

## **SFAC Area 19/20 Victoria and Area Meeting**

Location: Esquimalt Anglers Association Building”

Date: October 08, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm

### **Total Attendees: 20**

Ryan Chamberland	( Victoria and Area SFAB Chair, Sooke Renfrew Tourism President)
Erika Watkins	(DFO South Coast Recreational Fishing Coordinator )
Martin Paish	(SFAB Chair)
Gerry Kristianson	(Past SFAB Chair)
Mike Turner	(BC Ministry of Agri. Senior Fisheries and Seafood Policy Analyst).
Roy Osselton	(DFO C&P)
Willi Jansen	(DFO Whale Team)
Wayne Zaccarelli	(Sidney Anglers)
Grant McPherson	(Sidney Anglers)
Richard Lake	(Sidney Anglers)

### **Called to order @ 6:05pm**

### **Agenda**

1. Intro/Adoption of Agenda/Spring 2019 Minutes
2. 2019 Overview Discussion
3. Chinook/Coho Discussion. Priority messaging to department for 2020 regs.
4. Halibut Update
4. Southern Resident Killer Whale Update.
5. Prawn/Crab
6. Enforcement Issues
7. BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund.
8. New Motions

## **Meeting Minutes:**

### **1. Fall Agenda**

**Moved:** Ryan C                    **Seconded:** Grant McPherson **Passed :** Unanimous

### **Adoption of Spring 2019 Minutes**

**Moved:** Martin Paish            **Seconded:** Jerry K. **Passed:** Unanimous

### **2. 2019 Overview and Discussion**

Ryan C discussed last year's proposal the recommendations below that were motioned forward in the spring to the SFAB chinook/coho working group. These are potential recommendations we will need to look at in the spring of 2020 as potential worst case scenarios.

- 20-5 Sheringham Pt through 19-3 Victoria to Cadboro Pt 19-4.  
Two Chinook greater than 45 cm Max Per Day - Two Wild under 67 cm OR Hatchery Marked, Any Size.
- North of 19-5 Cadboro Point  
Two Chinook greater than 62 cm Max Per day – One Wild/One Hatchery Any Size.

Martin Paish gave an update on the season regulations, the impact of the big bar slide and how that brought out further restrictions to areas.

### **3. Chinook/Coho Discussion -**

Group discussion led to an agreement that is too early to propose any recommendations at this time for the majority of area 19/20. With an exception for Area 19A to 18-6 (Cowichan Chinook access) But all agreed that a mark selective fishery should be the worst case scenario. The message of certainty and stability to DFO department will be strong from chairs. Notices need to be put out in more timely matters when applicable, as well.

Martin Paish discussed his work at the Cowichan Roundtable. Martin has been asking the table to support opening recreational fishing opportunities for Chinook due to the high abundance.

Richard Lake presented a paper explaining the Cowichan Chinook scenario as well. After much discussion and review of paper the following motion from the floor came;

**MOTION:**

**Saanich Inlet (Area 19-A) and Moses Point to Moresby Island (Area 18-6) Chinook: Access to public fishing opportunities for Cowichan Chinook;**

Whereas Cowichan chinook returns have been exceeding target recovery goals of 6500 adult chinook for the last 5 years, whereas DNA analysis of immature fish in the Strait of Georgia indicated that 2019 will be another strong year class, and whereas DNA data have shown that endangered Fraser chinook do not frequent the above areas, be it resolved that the August 1 to October 15 chinook non-retention restrictions on the above areas not be renewed for 2020.

Moved: Gerry Kristianson Second: Grant McPhearson. Passed: Unanimous

**4. Halibut Update**

- Halibut opened up on March 01. Still with last year's regulations of 115/83 1 per day, two in possession.
- SFAB took a new approach to modelling by developing a Hybrid Option.
- This will start with the new fishing license on April 01.
- Anglers were able to make a choice on either of the following options:
  - o Upto a 126 cm Halibut per day/One in possession if you keep a Halibut over 90cm.
  - o Upto a 90cm Halibut per day/Two Halibut in possession limit but both must be under 90cm.
  - o Annual possession limit of 6.

There was fear that the fishery may be shut down early. But SFAB reps challenged initial data that the departments CREEL surveyys showed. That data has now been corrected and the fishery will be open until Dec, 31. Overall the formula for size restrictions has worked coast wide, positive response so far.

**5. Southern Resident Killer Whale Update.**

Ryan discussed; Backgrounder: There was a total of five Technical Working Group's (TWG) put together to have three meetings per group, to form recommendations, advice back to DFO officials. As well as round table

discussions for stakeholders to discuss what needs to be considered for the protection of the whales but also for each of their own needs in critical habitat areas.

The groups were broken down into Sanctuaries, Prey Availability, General Vessel Noise 1 and 2, and Toxins.

I attended meetings last winter but also since our last spring meeting throughout the spring to summer discussing the multitude of issues. Met with DFO science in Port Renfrew, and also UBC students conducting Chinook tagging studies related to SRKW research. Learning what the DFO staff and UBC students studies will help further suggestions in meetings going forward.

