active cutting lowers the wilderness experience.

I prefer to see the trees logged vs. just standing dead. It is unfortunate the beetle has killed mature forest around my favorite lakes. I would like to see care taken to preserve what pine trees are available.

Cause out for the pleasure

Millions of dead trees is no prettier, they will become a fire hazard and need to be removed to make way for new growth, more wildlife etc.

Because the dead trees are a fact of life and must be dealt with.

It is inevitable that I will be somewhat saddened by the clear cuts and slash burning.

Preferred lake is in old logged off area.

Back roads are full of logging trucks and roads become very rough, lakes become muddy.

Eliminate the problem areas and replant for future.

Trees are a part of nature, if they all get wiped out we might as well stock four seasons pool.

Cobb Lake is one of my favorite places to go. Fishing and that area and all around the lake has really been hit bad - Clucluz area as well.

Obviously the country side in some areas will be logged off and not as much wildlife will be around.

Large areas of destroyed forest have great impact on wildlife, and the .... Way in general. As does forest fires in most cases.

Having the timber removed too close to the lake leaves no shade for the fish on clear days. The sunny days are poor fishing you need partly clouds. Light and shade makes the best for fly fishing.

All the trees will gone from the south side of lake.

Keep logging pollution low
Because my friends and I also go for the scenery and the wild animal sightings.

The logging needs to be done so the forest can re-grow.

I am a logger working in the pine infested area and it is usually selective logging so there is always visual retention. If the trees are not harvested it would become ugly from dead trees as well as fire hazards during recreational seasons.

It will regenerate in 7 to 10 years and will benefit the deer, moose, etc.

There should be green trees around a lake not a red forest or a logging cut but it's too late now. I will still enjoy fishing.

The clear cuts grow back.

I feel different without trees.

More access to remote lakes

It will have a visual impact and will increase short term impact on activity on transportation routes to lakes.

I believe it will, but only for a few years, if replanting is mandatory. I love the area and would still be out and about in spite of problems. It's where we live.

Fish like the bugs and there's not much we can do. Trees will grow back.

Live natural forests or trees are far more beautiful than dead ones or clear cuts.

Because this resource needs to be harvested while it still has economic value.

Between the logging and the dead trees it will effect the look of the area and also change the wildlife sighting.

Because they will be cutting timber right to the edge of lakes and streams.

Any logging creates trouble

Old growth is nice to see and walk through. But I mostly enjoy a nice stream with various types of water over forest.

Cause one of these days we could fine there are no forests for us to go camping and that would be very sad for us campers, it wouldn't even be fun to go out to the forest anymore.

Yes because the trees are all gone, no because we have to stop the "beast". Logging around the lakes, streams, creeks, rivers should be investigated "always" "any infractions" "severely punished"

More people will realize where the little lakes are.

More open areas gives the feeling of being less remote. Takes away from deep woods experience.

There has been logging in BC since Moses was a pup. A logged off area around a lake has its own beauty through color, shape, etc. As it regrows the views change again, and I must say the trout that feed on mountain pine beetle are getting pretty big.

If anything logged of the pine beetle will give better access as new roads are built.
While logging slashes etc. may take something away from a wilderness type experiences, it will be short lived as forest regenerates fairly quickly. I believe the alternate (not logging) would be much less desirable aesthetically as well as potentially a major fire hazard. - Increased logging activity will mean more road activity to remote lakes but they can be de-activated afterwards.

The pine beetle has made an impact that will last for years. The rain water that was once absorbed by tens of thousands of trees will runoff into streams and adversely affect fishing (visibility). Our gorgeous Omineca area will lose its "pristineness".

We all have to work hand in hand.

Because the more trees that are gone, the more wind, the more wind the less bugs for the fish to eat which in the end will result in the fish dying off because they don't have enough food to survive.

It's about the quiet and the fishing not the looks.

These forests should have been logged off (incl. parks) 10to15 years ago. New plantations would be in these regions show up as a real asset.

Who cares about recreation!!! Everybody is .... To log and forgetting about recreation. Recreation is important and keeping remote areas is increasingly difficult. If we destroy recreation along with the forest then how will we diversify? What will be left to nature based tourism? The loggers will destroy everybody in their blind passion to salvage dead trees. They will never log it all so please leave some for recreation.

The trees must be harvested and the forest must be rid of the beetles for future generations.

Not only my experience but probably the actual lakes and rivers, this will affect them negatively, were going to see huge declines in the ecosystems of the lakes/rivers that are impacted by logging of these forests.

When I go fishing now, most of hillsides are red with dead pine. When logged after a year or so they will be green again, just not with pine until the replanted blocks grow up. Also when there's a cut block it is easier to see wildlife, moose, bear, etc.

