

**MINUTES OF THE AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY JUNE 07, 2017 AT THE ESQUIMALT ANGLERS' RAMP**

CLUBS REPRESENTED:

Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association - Wayne ZACCARELLI
Clover Point Anglers' Association - Greg KUTYN
Victoria Golden Rods & Reels - Brian PALAS
Esquimalt Anglers' Association - Gary CATON
James Bay Anglers' Association - Jim DOW
Haig-Brown Flyfishing Association - Ian HOLDER
Westcoast Flyfishers Association - Brian ALEXANDER
Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association - Jim PEARSON

The meeting called to order at 1935 hours with vice-president Brian ALEXANDER in the chair.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous monthly meeting held 03/05/17.

MOVED BY: Gary CATON that the minutes of the May meeting be adopted as read.

SECONDED BY: Jim PEARSON

CARRIED

There was no correspondence.

Brian ALEXANDER noted the huge improvements to the ACS website (acsbca.ca) with current content and recent meeting minutes posted. Others who have viewed the site recently expressed similar opinions. Brian thanked Tom Celuszak for the work he has done in upgrading the site. It was agreed that some pictures would further improve the website and be of interest to viewers. It was suggested that Goldstream hatchery could supply some pictures along with other club projects.

Gary CATON reported that he assisted with the release of 220,000+ Nitinat Chinook from the SVIAC netpen in Sooke Harbour a couple weeks ago. The fish more than doubled their weight in the approximately three weeks they were held and fed. Only about 1700 morts were counted. The fish were released at dark to avoid predation by birds.

Gary noted that the Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society (Jack Brooks Hatchery) lost about 40,000 of their 80,000 Nitinat Chinook netpen fish due to the small size of the fry when placed.

Gary stated that the Esquimalt Anglers' 98,000 Nitinat Chinook being held at the Howard English Goldstream Hatchery will be released into the lower Sooke River on Wednesday June 14. The release site was decided by DFO subsequent to their rejection of the EAA Ogden Point netpen project. Jim PEARSON noted that a small sample of these Chinook will be sent to DFO for otolith reading.

Gary mentioned that the VP of Harbour Air had contacted EAA and DFO regarding interest in having a salmon netpen at their inner harbour terminal. There was concern of whether sufficient water depth existed there. Getting approval from DFO will likely be an insurmountable task.

Gary reported that the EAA had a presentation on a salmon diet study at their June 06 meeting. Will Duguid (a PHD student at Uvic) and Jessica Qualley (Uvic lab tech) request anglers who fish throughout the year to submit entire digestive tracts of Chinook and Coho for analysis. A detailed data card is to be submitted with the sample.

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Jim PEARSON expressed concern over planned DFO cuts to education programs, such as the *Salmonids in the Classroom / Stream to Sea Education*, and the Resource Restoration Unit which provides biotech support to public involvement salmonid enhancement projects. However, due to extensive opposition voiced by educators, anglers and enhancement groups, DFO has restored funding for at least another year.

Greg KUTYN stated that the Clover Point Anglers' annual fishing derby would be held August 12-13. A work party was held May 13 at the boat house with cleanup of the area as well.

Brian ALEXANDER reported the club held a fish out on Sooke River flats last evening. No searun Cutthroat were caught but the hotdogs were good.

Brian noted that the club was successful in getting a gate access key from TimberWest to enable members to fish lakes within CRD land holdings nearby. However, the CRD has presented numerous obstacles which is dampening the club's enthusiasm.

Ian HOLDER announced that their June 14 meeting would be a fish out on Prospect Lake with dinner at a local pub. At their May meeting they had Mat King from Robinson's as their speaker and Brennan Lund who demonstrated some of his flies used when guiding in the B.C. interior.

Brian PALAS reported that club members had a good trip to Buttle Lake in May with numerous trout caught. Brian has had recent success at Fairy Lake over several days.

Jim DOW informed the members that the James Bay Anglers' clubhouse has been torn down and replaced with an Atco trailer. An informational meeting is scheduled for June 08 by the contractor to discuss local impacts of the sewage pipeline installation. Club membership is down due to the disturbance and lack of trailer parking nearby. The club's annual fishing derby is in doubt due to the impacts of the sewage project.

Jim PEARSON noted that the hatchery had to replace its winch used to lift the fish tanks onto trailers (the old one broke). About 6000 fry from two female Goldstream Chinook will soon be moved to the Shaw Ocean Centre in Sidney. Next spring they will be released into Goldstream estuary.

Jim stated that the Hatchery picnic will be held at Beaver Lake on Saturday June 10.

The Craigflower Creek coho will be adipose fin clipped at Goldstream hatchery in mid July before release into Prior Lake.

The meeting adjourned at 2025 hours.