

AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY

1101 MUNRO STREET, VICTORIA, B.C., V9A 5P2

July 10, 2019

**Jonathan Wilkinson,
Minister of Fisheries & Oceans and Coast Guard,
102 West 3rd Street,
North Vancouver, B.C.,
V7M 1E8**

The Amalgamated Conservation Society has operated continuously since 1954 and was largely responsible for the formation of the Sport Fishing Advisory Board in 1964. The ACS is comprised of its ten member associations representing close to 5000 individual members on southern Vancouver Island. The majority of the members are anglers who fish the waters of Juan de Fuca and Southern Georgia Straits.

We urge you, as the Minister responsible, to amend your public fishery chinook non-retention regulations for JDF and SGS to allow for the retention of at least one hatchery (adipose fin clipped) chinook salmon effective July 15; instead of the existing date of August 01. Our catch in recent years is comprised mainly of U.S. hatchery Chinooks. The public fishery's impact on the early Fraser chinook stocks of concern is minimal. There is obviously no conservation concerns for these Fraser River Chinooks after July 15 as your department is allowing full scale netting within the Fraser.

Our members were shocked by your statements on CKNW recently where you denied the existence of First Nations FSC net openings for these same early returning chinook stocks that your department is supposedly trying to protect. It was pointed out that over 90 First Nations FSC openings have occurred to date on the Fraser; according to the DFO website. These openings coincide with the spawning migration of the very same endangered chinook stocks of concern.

The retention of one hatchery chinook effective July 15 will allow opportunity for the public chinook fishery to exist while not compromising the conservation objectives for these stocks.

Sincerely,
Wayne Zaccarelli,
Secretary-Treasurer

