



SPORT FISHING
INSTITUTE
of British Columbia

Action Update

March 22 2006

News and Views for the Sport Fishing Industry

SFI SUPPORTS OUTDOOR CAUCUS

VANCOUVER, B.C. – The Sport Fishing Institute of British Columbia applauds plans to establish a national non-partisan Outdoor Caucus of MP's interested in fishing and hunting issues affecting Canadians. The plan is being pressed by Saskatchewan MP Gerry Breitkruez and it is already garnering support across the country. SFI President Syd Pallister said that the idea of an Outdoor Caucus is a tried and tested way of ensuring that issues affecting recreational angling can be raised and addressed in a cooperative non-partisan setting. Pallister is urging B.C. MPs to join the caucus and recently sent to attached letter to all MPs on behalf of the SFI.

Dear British Columbia MP

I am writing you today on behalf of the membership of the Sport Fishing Institute of British Columbia, and the thousands of British Columbians who depend on the province's recreational fishery for their employment and livelihoods. As you are no doubt aware, saltwater recreational fishing generates more than \$625 million in annual economic activity and more than 7,500 jobs in British Columbia, and freshwater angling creates an equally impressive economic return. Indeed, the thousands of B.C. businesses that support and equip anglers contribute more than \$1.2 billion to the Canadian economy and constitute the single largest fishery in the province.

But it's more than just an issue of employment and economics. More than 330,000 individuals purchase recreational licences every year to try their luck at saltwater fishing and to spend time in the outdoors with friends and family. A similar number purchase freshwater licences so that they can enjoy fishing British Columbia's thousands of lakes and rivers. Recreational fishing is a hobby, a pastime and a way of life that is an integral part of British Columbia society. It is part of the very fabric of our culture.

While individual members of Parliament have often worked on issues affecting the province's hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers, they have often struggled to find a forum in which they can raise these issues so that they are heard above the din of the often raucous and increasingly partisan parliamentary debates.

To that end, I want to encourage you to join the proposed non-partisan Outdoor Caucus which would serve as a forum for MPs to consider a variety of outdoors issues, including recreational fishing, in a more collaborative and cooperative manner.

On behalf of the membership of the SFI, I thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely

*Syd Pallister, CA CBV
President
Sport Fishing Institute of British Columbia*

For more information contact:

Marilyn Murphy
Executive Director
604-786-3439