

**MINUTES OF THE AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY APRIL 04, 2018 AT THE ESQUIMALT ANGLERS' RAMP**

CLUBS REPRESENTED:

**Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association - Wayne ZACCARELLI
Esquimalt Anglers' Association - Gary CATON
Royal Canadian Navy Anglers' Association - Tom COLE
Clover Point Anglers' Association - Tom VAIDA
Victoria Golden Rods & Reels - Brian PALAS
James Bay Anglers' Association - Jim DOW
Westcoast Flyfishers Association - Brian ALEXANDER
Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association - Jim PEARSON**

The meeting called to order at 1955 hours with president Tom COLE in the chair.

MOVED BY: Brian ALEXANDER that the minutes of the March AGM be adopted as read.

SECONDED BY: Tom VAIDA **CARRIED**

The secretary referenced correspondence which included:

1. A letter to DFO dated March 08, commenting on their February 15 discussion paper *Proposed 2018 Salmon Fishery Management Measures to Support Chinook Salmon Prey Availability for Southern Resident Killer Whales* .

Gary CATON reported that the EAA have established a wharves replacement committee to replace 12 sections of the wharves. The goal is to have the wharves installed by the end of November on a budget of close to \$200,000.

Gary noted that the Club has received a donation of \$1500 from Trotac for repairs to the Colquitz fish fence. Trotac also donated \$7000 to SVIAC for their Sooke Chinook Netpen Project. They previously donated \$7500 to the Millstream Fishway Project, bringing the total to \$16,000 from their winter derby proceeds.

Gary stated that the EAA has purchased an AED device (defibrillator) .

Tom VAIDA reported on the CPAA Annual General Meeting held March 26. Twenty four persons attended. Dues have been raised \$10 this year. The Club raised about \$225 from a raffle which is to be donated to the Goldstream Hatchery. The largest chinook entered in 2017 was 22 lb 13 oz. More graffiti during last week which resulted in the 'artist' being arrested. A work party will be held on the first Saturday in May.

Brian ALEXANDER stated that he attended a fly fishing presentation at Robinson's Outdoor Store where slides were shown by the angler of both local and foreign locations over the last year. Brian will be attending a spey casting demonstration on Saturday April 07 at French Creek.

Brian PALAS noted that the Golden Rods & Reels will be heading to Elk Lake on April 26 to do some fishing and sampling various chili dishes.

Jim DOW reported that the same executive members were returned for another year at their AGM. The Club approved donations of \$500 to both the Goldstream Hatchery and Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society.

Jim PEARSON announced that they have finished clipping all coho. The chum fry will be ponded in about a week. Craigflower coho fry will be ponded in a couple weeks. Goldstream pre-smolt coho are being released now. The GVSEA Annual General Meeting will be held April 19.

Tom VAIDA recommended the book, *Once They Were Hats*, which is about beavers.

Wayne ZACCARELLI reported on the PSF Community Meeting which was held at the Victoria Conference Centre March 10. Four representatives attended from Esquimalt Anglers' - Gary Caton, Wayne Zaccarelli, Ed Beatty and Bruce Bevan. Presentations were made on the EAA Chinook netpen project at Ogden Point which was rejected by DFO and efforts to secure a guaranteed minimum flow on Craigflower Creek.

Dr. Brian Riddell gave a keynote address on the *Salish Sea Marine Survival Project*. The project is a \$10,000,000 effort over five years with a similar parallel project being conducted in Puget Sound by the U.S. The reason for the project was the rapid decline in chinook, coho and steelhead catches within Georgia Strait in the early 1990's. Current catches are only about one tenth of previous peak catches. Three years of field study were completed in 2017 with analysis and modelling being done in 2018. The project involved over 80 scientists, 40 different projects and 11,000 samples collected.

Preliminary results indicate seals are consuming up to 40% of juvenile chinook and 47% of coho in Georgia Strait. The use of PIT tags (passive integrated tags) and detection devices on seals has confirmed this high predation. Herons, and other waterfowl, are also significant predators of juvenile salmonids.

Wayne also mentioned a scientific paper presented in the journal *Fish and Fisheries*. The study objectives were to determine (1) declining age at maturity of chinook and (2) declining size at age of chinook. The study involved 85 separate stocks (both hatchery and wild) coastwide and 1.5 million individual measurements.

They found that:

- hatchery chinook were larger than wild fish at age 1 and 2 but about equal at age 3 and 4.
- hatcheries were not responsible for smaller or younger fish at maturity.
- fisheries selection was not responsible either.
- likely cause is size selection of prey (ie. Chinook) by resident killer whales.

Chinook predation by marine mammals has increased three fold since the mid 1970's. Ninety percent of resident killer whale diets are chinook aged 4 to 6 years and coastwide, they consumed 10,000 metric tonnes (22,000,000 lbs.) in 2015. This is equal to 2,000,000 adult chinook.

Tom COLE reported that DFO Stock Assessment would be hosting a conference call/webinar on April 05 at 1000 hours to discuss 2018 Chinook management in advance of a Chinook and Coho Working Group conference call in the afternoon.

The SFAB (South Coast Committee) will meet in Nanaimo on April 07-08 and the full SFAB board will meet April 14-15 in Vancouver.

Tom stated that he signed a \$5000 DFO contract on behalf of the ACS to conduct DNA sampling and trailer count survey over the summer of 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 2120 hours.