

**MINUTES OF THE AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY JUNE 06, 2018 AT THE ESQUIMALT ANGLERS' RAMP**

CLUBS REPRESENTED:

Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association - Wayne ZACCARELLI
Esquimalt Anglers' Association - Gary CATON
Haig-Brown Flyfishing Association - Ian HOLDER
Clover Point Anglers' Association - Tom CELUSZAK
Westcoast Flyfishers Association - Brian ALEXANDER
Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association - Jim PEARSON

The meeting called to order at 1930 hours with Vice-president Brian ALEXANDER in the chair.

Tom COLE sent his regrets as he is attending a special meeting at the Prestige Hotel in Sooke tonight. The South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition (SVIAC) organized the meeting of anglers with MP Mel Arnold, Fisheries Critic with the Conservative Party and a former president of the BC Wildlife Federation. The meeting has been called to discuss the recently announced fishing closures and restrictions imposed on recreational anglers on the south Island to reduce exploitation rates on additional Fraser River Chinook stocks of concern and as part of the SRKW Recovery Plan.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous monthly meeting held 02/05/18.

MOVED BY: Ian HOLDER that the minutes of the May meeting be adopted as read.

SECONDED BY: Gary CATON **CARRIED**

There was no correspondence.

Tom CELUSZAK reported that a successful work party was held on May 05 with some painting in the clubhouse.

Brian ALEXANDER stated that the club held a fish out at Kemp Lake a couple weeks ago and several trout were caught. Another fish out was held last night at Poirier Lake.

Gary CATON advised that three members from the EAA directors assisted with the weigh in at the May 05 Sidney Anglers' Open Derby. Angler attendance was down from previous years as was the catch with only 47 Chinook entered.

Gary reported that Saanich will be clearing bush from the area around the Colquitz fish fence now that the homeless encampment has relocated. DFO has also offered to upgrade the fish fence trap. EAA will be holding off on work they planned on doing, pending the outcome of DFO's involvement.

Gary updated members on the B.C. Transit Handy Dart maintenance yard being planned on the site of the former Victoria Bowmen archery range adjacent to Craigflower Creek. There is substantial neighbourhood and View Royal council opposition. At this time, it is unlikely that the project will receive council support to proceed. Bruce Bevan of EAA is seeking CRD Parks approval to install a pond leveler at the beaver dam on Prior Lake. This is required in order that arranged water release from Thetis Lake can pass through Prior Lake and into Craigflower Creek to augment low summer flows.

Gary reported that he assisted with the Chinook smolt release from the SVIAC Sooke Harbour netpens last week. This was the second release of the close to 500,000 total Chinook fry received from Nitinat hatchery. A total of 100,000 have been coded wire tagged (CWT).

Ian HOLDER stated that the June meeting will be held on the 13th with fly tying on the 20th, both at the CPO Mess. Their new president is Winston Jackson and new treasurer is Wing Kee Chan, who is also their webmaster. Membership is down to 47 this year; it usually runs at least 60.

Jim PEARSON noted that chum fry were recently released to Tseycum Creek. Sidney Anglers' have picked up their coho pre-smolts for the James Island wharf net pen. All coho fry from this year's hatch will be fin clipped. The GVSEA is holding their annual picnic on Saturday June 09 at Beaver Lake.

Jim reported that Peter McCully attended a meeting with First Nations, the new DFO Community Advisor (CA) for this area and a DFO Fisheries Officer on his concern regarding the lack of brood stock available in Goldstream. The plan is to get some of the younger First Nations members to do stream walks and fish counts to get more involved with the ongoing salmonid enhancement work conducted by the hatchery volunteers. It is hoped that the natives will help with taking brood stock in the lower river. It has been reported that the seiners targeting chum salmon in approach waters are not brailing their catch to sort and release chinook and coho taken as bycatch.

Wayne ZACCARELLI gave a report on the 2017 hatchery head returns processed through the EAA head depot. A total of 107 salmon heads (88 chinook, 19 coho) were collected. Of the 88 chinook heads, a total of 18 had head tags, and of these, four were from B.C. and 14 from Washington State.

Wayne summarized additional fishing restrictions announced May 30 to take effect June 01 through September 30. The Area G commercial troll fishery for Chinook on the west coast of Vancouver Island was closed May 31 until at least July 31. They have a total allowable catch (TAC) of 15,000 fish and had taken 11,193 to May 30. Approximately 40 boats were fishing the last few days and averaging only about 10 fish per day.

Additional measures included a reduction in daily limit to one Chinook throughout Georgia Strait from the north end of Saltspring Island to Kelsey Bay on the Vancouver Island side and from the mouth of the Fraser River to just south of Knight Inlet on the mainland coast side.

The meeting adjourned at 2020 hours.