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LAKE BABINE NATION CLOSES RECREATIONAL FISHERY IN BABINE RIVER CORRIDOR

(Woyenne, BC) – Lake Babine Nation is implementing a closure of the recreational fishery on the Babine River between the Tse Tesli (Babine) counting fence and the Nilkitkwa River. The high-water temperature and low flows mean salmon are at increased levels of stress in the final leg before they reach their spawning grounds in the Babine Lake tributaries. Recreational fishing in the Babine River Corridor puts additional strain on these fish, with crowded banks, dogs, and catch and release practices. To save these threatened salmon stocks, the recreational fishery will be closed until further notice.

“Salmon are our life, but wild salmon populations are in decline,” said Chief Murphy Abraham. “Over 90% of the wild salmon coming up the Skeena spawn in the Babine Lake tributaries, and we need to make sure that they make it so there can be the next generation of fish.”

The Tse Tesli counting fence plays an important role in accurately measuring salmon stocks against the Tye Test Fishery. Lake Babine Nation has been contracted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to conduct the count since the 1990s.

“Lake Babine Fisheries takes conservation science very seriously,” said Donna MacIntyre, Director of Lake Babine Fisheries. “An accurate count is essential for forecasting future runs, and maintaining healthy stocks.”

There are also safety concerns for anglers in the area. The drought conditions have left bears with less to eat, and they are now approaching the Babine River, leading to increased conflict with humans.

Lake Babine Nation is encouraging anglers to pursue their sport from the shores of Babine Lake – the recreational fishery there remains open.

For more information and to schedule an interview, please contact:

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