

**MINUTES OF THE AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 05, 2020 AT THE ESQUIMALT ANGLERS' RAMP**

CLUBS REPRESENTED:

**Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association – Wayne ZACCARELLI
Esquimalt Anglers' Association – Gary CATON
Victoria Golden Rods & Reels – Brian PALAS
Haig-Brown Flyfishing Association – Ian HOLDER
Clover Point Anglers' Association – Tom CELUSZAK
Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association – Jim PEARSON**

The meeting called to order at 1940 hours with vice-president Gary CATON in the chair.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous monthly meeting held 08/01/20.

MOVED BY: Brian PALAS that the minutes of the January meeting be adopted as read.

SECONDED BY: Ian HOLDER CARRIED

Gary CATON reported that the cost of coded wire tagging (CWT) Sooke netpen chinook will be the same as 2019 (the cost was almost doubled in 2019). SVIAC will CWT 100,000 of the half million fish this year.

Gary stated that Paul @ Trotac had called him regarding the diesel oil leaking into Gorge Creek during the last week of January. The source has been identified as a home heating oil tank and cleanup has been underway since the leaking oil was discovered. Cost to date for the cleanup is about \$50,000. Dorothy Chambers was again heavily involved in getting action on this.

Gary reported that a land owner adjacent to Craigflower Creek in the upper watershed has pushed a road access through the creek to his property. The appropriate agencies have been notified to investigate. Pictures are available.

Gary will attend the Sport Fishing Advisory Board meeting in Vancouver February 13-15 as an observer on behalf of the ACS. Gary will be re-imbursed his costs by the ACS.

Tom CELUSZAK reported little fishing activity with access to the boathouse still compromised by the sewage force main crossing of the road. Tom expressed concern regarding the likely loss of salmon eggs due to the record high water flows January 31 – February 01. Not only would there be physical damage due to rocks and logs but also the high sediment load which could smother the eggs.

Ian HOLDER mentioned their regular meeting would be held February 12 with fly tying on the 19th.

Brian PALAS stated that the club had a 100th birthday party for one of the club's founding members, Helen Wells, at their Tuesday February 04 meeting. Brian noted that the fishing dock at Elk Lake is deteriorating and is in need of major repairs or replacement. The fishing dock was installed by CRD Parks in the spring of 1996.

Jim PEARSON reported that there are still about 20,000 coho pre-smolts to adipose fin clip at the hatchery (130,000 total to be clipped). Volunteers are working on a new trailer to haul two fish tanks.

Wayne ZACCARELLI reported that Doug Bancroft of Victoria Fish & Game met with Mitzi Dean (NDP MLA for View Royal area) to express the Association's concerns regarding the proposed HandyDART maintenance facility to be built by BC Transit adjacent to Craigflower Creek. Wayne and Doug will be drafting a letter to Premier Horgan and several of the Ministers involved.

Wayne updated work on the remediation of the Big Bar slide on the Fraser River. DFO issued a \$17.6 million contract December 31 with a completion date of March 15, 2020. The contractor started work January 14.

DFO has reduced the daily limit for prawns from 200 to 125 effective April 01, 2020. The SFAB had recommended a reduction to 170 if the recreational sector had to take a cut. First Nations and commercial harvesters have no daily limits.

Wayne stated that the Wild Fish Conservancy in the U.S. has issued a warning to their regulatory agencies that they are failing to protect federally listed chinook and SRKW, as required by the Endangered Species Act. At issue is the overharvest of wild chinook by the southeast Alaska troll fishery. About 97% of their catch is from rivers in B.C., Washington and Oregon; with half of this being from the Columbia River.

Wayne reported recently released figures for the 2020 herring roe fishery in Georgia Strait. The spawning biomass is 59,800 tonnes and with a 20% harvest rate the quota is 11,960 tonnes. Herring biomass within Georgia Strait has been declining for several years. In 2016, it was reported to be 130,000 tonnes. By 2019, it had fallen to 86,000 tonnes (commercial quota of 21,000 tonnes).

Wayne noted that the Colquitz Coalition will be holding their annual meeting February 06 at 6:30PM at Pearkes Rec. Ctr. The various groups working within the greater watershed (ie. Colquitz, Craigflower, Portage Inlet and Gorge Waterway) report on their activities during the past year.

Yogi Carolsfeld (World Fisheries Trust) had a letter to the editor published in the Times-Colonist on January 30. The letter thanked Dorothy Chambers for her diligence in getting professional attention and cleanup started on the Gorge Creek oil seepage.

The meeting adjourned at 2045 hours.