The main approach by SFAB was a mobile avoidance strategy, and a bubble zone that follows the whales around wherever they go, rather than fixed, spatial areas like what happened last year. There was much consensus from the stakeholders to supports this strategy, except from the Environmental Groups.

Update: We managed to get some movement back in the Sooke area with being allowed to still bottom fish and move the start of the boundary from Otter Pt to Sheringham Pt. But still it was a really tough year for the areas within the Gulf Islands.

Open discussion between all in the room including DFO reps was that the sanctuaries in the Gulf Island's just do not make sense. DFO rep mentioned that in cases the sanctuary pushed vessels into the way of Transients, and even the potential to do the same for SRKW. Mobile Avoidance Bubbles just make the most logical sense and are much easier for the boater to follow. DFO Whale reps mentioned that a lot of the violators were American boaters coming into Canada. Martin mentioned during his many flights over to Vancouver, every flight showed boaters inside the Sanctuaries not complying.

Ryan mentioned that DFO whale research vessels were not equipped with AIS. AIS would help boaters know that there is a likelihood that the whale research vessel is typically extremely close trying to take samples and would then alert vessels to take precautions.

Ryan and Martin will continue to engage/participate in meetings this offseason, representing the areas interests.

## **6. Prawn/Crab Update:**

Department proposed to impose lowering the daily limit from 200 to 100, last spring.

SFAB reps asked the department to give more reasoning towards why it is a conservation concern to back up such actions. The department so far has been quiet and not provided these answers, and restrictions have not changed.

Ryan C discussed that the previous motions from last year were passed at last year's main board. Ryan has discussed with Pat Ahearn who is the SFAB chair of the Groundfish Shellfish Working Group, the motions in preparation for his crab multi-sectoral meeting on October 11.

**UPDATE**: VIA PAT AHEARN At the groundfish/shellfish crab multi-sectoral meeting on October 11, Pat Ahearn had this on the agenda and the following response came from that meeting was to convene a meeting between (DFO Commercial Crab Rep Area H - Mike Kattilakoski), myself SFAC Chair, and Commercial Representative from the area.

Crab differential will be kept on the table, and Pat Ahearn requested to have meetings to discuss this season with Commercial Crab sector and DFO.

Commercial crab sector have rejected the concept. SFAB would like to discuss alternative measures if they fully reject...things like reserves or management best practices with the industry. Example: avoiding certain times or areas during certain times/seasons.

Ryan to organize meeting this fall.

## **7. Enforcement Issues**

Roy Osselton of DFO C&P discussed a few incidents. There are some tickets for the Sheringham Boundary. Question arose; If an angler hooks a fish east of Sheringham Boundary, and tide pushes him into west side of boundary, and fish is retained...will that angler be fined? Roy's response was that as long as fish is hooked on east side, that angler would not be given a ticket. Discussion on transportation of fish was had in the room. Roy reminded all that you may transport others fish but it must be within your own possession limit.

## **8. BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund**

Key points from the BC SRIF that pertain especially to our interests are as follows from the first draw of funding given out to those groups that applied, including the SFAB.

- BCSRIF will also support elements of SFI's Vision 2021: an action plan to maximize the social and economic potential of the recreational fishery on Canada's Pacific coast. The project aims to improve representation of the fishing community and increase participation in the fishing sector by youth, new Canadians, and others.

- The Sport Fishing Institute (SFI) will develop the Fishing BC mobile app, an online information and catch monitoring tool.
- The Cowichan Valley Regional District and partners, including Cowichan Tribes, will conduct an evaluation of the natural boundary of Cowichan Lake to support building critical new water storage infrastructure, to provide flows required to sustain Cowichan salmon populations.
- The Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (UVic) will conduct research to improve our understanding of potential threats posed to Pacific salmonids and their habitats posed by climate change and develop risk assessment tools to support adaptive regional management approaches.
- The University of British Columbia will lead a science partnership project to conduct research on improving the sustainability of capture and release marine recreational Pacific salmon fisheries using new tools and technology;
- The University of Victoria (UVic) will support BC rockfish recovery and assessment through outreach and citizen-science emphasizing angler awareness of regulations (via MyCatch app) and through an evaluation of the effectiveness of descenders on reducing rockfish mortality. UVic will partner with academia, conservancy organizations and local First Nations.

For more project overviews, use this link:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/initiatives/fish-fund-bc-fonds-peche-cb/projects-projets-eng.html>

## **9. New Motions**

### **Saanich Inlet (Area 19-A) and Moses Point to Moresby Island (Area 18-6) Chinook: Access to public fishing opportunities for Cowichan Chinook;**

Whereas Cowichan chinook returns have been exceeding target recovery goals of 6500 adult chinook for the last 5 years, whereas DNA analysis of immature fish in the Strait of Georgia indicated that 2019 will be another strong year class, and whereas DNA data have shown that endangered Fraser chinook do not frequent the above areas, be it resolved that the August 1 to October 15 chinook non-retention restrictions on the above areas not be renewed for 2020.

Moved: Gerry Kristianson Second: Grant McPhearson. Passed: Unanimous

### **Motion to Adjourn: 9:10pm**

Moved: Martin Paish. Second: Gerry Kristianson. Passed: Unanimous

