

**MINUTES OF VICTORIA SPORT FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 08, 2022 AT ESQUIMALT ANGLERS' LOUNGE
1101 MUNRO STREET**

Attendees:

Brad Beaith (DFO) Recreational WCVI
Mark Frisson (DFO) Recreational ECVI Co-chair
Tom Cole Amalgamated Conservation Society, Royal Canadian Navy Anglers' Ass'n. Co-chair
Wayne Zaccarelli Amalgamated Conservation Society, Victoria Fish & Game Secretary
Chris Bos South Vancouver Island Anglers' Coalition *Microsoft Teams*
Peter Bey Sidney Anglers' Association *Microsoft Teams*
Jason Assonitis Bon Chovy Charters *Microsoft Teams*
John Francis Victoria Golden Rods & Reels
Jim Stephen Victoria Sport Fishing Advisory Committee (Victoria seat alternate)
James Patrick Pro Marine
Mike Benoit Pro Marine
Bill Campbell South Vancouver Island Anglers' Coalition
Gerry Morrison Royal Bay Charters
Jim Shortreed Victoria Herring Enhancement Project
Gary Caton Esquimalt Anglers, Goldstream Hatchery, ACS President
Warren Tipper ???
Louis Meszoly Esquimalt Anglers
Roy Osselton DFO Fishery Officer
Mya Cormie DFO Fishery Officer
Douglas Bancroft Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association President
Brian Alexander Westcoast Flyfishers, Amalgamated Conservation Society
Martin Paish Sport Fishing Advisory Board Chair
Rollie Rose South Vancouver Island Anglers' Coalition, Sooke Salmon Charters
Tom Davis independent angler
Gord Martin Foghorn Charters

Meeting caller to order at 1900 hrs.

Round table & Microsoft Teams introductions held

Three items (Bait & food herring, C&P, and new Sidney SFAC) added to agenda

M/S/C agenda approved

1. Sooke Harbour/Basin (20-6,20-7) hook size restriction- current hook size restriction inside a line between Possession Point and Muir Point eliminates some chinook trolling waters outside

Whiffen Spit. *It was M/S/C that the Victoria SFAC recommends changing the current boundary to a line drawn between the Whiffen Spit light and Company Point in East Sooke. The hook size restriction to remain inside this new boundary.*

2. Pender Bluffs SRKW sanctuary area - Tom Davis reviewed the history of this closure. Tom read a report from the Orca Behavior Institute's (OBI) SRKW study this summer. There is no documented evidence of SRKW foraging in the Interim Sanctuary Zones (ISZ). *It was M/S/C that the Victoria SFAC recommend the present Interim Sanctuary Zones at Pender and Saturna Islands be removed and replaced with the 400 metre avoidance and go slow zone designations.*

3. Becher Bay SRKW no fishing (area size change) – An extensive area has been closed without scientific evidence of substantial SRKW presence. *** *Action item – DFO to provide relevant information supporting this extensive area closure prior to the November 25-26 SFAB South Coast meeting.*

4. Mark Selective Chinook fishery for Areas 19-20 in 2023 – Previous motion submitted for 2022 still applicable. *** *Action item – DFO to engage consultations by early January 2023 with SFAB Chinook/Coho Working Group regarding a MSF for Areas 19-20 in April- June of 2023.*

5. Conservation & Protection (C&P) – *added to agenda.* Focus was on salmon this summer. There were problems with wild coho retention, especially prior to October 01. Some Beechey Head casters were ticketed. Hooks trailing past lure or bait tails an undetermined distance are apparently illegal. Many are not aware of this. Tom Davis suggested the SFAB have an Education Committee to deal with fish identification and the various gear restrictions.

6. Timely response by DFO to motions – Brad Beaith said to contact him for issues affecting WCVI and Mark Frisson for ECVI.

7. New regulations for crab/prawn trap size, shape and color – Effective April 01, 2023 crab trap floats must be bullet shaped and at least 27 cm long and 12 cm in diameter. Prawn trap floats must be round and at least 27 cm in diameter. There are no restrictions on materials or color.

Jim Patrick, a manufacturer, noted that Washington State requires round yellow buoys for prawns and round, half red/half white buoys for crab. Jim would have liked to see a similar regulation for B.C. He was concerned that Styrofoam, which breaks up over time, could still be used for these. There apparently was prior consultation with the SFAB but Martin Paish believes the commercial industry was the driver on this. *Martin will follow up on this.*

8. Food & Bait Herring Fishery – *added to agenda.* Jim Shortreed presented information which he believes points to the upcoming herring food & bait fishery causing the decline (and extirpation) of local herring stock populations. No quota has been made public for this

upcoming fishery. Others presented view points contrary to this. This fishery is scheduled to start November 20 (usually Nov. 07) and the final date for public comment is November 16. Contact Jim Meldrum at DFO. No consensus could be reached either in opposition or in favour of this fishery.

9. DFO Regional Update - A 13 page *Regional Sport Fish Advisory Committee Information* package was mentioned by Mark Frisson. Copies were available for pickup at the meeting.

10. Re-organization of South Island SFAC Committees – *added to agenda*. Sidney Anglers' have previously written DFO expressing their desire to have a stand alone SFAC for Areas 18-19 near Sidney. Mark Frisson stated that it was going to happen with the resultant loss of one of the two Victoria seats. Tom Cole expressed his dissatisfaction with the loss of a Victoria seat.

Martin Paish noted that it isn't about 'clubs' but about the future of the SFAB process. New terms of reference are being compiled along with other changes. The SFAB could not reach consensus on this and left it to DFO to decide.

Tom Davis also expressed his opposition to the loss of a Victoria seat.

Good of the Order - Tom Cole is stepping down from the SFAB process. He has represented primary anglers for over 25 years in the Sidney to Sooke area. Martin Paish thanked Tom on behalf of himself and the SFAB, for his years of service to local anglers, the SFAB and as an historian for the SFAB.

The meeting adjourned at 2115 hrs.