

**MINUTES OF THE AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY MAY 01, 2019 AT THE ESQUIMALT ANGLERS' RAMP**

CLUBS REPRESENTED:

**Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association – Wayne ZACCARELLI
Esquimalt Anglers' Association – Gary CATON
Clover Point Anglers' Association – Tom VAIDA
James Bay Anglers' Association – Jim DOW
Victoria Golden Rods & Reels – Brian PALAS, Dave COOKE
Westcoast Flyfishers Association – Brian ALEXANDER
Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association – Jim PEARSON**

The meeting called to order at 1932 hours with president Brian ALEXANDER in the chair.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous monthly meeting held 03/04/19.

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

SECONDED BY: Tom VAIDA **CARRIED**

The secretary read the correspondence which included:

1. A letter from Victoria Postlethwaite (Regional Herring Officer, DFO Pacific) dated April 10 in reply to the ACS letter of January 03 commenting on DFO's herring management. The letter states DFO "...conducts a comprehensive annual stock assessment..." to determine sustainable harvest levels. "The maximum harvest rate of 20 percent is considered precautionary, ...".

Gary CATON announced that the EAA wharves replacement project is now complete with nine new wharf sections installed with dock fenders. Total cost was about \$225,000. Four of the old wharves were donated to the former Sooke Harbour Marina site where the SVIAC Chinook netpens are located. Four of the remaining five have been sold at \$500 each.

Gary stated that the SVIAC Chinook netpens have been installed and about 125,000 Nitinat Chinook fry were put in April 23 with another 125,000 placed on April 24. An additional 250,000 will be fed and released after this batch has moved out.

Tom VAIDA reported on recent Island Outfitter derbies. The Elk/Beaver Lake derby of April 13 saw 257 adult and 75 junior tickets sold. A total of 176 trout were entered with a 3 lb. 1 oz. trout being the largest. Largest bass was a 7 lb. 3 oz. Largemouth.

The halibut derby held on April 27-28 saw about 300 tickets sold and 47 halibut entered (14 on the windy Saturday and 33 on Sunday). Largest fish was 61 lb. 1 oz. Five hundred dollars was donated to SFI for lobbying re the current Chinook restrictions. Raffle tickets are being sold to raise a substantial amount for SFI lobbying.

A new creel surveyor has been hired to replace Hugo. The creel survey program is now operating.

Dave COOKE noted that a meeting speakers list is available on their website. Anyone is welcome to attend. Dave reviewed club involvement in various projects around the region. An eel grass survey within Portage Inlet and the Gorge Waterway has been conducted; complete with mapping.

Brian ALEXANDER reported that the club held a fishout on the Cowichan River this past weekend. More are being planned over the next several months.

Brian PALAS requested participants to help clip about 130,000 coho fry at Goldstream starting in early June, depending upon fry size and water temperature.

Jim DOW enquired whether anglers should continue participating in the submission of hatchery chinook and coho heads in light of the recent, and continuing, restrictions on recreational anglers. It was felt that there was no club or organization position with respect to this – at this time, but that individuals should come to their own decision.

Jim PEARSON stated that the Goldstream Hatchery has ponded the last salmon and are now holding about 126,000 chum; 136,000 coho and 1618 chinook fry. On May 02, the last of the 2016 brood coho will be released into Goldstream. Some 180 of 300 coho fry equipped with PIT tags have migrated through the array at the Tod Creek fishway.

Wayne ZACCARELLI reviewed the recent chinook restrictions for this area. FN0377, effective April 19, closed areas 19-3 through 19-12 to chinook retention until July 31. Effective August 01 to August 29, the daily limit is one chinook, hatchery or wild. The annual limit has been reduced from a maximum of 30 to no more than 10 coastwide. Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours (19-1 and 19-2) were left open but effective May 01 under FN0395 these two sub-units were also included in the above regulations.

Wayne noted that Eagle Eye Outfitters in Sooke closed permanently on April 30. Many other businesses are also suffering from compounding restrictions on the public fishery.

A protest demonstration was held at noon today at the office of Fisheries Minister Jonathan Wilkinson in North Vancouver. About 100 were expected to attend. There was television coverage on CHEK and Global this evening.

DFO is forecasting 138,000 early Fraser chinook in 2019 (84,000 observed in 2018) and 126,000 late Fraser chinook (81,000 observed in 2018).

Wayne reported that DFO has approved a trial seal harvest of 600 animals comprised of 200 in Fraser River, 200 in Strait of Georgia and 200 in Campbell River area.

Wayne read a letter from Rebecca Reid (Regional Director General, DFO Pacific) announcing a new *Reconciliation and Partnerships Branch* to advance the Government's high level reconciliation priorities. The letter was undated but copied off the Internet April 04.

The meeting adjourned at 2115 hours.

