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From: r&kslavens [mailto:*****]

Sent: January 26, 2006 1:44 PM

To: Rimmer, Skip ENV:EX

Cc: Ramsay, Mike K ENV:EX; Hill, Douglas J ENV:EX

Subject: Tyee Lake Kokanee

Good afternoon Skip: I am replying on behalf of the Williams Lake Sportsman's Association and some of the comments are mine personally. I have been fishing Tyee since Kokanee were first transplanted. I continue to be an avid Kokanee fisherman using Tyee Lake regularly. I should also point out that I have 30 years of fish and wildlife enforcement, the last 20 in Williams Lake and the last 5 as the Regional Enforcement Manager.

We have seen the size of kokanee in Tyee decrease as stocking rates increased. I believe that I was one of the first people to advise local fisheries staff that there was local recruitment, and stocking rates may be too high, but what does an old C.O. know. The average size in those early years was 16-20 inches and the limit was 10. As word got out about the size and abundance of these fish, we saw increased use of the resource by people within a hundred mile radius of Williams Lake, but the size stayed up and over a few years natural recruitment increased. and in a very short time we saw the size go from down despite the lowering of the limit from 10 to 5. We have seen a couple of blips in the last 5 years where we saw larger fish due to no fish being planted when there was a shortage of fish in the hatchery system.

Yesterday I caught 10 fish and kept 5 between 26 and 29 cm., the 26 being one of the fin clipped fish that Mike Ramsay wants measurements on. The previous Sunday, I had to catch 14 fish to keep 5 fish in the above size range. Yesterday it took less than 20 minutes to catch 10 fish.

So much for history. now to the point of this email. The Williams Lake Sportsman's Association would support the increase of the limit on Tyee Lake from 5 to 10 Kokanee for the remainder of this year. This will reduce the surplus population, decrease the natural spawning numbers and hopefully increase the size. This will provide a limited increased opportunity to our members and the general public to better utilise this population and help the fish population in the process. Angler use on Tyee has decreased this year, when there should be more. Even the regulars who have faithfully fished Tyee for years have switched to McLeese where the fish are significantly bigger. This could be negatively impacting on the McLeese fishery and the rainbow as a few are being caught daily by kokanee anglers.

I do not believe that there would be an enforcement problem as the Tyee fish are that much smaller and the largest except for the odd year older fish can easily be identified by size. The Tyee fish would range from 22-29 cm and the McLeese fish would range from 29 to 34 cm with the odd 40+ cm fish being taken. As both lakes are put and take populations for kokanee, except that Tyee has had good natural recruitment they have never seen a lot of enforcement. These fisheries are pretty much self policing. The more people you have out there observing what is going on, the less likelihood that serious violations will occur. Most of the regulars know who I am and what my previous occupation was and my association with the C.O. and fisheries staff. That in itself acts as a deterrent.

Therefore in Summary:

- The Williams Lake Spotsman's Association supports the short term increase of the kokanee limit from 5 to 10 on Tyee Lake
- There should not be any enforcement ability being compromised by increasing the limit as the two populations are significantly different in size range

- A reduction of the current kokanee population should help the future kokanee fishery and improve the size of these fish
- An increase in the limit and the ease of catching these fish currently should encourage new anglers, especially children

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

R.D. Slavens