

**MINUTES OF THE AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 06, 2019 AT THE ESQUIMALT ANGLERS' RAMP**

CLUBS REPRESENTED:

**Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association – Wayne ZACCARELLI
Esquimalt Anglers' Association – Gary CATON
Clover Point Anglers' Association – Tom VAIDA, Tom CELUSZAK
Sidney Anglers' Association – Don McIVOR
Victoria Golden Rods & Reels – Brian PALAS
Haig-Brown Flyfishing Association – Ian HOLDER
James Bay Anglers' Association – Jim DOW
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. It was noted that Tom Cole was absent because he was preparing to leave early Thursday morning to attend the February 07-09 SFAB meeting in Vancouver. DFO is no longer covering Tom's expenses to attend the South Coast or Main Board meetings.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous monthly meeting held 02/01/19.

MOVED BY: Tom VAIDA that the minutes of the January meeting be adopted as read.

SECONDED BY: Jim PEARSON CARRIED

The secretary referenced correspondence which included:

1. a letter to Victoria Postlethwaite (Pelagics Management Unit – DFO) dated January 03 commenting on herring management. Because of the ecological importance of herring, particularly with respect to chinook salmon diets, the ACS proposes that the roe/reduction herring fishery be curtailed – or, at the very least, quotas be reduced by 30% coastwide.

Gary CATON reported that EAA volunteers moved 20,000+ Craigflower Creek coho salmon pre-smolts from Goldstream Hatchery to ice-covered Prior Lake on January 17. Gary stated that he attended the 95th annual meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) during the week of January 28 to February 01. A big problem is the Alaska trawl fishery bycatch mortality which exceeds the total B.C. quota. A Canadian B.C. quota of 6.83 million pounds was agreed to – 270,000 pounds less than 2018. The total Alaska to California coastwide quota is 38.61 million pounds.

Tom VAIDA noted little fishing activity of late although there is a large abundance of small U.S. hatchery chinooks and some larger fish off Victoria. Re-organization of boats in the boathouse is occurring as new positions become available.

Brian PALAS stated that the VGR&R will attend the Colquitz Coalition meeting at Pearkes Recreation Centre on February 13 at 6:30 PM. The Club is hoping to help with a project within the watershed.

Brian ALEXANDER reported that the WFA is moving their monthly meeting location from Sooke to the EAA lounge. They meet September through June at 7:00 PM. The Club held a fishout at Durrance Lake on January 27.

Jim DOW noted little activity around the ramp. It will probably be 2021 before conditions return to normal. Ramp improvements are planned by the GVHA. The Club's AGM is scheduled for March.

Ian HOLDER stated that their February meeting would be on the 13th with fly tying on the 20th. The Club is planning a Swap & Shop on Saturday April 13 at the Propat Legion on Gorge Road. They have held two fishouts this year at Bazan Bay near Sidney and at the oyster farm in Sooke Harbour.

Don McIVOR noted that the Club held a January derby with a few chinooks entered; the largest being 8+ pounds. Their May 04 salmon enhancement derby is proceeding. Whether the derby takes place will depend upon fishing restrictions at the time.

Jim PEARSON reported that the pre-smolt coho have had PIT tags inserted by Peninsula Streams before being transplanted to the Tod Creek watershed. The PIT tag reader will be installed at the Butchart Gardens dam.

Coho eggs are being placed in artificial redds in Goldstream near the Hatchery. A coho/chum dead pitch took place in Douglas Creek on January 26. Final egg counts at the Hatchery are 220,000 coho; 368,000 chum and 1600 chinook (from one female). Chum eggs have been supplied to 104 classroom incubators which received 200 eggs each.

Wayne ZACCARELLI stated that VFGPA membership is projected to reach 4000 this year. Wayne also noted the upcoming Colquitz Coalition meeting on February 13.

The Pacific Balance Pinniped Society (PBPS) is meeting with DFO in Vancouver on February 07 from 1:00-4:00 PM to seek approval for seal and sea lion harvests.

It was Moved and Seconded (McIVOR, CATON) that the ACS take out a membership in the PBPS. Carried unanimously.

Wayne noted that Rowing Canada announced January 15 that they would be moving their training centre from Elk Lake to Quamichan Lake after the 2020 Olympic Games. This may result in somewhat less rowing activity on Elk Lake and perhaps less conflicts with anglers.

Wayne reviewed some 2018 results from the *Recreational Angler Chinook and Coho Salmon Diet Sampling Project*. More than 50 anglers contributed 609 chinook and 69 coho stomachs for analysis. Between 15% and 25% of the stomachs were empty. Herring were by far the most important prey species for both chinook and coho. One of the projects goals is to analyze the regional and seasonal variation in diet within the Salish Sea (CDN portion).

The March meeting is the Annual General Meeting. Agenda includes approval of financial statement and election of officers. Club dues of \$30 are now payable.

The meeting adjourned at 2035 hours.