

Don McIVOR reported that the Sidney Anglers held a club derby recently with five salmon entered. Their large open derby scheduled for March 2020 is under review in consideration of weather, regulations and U.S. participation. Fishing effort in the area is down about 50% as are related revenues. Less and less money is available for enhancement as derbies are being cancelled due to more restrictive regulations; despite the fact good numbers of hatchery chinook are available throughout most of the year. Members are also more reluctant to do enhancement work which they feel DFO should be doing.

Jim PEARSON noted that the fence site at Goldstream has been prepared and the fence put in about 10 days ago. The hatchery is clipping coho now and an Esquimalt Anglers' team will be clipping on Saturday October 05. The in-stream camera on Millstream has counted 11 coho so far.

Wayne ZACCARELLI reported that the Craigflower Creek fence was operational a couple days ago. The Colquitz fence was in on September 26. Wayne noted that a good number of mature chinook are in Esquimalt Harbour – he has caught three around the mouth of the harbour. Well over 100 were trapped in the drydock a few weeks ago. Membership is at 375; down 90 from last year, and has been decreasing steadily since the 530 reached in 2015. A recent peak of 1004 was reached in 1989.

Tom COLE attended a service for Mike Chipps of the Becher Bay band who recently passed away at 51 years. He worked for about 30 years at Cheanuh Marina. Tom sent flowers on behalf of the RCNAA. A coho derby will be held October 12 at Sooke. The commercial crabbers are out of Becher Bay.

Chris Bos reported that 535,000 netpen Nitinat chinook were released this spring at Sooke. Of these, 103000 were fin clipped and 50,000 were CWT. DFO is trying to block the planned increase to 1,000,000 in 2020. A demonstration netpen of maybe 50,000 chinook could be placed at Cheanuh Marina in 2020. A Sooke area round table is needed to address issues which arise concerning the enhancement and management of these fish.

Chris noted that there will be no Cowichan brood chinook available for egg/fry production and release at Goldstream in 2020. First Nations approval is needed. A round table for Saanich Inlet is needed to address these issues.

The meeting adjourned at 2130 hours.