



BIG FISH. BIGGER IMPACT.

A close look at the economic impact of guided angling in the Lower Skeena Region, and the importance of maintaining angler access through a balanced conservation effort.

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IN THE PAST DECADE, THE GUIDING INDUSTRY IN THE SKEENA REGION HAS SEEN A SHIFT FROM A FOCUS ON FISH HARVEST, TO THAT OF AN EXPERIENCE-BASED FISHERY.

In short, the freshwater guides recognized the importance of minimizing impact and maximizing guest experience. Driving this change is a move toward no-kill guiding and more challenging angling methods like fly fishing with a focus on instruction. This is a move toward sustainability, with low catch rates generating a large economic input per fish. And yet, accounting for a very small percentage of overall run exploitation.

Despite the fact that the in-river fishery provides access and opportunity to a variety of Canadians and is a significant driver of the rural economy in Northwestern BC, on May 8th DFO closed freshwater salmon fishing in the Skeena river system.

While freshwater fishing is completely closed, all other sectors have been able to maintain access to fisheries, albeit with some restrictions.

Closing the freshwater fishery does little to achieve escapement goals as focus shifts to the marine environment where harvest rates are much higher.

IMPACT OF GUIDED FISHING IN TERRACE & KITIMAT

ANNUAL DOMESTIC OUTPUT

\$16,500,000/yr

ANGLER EXPENDITURE

\$10.5M

GDP

\$8.7M

TAX REVENUE

\$2.7M

ANNUAL DOMESTIC OUTPUT PER GUIDE SEASON



Spring Steelhead
\$2.9M



Chinook
\$3.9M



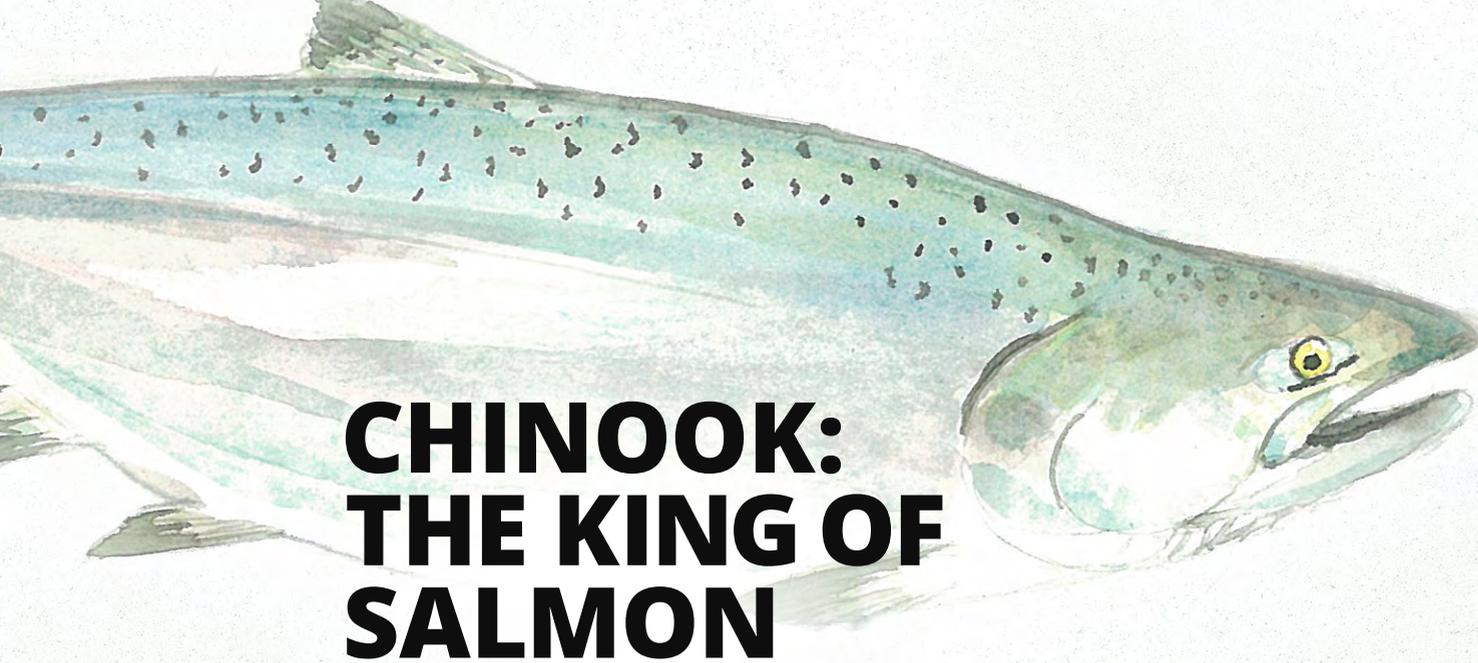
Summer Steelhead
\$6.9M



Salmon*
\$2.7M

* Includes summer pink, chum, sockeye, and fall coho.

