

Boat Launches

The Issue: The Yukon Government day-use area on the west end of the bridge is the most used launch and often gets very crowded. The boat launches at the campground and Taku Subdivision are in need of repair and have significant hazards caused by water level – as such, they do not get used often.

Why this is an issue: The most used boat launch is located within an area utilized by migratory birds as habitat during spring staging. High volumes of river users in early spring and off-ice years can disrupt birds from feeding and resting activity. With only one boat launch in use, the river is being used to access Tagish Lake, rather than launch directly onto that lake. This has resulted in some people creating their own personal boat launches, causing additional erosion concerns.

Opportunities to move forward – some ideas we have heard:

- Create alternative boat launches closer to each lake to alleviate traffic from the river.
- Repair the existing boat launches to encourage use instead of personal launches.
- Other (please include opportunities you think would mitigate the issue):

Fishing

The issue: Fishing for lake trout from the Tagish Bridge is a popular activity, with angling activity the heaviest on July weekends.

Why this is an issue: Large numbers of anglers lead to litter – discarded monofilament and lead sinkers that can harm wildlife. Lead sinkers pose a serious poisoning risk to waterfowl. Lake Trout caught in the river from the bridge can lead to an overfishing situation. It is a unique location where large trout can be caught without the use of a boat. Due to the mortality rate of catch and release fishing off the bridge, there is no size limit on Lake Trout caught, leading to large and old fish being caught that are critical to the genetic strength of the species.

Opportunities to move forward – what we've heard:

- Educate anglers using the Tagish Bridge about their potential impact, and the reason behind the current regulation, to promote respectful fishing practises.
- Provide educational opportunities through demonstrations and equipment for anglers to encourage them to switch to targeting whitefish instead of trout.
- Provide educational opportunities to encourage anglers to use all edible parts of the fish.
- Restrict the use of lead sinkers within the Tagish River Habitat Protection Area.
- Other (please include opportunities you think would mitigate the issues):
