

## **Stave River Fishery Assessment (Creel) Survey** **September 22 – December 2, 2001**

**Prepared by:** Sue C.H. Grant, M.Sc.  
Biologist, Chum Salmon and Fishery Assessments

Stock Assessment, Lower Fraser Area  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

### **Regulations**

The Stave River was open downstream from the B.C. Hydro Dam (Ruskin Dam) to the CPR Railway Bridge (adjacent to its confluence with the Fraser River). The recreational fishery was closed at night, from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. From April 1 to March 31 the following retention was permitted for salmon. Coho retention was 4 hatchery fish per day, only 2 over 35 cm. Chinook retention was 1 per day. Chum retention was 1 per day.

### **Study Area**

The entire Stave River open area was assessed (see above).

### **Survey Methods**

The Stave River recreational fishery survey began on September 22, 2001.

The surveyor worked all weekends and holidays with rotating days off during the week. They worked one of two shifts (morning or afternoon) that spanned the entire daylight period. Shifts were randomly assigned to each survey day.

The surveyor conducted angler interviews at their survey sites to obtain the following information: where the angler was fishing, party size, length of angling trip, when their fishing lines were in the water, how much longer they intend to fish, target species, gear used, total catch retained, total catch released. Interviews were used to determine catch-per-unit effort (CPUE), release-per-unit effort (RPUE), and to summarize the angler characteristics listed above.

Daily effort is calculated using a combination of interview data, hourly rod counts conducted at the survey sites, and instantaneous effort rod counts of the survey area (conducted twice per week: one weekend and one weekday drive through of the entire system). Using total effort, CPUE and RPUE is expanded to determine catch and release numbers by species for the entire study area. Such analyses are documented in several DFO publications (Schubert 1992; Schubert 1995)

One surveyor assessed the Stave River recreational fishery. The surveyor was stationed at Ruskin Park, immediately downstream of Ruskin Dam, where the majority of angling occurred from shore. The surveyor spent a small portion of their survey day at other sites (at a shore-based angling site opposite Ruskin Park and also near the outlet of the Stave River) to collect interviews.

The surveyor began conducting complete hourly rod counts at Ruskin Park on October 7 and instantaneous effort counts on October 13. Counts occurred during peak effort (12:00 pm) and covered the entire fishery.

For analyses the data were stratified into month and day type (weekend and weekday). Data were stored and analyzed using excel.

## **References**

Schubert, N.D. 1992. Angler Effort and Catch in the 1985-1988 Lower Fraser River Sport Fishery. Canadian Manuscript Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences No. 2170.

Schubert, N.D. 1995. Angler Effort and Catch in Four Fraser River Sport Fisheries, 1991. Canadian Manuscript Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 2267.

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