Our local forests have been decimated by the mountain pine beetle. As the dead trees are removed, lush new growth will quickly restore the beauty of the landscape.

Yes! Either the majority of pine trees are red and standing (or) they are gone thereby opening up the landscape (not particularly desirable)

Because I go to fish, the logging has been going on for many years and the mountain pine beetle is something everyone has to expect, it's part of nature.

It's mostly aesthetics, when the landscape is so disturbed, it takes away from the wilderness setting. But this is no different from any resource extraction activity. Logging, mining, development in general removes the "wild" aspect.

It will grow back.

I work in the bush as a forest technician and have gotten used to all the red and degradation of the land. I prefer greenery, but I don't find it offensive at all to see the effects of MPB and logging.

Country will be bare of trees.

Aesthetic quality is important, but I go to fish! Fishing and catching - eating is important. The forest will grow back.
I go out to the bush to see the scenery not to look at the side of a bald hill.

I assume there will be more logging near lakes which will affect the run off into the lakes.

Already has - Just look at the red trees at Francois lake - one day logged or a fire will happen soon.

Loss of trees affects many areas of fishing. And the look is undesirable. Heavy machinery on river and lake banks is unacceptable.

Constant truck movement.

Like to see trees on land from the boat not barren land.

Mackenzie area has only recently become very heavily infested. I have not noticed too much alteration at this point. Though I do have to dodge a lot more highway loads of beetle wood being transported to Mackenzie from PG area.

The removal of trees makes the drive to lakes less aesthetically enjoyable, an increase in roads has led to more people all over, and the increase in logging traffic has often influenced my decision to travel to lakes.

While it is nice to look around at the wildlife, I think it is important to try and control the mountain pine beetle invasion.

Many good fishing holes are shaded by trees. The fish may not stay in them spots so much with more sun on them.

But there’s nothing I can do about it. At least these areas will be replanted.

Forestry is the back bone of our local economy. These forest need it to be salvaged for a new forest to grow. Aesthetic quality is not impacted … you understand why! Visual quality objectives - are too restrictive to the forestry industry. Local BC residents understand the need to log. Tourism groups/ lodges that cater to Non BC/Canada should not restrict logging activities for a aesthetic quality experience.

Not sure what is going to happen.

No, because red trees are worse than no trees. I’m a forester … and I understand the reasons for removing the timber and the considerations that are taken to regards to drainage.

Because it opens up the streams, or rather, clogs them, and stops the flow of fish. It also wrecks the views.

Watch the scenery as we go fishing.

Dead trees /No trees not very nice to look at.

It does not seem to have affected the fishing.

There will be more access to remote water sheds.

The way we are raping the land to control the pine beetle will have a negative impact on our wilderness and our fish habitat. Think about it, how can it not???

As long as they don’t log too close to the lakes.

But no ones fault but nature
The view will change, more erosion, more access to lakes.

Far too many lakes have and will be cleared to the waters edge, ruining the full experience. The roads are not well controlled and loggers create serious safety problems for people towing boats or in campers. There will be deaths on the roads to fishing spots.

With many trees being cut down, the countryside is being opened up a lot, affecting the reasons many of us go into the bush to being with. Scenery is going to be affected hugely, but access to many more remote lakes and wildlife will be much easier. I'm not sure yet if that is a good thing or not.

Logging of pine beetle infested forest opens up the land too much therefore changing it.

I don't want to fish where clear cuts come down to the water or where erosion from logging is polluting, disturbing the water.

Dead, grey trees … affect my aesthetic sense.

Forest companies have reforestation obligations on harvested areas and they tend to have regrowth to the point of visual aesthetics after 5to10 years. A forest of snags, wind throw, or forest fire remains can last decades and is much uglier to look at.

Because it is a needed activity, and I see it everyday.

Wind velocity has increased with new visible clearcuts.

Could cause collapse of river and stream banks cause pollution of lakes, rivers, and streams.

It has to be done.

If it is logged to close to lakes, rivers, creeks.

Sitting in a boat looking at clearcut hillsides is not as nice as a green hillside. Catching a fish is still #1.

The red trees are ugly, cut them down. Plant new ones so when my kids grow up they can enjoy the great outdoors. Just like I did.

Don't really know. Nature seems to take care of itself.

Pine beetle for sure. Logging should not take place 100-300m's from roads or water.

The lakes will be a lot hotter in the summer with less trees around.

Because it takes away from the scenic views, allows more wind (rough conditions). Also causes water to turn brown, because removal of trees removes filtration of run off.

It would affect the beauty of the drive to lakes for at least 20 years or so. As long as areas are replanted. It will eventually develop into nice wilderness settings again.

