



For consideration when planning (FOP) implementing SP's & reviewing LP's

Michael

File: 19500-02

March 25, 1998

Major Licensees
Woodlot Licensees
SBFEP

OLD

OLD replaced by Sept 08/99

Dear Licensee:

Re: Lakes Forest District Instream Work Window for Rainbow Trout

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification as to the *Instream Work Window* for *Rainbow Trout* in the Lakes Forest District. This instream work window should be considered in planning all activities which require works in and about a stream in the Lakes District.



The Lakes Forest District exists within both fishery zone 4 (Fraser River watershed) and zone 5 (Skeena River watershed). The Riparian Area Guidebook states the instream work windows for fishery zone 4 and 5 are July 15 to April 15 and August 15 to January 31, respectively. Tom Olson, Habitat Protection Officer, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP) - Lakes District, has determined this large difference in fishery zone timing windows appears unwarranted. In his letter to me dated June 27, 1997 (and sent to all licensees), Mr. Olson states that in the Lakes Forest District, rainbow trout usually begin spawning around the end of April (April 30) and fry usually emerge by the third week of July (July 21). Further to this, he indicates there is no known difference in the timing of these events between portions of the Lakes Forest District in fishery zone 4 and portions in zone 5 (letter attached).

Therefore, upon recommendation by the Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks, the *Instream Work Window* for *Rainbow Trout* in the Lakes Forest District is established as:

August 1 to March 31

I must reiterate Mr. Olson's assertion that the instream work window is only a period of reduced risk. All appropriate measures must still be taken to avoid the harmful disruption or destruction of fish habitat and to avoid the introduction of deleterious materials (ie. silt) into the stream.

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