

Area 19/20 Victoria, Sooke, Sidney SFAC

Online, Microsoft Teams

November 03/2020

(Draft) Minutes

Recreational Representatives:

Ryan Chamberland
Martin Paish
Gerry Kristianson
Pat Ahern
Jerrod Pinder
Tom Cole
Mike Kelly
Richard Lake

Chair of local SFAC
Local angler/SFAB Chair
Local angler/SFAB Executive
SFAB Executive/GFSF Chair
Local Fisher
Local Fisher
SC SFAC Chair
Sidney Anglers, Local/AVID Angler

Regrets: Chris Bos, Doug Ferrier.

Government Attendees:

Erika Watkins
Roy Osselton

DFO SC Recreational Coordinator
DFO Conservation Protection Officer

Introductions

- Completed. Everyone had an opportunity to introduce themselves. Only a couple people forgot to 'unmute' themselves.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt by Gerry Kristianson, Seconded by Richard Lake, all in favour.

Adoption of Minutes from March 16, 2020.

- The minutes were adopted as written.
Motion to adopt by Richard Lake seconded by Gerry Kristianson, all in favour.

Old Business

- Motion 1 – DFO IFMP Planning Time Table – Included in the IFMP Feedback to DFO
- Motion 2 – Public Access to Chinook Fishing in Saanich Inlet –Martin: Continue consultation with Cowichan Tribes/Round Table process.
- Motion 3 – Public Access to Abundant Hatchery Chinook in the Spring – Included in the IFMP Feedback as well. Ryan, Martin provided their insights and

ongoing work on this matter. Of utmost high priority for SFAB. Tom Cole discussed his POV.

- Motion 4 - JDF SRKW Salmon Closure Area. – Opportunity for a corridor based on old and recent sightings/science through NOAA, and local knowledge. In the Prey TWG there was openness within the represented parties to explore, accept this. Did not make it this year, but open for discussion for future years. More SRKW discussion regarding foraging areas/depth.

Post – Pre Season report

Coho fishing stocks were abundant from mid June all the way through to mid October. 50/50 on hatchery to wild some days, and other days would be 90% wild, 10% hatchery. But overall abundant. Focus shifted to Coho when Chinook was closed; Area 20 was good up until mid-October vs Area 19 where there weren't many. Coho fishing seemed slow during summer months off Sidney areas.

Chinook fishing, again abundant, big fish in June, early July. It seemed like the fish were missing Port Renfrew North, but likely came down the middle of entrance to JDF and hitting the shores of Sooke in decent numbers.

Review of Beecher and Sooke opportunities. Openings mid season to fish for Chinooks in smaller areas where less likely to catch stocks of concern, provide some opportunity, and also provide data collection efforts.

Erika W: Chinook update:

- regarding MSF consultations
- DFO to review 2020 pilots of terminal opportunities and explore more terminal opportunities over the winter for 2021.
- review underway about reducing the minimum size for inside waters (where it is currently 62 cm)

Martin P: Harrison Threatened listed so likely concern in future.

- Need to look at Harrison winter impacts.
- As species get COSEWIC or SARA listed DFO must take steps to mitigate risk to stocks of concern.

Spring halibut fishing seemed to fairly slow, (for 2nd year) but then picked up into the summer/fall months. Large fish size average, that was a problem for some fishers in the Victoria area.

- Martin P: regarding halibut – likely catch is half of TAC for 2020
- IPHC doesn't support 10% rollover for 2021 (due to double counting for stock assessment but not same issue for commercial) – waiting for letter from IHPC to explain decision.
- Also can't predict effort with Covid-19.
- Looking at conditions of licence to manage halibut and cannot be re-issued mid-season or do VO in-season early stages – working with DFO via halibut TWG and Regs TWG.

Crabbing in Sooke was consistent all year. Still ongoing issues to be settled in Beecher Bay with Commercial fisherman, Beecher Bay FN. Meetings on this were cancelled due to Covid. Looking at setting up new meetings this fall/winter.

Pat Ahern (GFSF Chair) comments below:

- Crabs – a proposal three years ago along with Beecher FN needs to be enforced.
- Also, differential size limits. Want pilot to address gear conflicts but can't have larger limit.

Prawns, good reports of prawning in the spring, extended season due to Covid, delayed opening to commercial sector due to no market. News report stating that there is a massive amount of prawns still frozen, not being sold to market for long period.

- Pat A comments below:
- fall spawn surveys not being done is problem since it's used to manage fisheries in high use areas (i.e. pulse vs closed, etc.).
- CSAS 2012 paper looked at 2001-2011 data and risk for winter fishery. For 2019 0-30% accept risk. For 2020 SFAB requested same meeting with prawn managers and SFAC chairs of areas affected.
- Prawn association not willing to take on Covid-19 liability right now therefore no survey.
- Other views are no money for JOT and/or no recreational means more prawn left for commercial.

Other issues

- Ryan working with local First Nation's on Possession Point oyster depuration area, try and move it to better location for all boaters/fishers. Sooke Bay not only to keep a favorite area open to trolling, but for the local FN's if they lose gear, it would potentially get washed up on the shore line...not the rocks. With the opening of the historic line from inside of Possession Point to Muir Point, this would help with data collection of Sooke Hatchery Chinook being able to troll inside of Possession Point, and not into an Oyster depuration area.

Hatchery Updates

- Sooke Chinook returns are above average.
- Sooke Coho returns look positive, above average. Chum looking average, or above.

Conservation & Protection Report

- Roy C&P update for area:
 - issues with Covid-19 and how to check licences/catch/phone for licences, etc. Sometimes hard to see small screen.
 - Anglers targeting Cabezon is becoming a fish of interest it seems. Might need to look at limits as 8 seems high in Roy's opinion.

Handouts

- The following handouts were available for attendees:
 - Proposed Agenda
 - Spring 2020 Local SFAC Victoria Minutes
 - DFO's Regional Recreational Update Fall 2020
 - SFAB Motion's Tracking Spread Sheet
 - Power Point Presentation on SFAB Vision/Modernization
- After meeting Ryan C sent out the SFAB Regional Priorities and Requests for Consideration for 2020/2021 (accidentally not attached in original meeting notification).

Minutes Prepared by: Ryan Chamberland

- Meeting Adjourned -

Motions

