



## Urgent Message

Re: Urgent Steelhead Conservation Crisis

Date: Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Dear member clubs, individual members, friends of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, members of the media, and the public-at-large:

It is with deep regret that we are sending out this Urgent Message, due to the current extreme conservation crisis facing Skeena River steelhead.

According to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, at August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021:

*“an estimated 5,280 adults have entered the Skeena watershed, 23% of the historical average to date. This is estimated at the Tye Test Fishery and is below the extreme conservation concern threshold for this species (~8,000 spawners). Extreme low abundance is corroborated by in-season observations at the upper Sustut River fish counting fence and captures at the Bulkley River canyon at Witsset.”*

### **We therefore request that you:**

- refrain from targeting steelhead within the Skeena River watershed;
- please share this message widely;
- as a recreational angler, strive to do everything in your power to save the last runs of steelhead in British Columbia, including not fishing these majestic fish when other sectors are persisting in targeting them, against the scientific evidence for putting conservation first.

In short, **we must each do our part to ensure that every steelhead in this crisis makes it to their spawning ground and that we cause 0% mortality.**

Please contact me with comments or concerns, about this or anything else.

Kind regards,

Myles Armstead

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