MINUTES OF THE AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY JANUARY 03, 2018 AT THE ESQUIMALT ANGLERS`RAMP

CLUBS REPRESENTED:

Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association - Wayne ZACCARELLI
Royal Canadian Navy Anglers` Association - Tom COLE
Esquimalt Anglers `Association - Gary CATON
Clover Point Anglers` Association - Tom VAIDA
Sidney Anglers` Association - Dave STEPHEN
Westcoast Flyfishers Association - Brian ALEXANDER
Victoria Golden Rods & Reels - Brian PALAS

The meeting called to order at 1945 hours with president Tom COLE in the chair.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous monthly meeting held 06/12/17.

MOVED BY: Gary CATON that the minutes of the December meeting be adopted as read.

SECONDED BY: Dave STEPHEN CARRIED

Tom COLE advised regarding the town hall meeting to be held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Langford at 7:00 PM January 17. The meeting, hosted by the South Vancouver Island Anglers` Coalition (SVIAC), will focus on the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) recovery plan and its impact on recreational Chinook fishing in this area.

Gary CATON reported on the December 07 AGM of the Esquimalt Anglers. The club has a new president and two new directors.

Gary noted that the Goldstream Hatchery (GVSEA) has donated $5000 toward the Millstream Fishway Project proposed by Peninsula Streams Society.

Dave STEPHEN stated that the Sidney Anglers` AGM was held November 27. Most of the executive were returned for another year. Their first derby of the year will be the Otto Wiggins Winter Derby on January 28. Some good sized Chinook to 26 pounds have been caught lately.

Dave advised that two of their members will be attending the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) meetings in Portland the last week of January.

Tom VAIDA reported that the Squamish First Nation lost a judicial review appealing a DFO decision to reject a request for an increase in their sockeye salmon entitlement from 20,000 to 70,000.

Tom also recommended a recently published book on Pacific Northwest Chinook salmon. The book, titled *Upstream* , is written by Langdon Cook and was released in 2017. The hard cover book is available for $36 Canadian.

Brian ALEXANDER mentioned that their AGM will be held January 18. A fish out is planned for late January (details unknown at this time).

Brian PALAS reported that their club will be returning to a regular meeting schedule on January 09 after the holiday break.

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Tom COLE stated that he met with Tom Daykin of the Ocean Network Canada project at University of Victoria. The operation of sounders on recreational anglers` boats may interfere with the orcas echo location of the prey; ie. large chinook salmon. It is recommended that anglers turn off their sounders when killer whales are in the area.

Wayne ZACCARELLI reported on angling restrictions for summer run steelhead on the Columbia River in 2017. Projections were for the lowest returns in 37 years - since 1980. The forecast is especially weak for wild steelhead returning to the Snake River and upper Columbia

Wayne noted that he was the recipient of a January Irec angling survey. The internet catch survey is contracted out by DFO to Prairie Research Association (PRA).

Wayne also presented some preliminary results from the *Southern B.C. Recreational Angler Chinook and Coho Salmon Diet Sampling Pilot Project* being conducted by Will Duguid through the University of Victoria. In 2017, 272 Chinook and 42 Coho stomach samples were analyzed. Herring was the most important prey species in all areas. Sand lance (needlefish) were important in Haro Strait but not elsewhere. Prey diversity was higher in Areas 19 & 20 than in the Strait of Georgia. There was a higher proportion of empty stomachs from Haro Strait and Juan de Fuca than elsewhere. Fish were more important than invertebrates in Chinook diets overall, however invertebrates were more important in Haro & Juan de Fuca Straits during winter.

The project hopes to increase samples to 400 for Chinook and 100 for coho in 2018. Partial funding has been secured from DFO Stock Assessment for 2018.

Tom COLE noted that halibut biomass is down in 2017 for Area 2B (British Columbia). This will probably lead to a reduced quota assigned at the IPHC meetings in Portland later this month. As a result, recreational anglers will likely see some cutbacks in either the open season or size limits for 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 2120 hours.