If all I see is bare ground or brown trees it would suck.

On our last trip, we were overwhelmed by the amount of damage done by the pine beetle. It's hard for logging to cut down the infected trees fast enough! The impact is devastating to the beauty of many areas.

Possibly, traffic from logging trucks create dust and noise other than that it will be nice when the trees have been regrown by nature it'll be nice to see green again.
Logging out trees destroys some of the wilderness aspect of it.

Clear cutting causes more run off. The practice of logging, clear cutting to lakes and streams, make more dirt and silt go into the water's, this has to stop.

There won't be any trees left.

If they stop logging they ............... good for fish.

Less scenic qualities

The aggressive pursuit of the mountain pine beetle has compromised natural water flow in back country areas with little concern from those in the logging industry.

The roads made for logging may provide access roads to fishing streams or lakes.

I enjoy natural beauty.

The aesthetic quality of the angling experience is affected more by the dead and dying forest then by logging activities. In most cases, I support logging in infected areas.

I like a "natural" wilderness, rather than urban fishing experience. The pressure and sight of extensive clear cuts where I am fishing would be negative.

Yes, initially. I think with vast areas that will be clear cut, will cause conditions to be windier than it is now. Aesthetics will also be affected, but not as new trees grow, it will be no different than it is now. As long as there is fish, we will still enjoy our days on the water.

The scenery will change, but the trees will grow back.

Everything looks brown and dead but that is expected, it is nature. So it may look ugly but that won't stop me from going.

Not sure - though it seems likely.

The natural shade from trees across lakes is critical for keeping fish ecosystems safe.

I don't think the pine beetle has been around long enough to see any affect. I do believe that logging has. It gives easier access to lakes that do not get stocked and people have easy access to them, more in the winter. I think catch what you will eat that day. Throw the rest back.

If the number of roads do not all go to the lake shore of most lakes.

They have to log and replant. The sooner this is done the better. Dead trees don't absorb water. The Bowron valley for example.

It's a small price to pay to keep the forest healthy.

I am a full fledged logger but will add that I'm seeing higher water levels than usual due to dead trees not absorbing it. Didn't seem to affect fishing greatly.

Like it on the lake and don't like red trees.

It's nasty to look at, but OK I guess.

Having trees around the edges of the lake I'm fishing is aesthetically pleasing and important for the fish, but I understand the need to deal with pine beetle problem.
Until the regrowth is giving good cover, the streams will be affected, washing away areas the fish spawn in. In time things return to normal. In the mean time we must help nature and not be greedy.

Open areas won't look as nice for a few years. Wind access to lake will change the feeding habits of the fish. Not as many animals will be seen.

Pine beetle does not have anything to do with it.

Because mitigating the impacts across the landscape is more important.

Increased traffic through the area as well as road construction to access the logging areas will definitely take away from the 'wilderness' setting.

Fishing and wilderness go hand in hand. I guess it depends upon how the program is managed.

Not sure

It keeps taking away the bush. It doesn't seem like you are out in the middle of nowhere any more.

Biggest concern is water quality, temp, runoff, etc. from the logged areas. Aesthetically (visual) I can live with it as long as the water quality is maintained.

Dusty roads and campsites, noise scaring off wildlife. Ugly clear cuts.

Necessary but will leave wide open naked spaces, less shade, less sound barriers.

For aesthetic reasons it comes to the same effect - look at a clearcut vs. look at the brown forest. I see logging industry as necessary for this area - as a renewable resource and economic development. I appreciate access to remote areas enabled by logging roads.

Eventually it will make more clouded water and probably reduce size of the fish population.

Clear cuts don't do it for me. I do prefer aesthetically pleasing areas without interruption by logging trucks (noise wise and driving hazard wise) however the red tree alternative is also not an option (that or forest fire I suppose). I will just travel further northwest.

When we gut/cleaned the fish we caught at Stuart lake this season their bellies were stuffed full of pine beetles. The logging may also cause there to be more bugs and insects, it may be hotter, and there will be less trees to break the winds. With all this though, I do realize that this is a cycle that will continue happening every 10 years or so. In that case, we will just have to deal with it.

Fish mostly in Provincial Park.

The forest will be widely gone, which present I always enjoyed going fishing.

It's not pretty in the woods anymore. That's a big part of the experience. Also, without the trees more top soil will be blown away ie. In the end may effect fishing.

Most definitely/ Quality of fish and lakes will go down hill.

Unless streams are disturbed it will have no effect.

I think it's a very necessary thing to do.
Appendix O

Comments – Question 23

Are you a member of a fishing or fish/game club? (If yes, club listed)