New research conducted by *Big River Analytics* reveals the significant financial impact of Lower Skeena guided fishing to the Province of British Columbia across all four guiding seasons. The following figures are based on 2016 data, but continue to grow each year.



CHINOOK: THE KING OF SALMON

Chinook Salmon are the iconic fish of the Pacific Northwest. Revered across the globe, anglers come from all over for a chance at the ultimate game fish. Their reputation of strength and beauty in the river has created a sportfishery with tremendous social and economic value. Over the next few pages, we will examine their impact to the Lower Skeena Region.

CHINOOK: THE KING OF SALMON

SKEENA CHINOOK VALUE TO B.C.

During the short two month window of the freshwater Chinook fishery, we see an incredible economic input into the Skeena Region and the Province. Here is some data from the 2016 season as enumerated by *Big River Analytics*.

CHINOOK ANNUAL DOMESTIC OUTPUT

\$3.92M

CHINOOK GDP

\$2.0M

CHINOOK TAX REVENUE

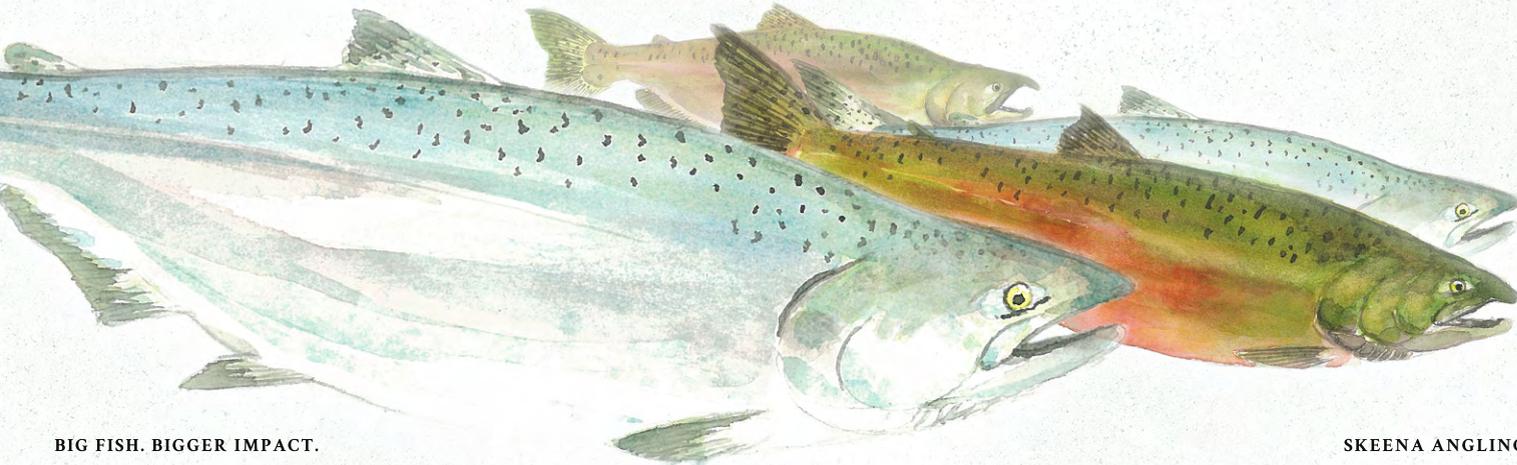
\$642k

CHINOOK ANGLER EXPENDITURE

\$2.49M

CHINOOK JOBS CREATED

+53/yr



CHINOOK: THE KING OF SALMON

MINIMIZE EXPLOITATION AND MAXIMIZE CONTRIBUTION.

Catch-and-release has proven to be a successful management tool when it comes to maintaining access and conserving fish stock. For most anglers, it can take several days of fishing to land a Chinook in the river. If that fish is released, the value it generates goes up exponentially.

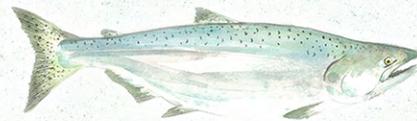
There is good science that suggests that with catch-and-release best practices in place, mortality rates can be reduced to less than 10%. Essentially that means that for every 10 fish caught and released, one fish *may* die. Because Chinook are so difficult to catch for the freshwater angler, the data from 2016 demonstrates tremendous value to the province for the few Chinook that were exploited.



VALUE TO B.C. PER CHINOOK DECEASED

\$35,780

By keeping a mortality rate below 10%, we see a drastic value increase for the few Chinook that are exploited.



WHEN IT COMES TO CONSERVATION, ALL OPTIONS SHOULD BE EXPLORED.

With an abundance-based management regime which includes catch-and-release as a management tool, we can keep exploitation below 1% of the run size to meet conservation goals.

This type of management maintains the social and economic benefits of an open fishery.

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Full research doc available here:

skeenaguideservice.ca/study.pdf

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