

REGULATIONS REVIEW UPDATE MARCH 20TH 2019

In March of 2019 the attendees at the SC and NC Regional Meetings were advised of the status of the Fisheries Act and the Omnibus Bill. At the time, we advised of the need for Local Committees to review the fisheries in their area. We will shortly be provided with an opportunity to submit the SFAB recommendations regarding proposed 'fishing gear or equipment' in the list of items that may be varied in the regulations (where they have been fixed in the regulations), per: 'close time, fishing quota or limit or fishing gear or equipment'. As noted below, it is very important that the Local and Regional SFAB Committees develop their recommendations as requested below.

1. A Modernized Fisheries Act (Updated October 10, 2019)

In February 2018, Bill C-68 entitled "An Act to amend the *Fisheries Act* and other Acts in consequence" was introduced in Parliament. The majority of Bill C-68 received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019. The remainder, the fish and fish habitat protection provisions, including the *Authorizations Concerning Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Regulations*, came into force August 28, 2019. The Amended Act also includes new authorities related to measures to maintain fish stocks, including through the designation of stocks for rebuilding. The policies, procedures, and operational guidance necessary for Act implementation are in place or being developed; please see the Projects near Water website for details (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>). DFO FFHPP (Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program) will continue to engage with Indigenous groups and stakeholders on the implementation of an amended Act.

Of particular interest to the recreational sector is the revision of S43(1)(m), which now includes 'fishing gear or equipment' in the list of items that may be varied in the regulations (where they have been fixed in the regulations), per: 'close time, fishing quota or limit or fishing gear or equipment'. This is relevant to having the option of selective fishing for a species, by varying e.g. leader lengths. Note however that this option is further dependent on having these gear types (leader lengths) already specified in the BC Sport Fishing Regulations (BCSFRs); this is not yet the case and is pending further regulatory changes to the BCSFRs (see below section 13 Regulations); the required change will necessitate a 'gear table'. A consultation period is anticipated for updates to the BCSFRs; no timeline is yet available for this consultation.

BC Sport Fishing Regulations – proposed Omnibus Bill changes

A number of changes to the BC Sport Fishing Regulations are under review. Some of these changes pertaining to the recreational fishery have been outstanding for a number of years. The Omnibus Bill consultation has been delayed per the October 2019 Federal Election; we are expecting news on regulatory priorities, including this pending Omnibus Bill,

Further information is available on the following website: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/fisheries-act-loi-sur-les-peches/index-eng.html>. by the end of November 2019.

The opportunity and challenge to the SFAB is to review the current BC Sport Fish Regulations. We have an opportunity to recommend additions, changes, etc. to the items currently in the BCSFRs. It is apparent that we will have the opportunity of conducting this review through the entire of the SFAB process, Fall 2019 SFAC meetings and the Feb 2020 Main Board meeting. If needed, we might be able to extend the review through to the April 2019 Main Board Meeting

1—What is needed is for the various Local and Regional Committees to review their fisheries and to identify any gear or equipment that should be considered for change allowing it to be varied in season.

2—We ask that in your review, don't be too concerned about whether your suggestion might be something that can already be done. If you are unsure, identify it. It is anticipated that some of the suggested changes will:

- Already be able to be done
- Will not be able to be processed at this time as they require a regulatory change.

We need the SFAC's to really think outside the box and imagine fisheries where there are changes in stock abundance that require either some new or unique form of selective fishing technique, and/or where there is increased abundance which

makes possible a new fishing opportunity that up to now hasn't existed – that way we are calling out the need to think outside the box of what you know today, and imagine what conditions might exist in the future

Please put any suggested changes on the attached worksheet -complete the contact info (sfac- contact person- describe benefit- identify species) # all suggested changes and use as many lines as needed to explain the desired change and the benefits to fisheries that the change will have.

Tom Protheroe SFAB Executive Member

tjprotheroe@hotmail.com