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## **Welcome, Introductions, review of agenda**

Following introductions, SC SFAB Co-Chair Jon Pew reviewed a new agenda format. The group also recognized the role of SFAB Chair Gerry Kristianson, Owen Bird, Martin Paish and SFI for their role in securing the Fisheries Minister's approval for the recreational vision, as a significant accomplishment.

## **2018 Post-Season Review**

*Wilf Luedke, DFO*

DFO presentation highlighted the following key points (see PowerPoint for full details):

### **2018 fishery data:**

- Preliminary SC marine sport catch by species (excluding Fraser). Data based on creel estimates, plus some guide log & Avid Angler reports, will be adjusted with iRec (online angler survey) infill data for the months not covered by creel (so expect ~15% increase).
- Catch records include some illegal species. Should creel survey cover additional illegal species?
- Effort estimate by Area and year (2014 - 2018), based on creel coverage months only.
- Effort by Area: Chinook catch by area mostly declined in 2018 vs prior years except in Area 19 & 20.
  - **Discussion:** Q: Is there a way to show whether 2018 chinook measures reduced impacts?
    - DFO: A closer look at exploitation rate by stock is needed to see if the chinook objectives were achieved. More DNA (genetic stock ID data) was collected in 2018, with support from guides & Avid Anglers.
- SFAB members can review the data in more detail on the Excel spreadsheet DFO provided and submit additional feedback via the website provided.
  - **Discussion:** Q/A: It's not clear that the available catch data is representative for all areas, so DFO is working with guides to stratify guided/non-guided data.
- Distribution of hatchery-mark rate for different months and areas to show where mark-selective fisheries might make most sense. DFO is also looking at the expansion rate for catch estimates based on tag recoveries.
  - **Discussion:** Q/A: Further catch reductions will be required under new Pacific Salmon Treaty to protect US ESA-listed populations (Endangered Species Act).
- Somass sockeye
- WCVI (West Coast Vancouver Island) chinook stock status (many stocks in trouble); WCVI Chinook hatchery production.
- Poor chum returns (poor ocean conditions)
- First Nations Treaty and FSC fisheries.
- AABM and ISBM (Aggregate Abundance Based and Individual Abundance Based Management, or outside and inside management regimes) commercial chinook fishery.
- 2018 WCVI and JDF (Juan De Fuca) recreational chinook catch.

### **Stock status:**

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- Sockeye, including Nimkish and Sakinaw.
- Pink returns: Area 11-13 and SoG (Strait of Georgia)
- Chinook: JS (Johnston Strait) and SoG (Strait of Georgia):
  - **Discussion:** Nanaimo fishery impacts & impact of seals in the Cowichan.
  - Continuing recovery for Cowichan chinook, large jack returns.
- Area 12 & 13, SoG coho: highly variable returns for local coho stocks, with certain systems performing far better than others.
  - **Discussion:** Paish: More anecdotal reports of seal impacts on coho and of seals selectively targeting coho/females.
- Preliminary SoG chum escapement.

### **2018 SC First Nations fisheries:**

- ECVI (East Coast Vancouver Island); data based on reported catch.
  - **Discussion:** Allocation policy with respect to ESSR (Excess Surplus to Spawning Requirements) fisheries.

### **2018 Commercial fisheries**

- 2018 commercial chum.
  - **Discussion:** Maynard: Why are there no restrictions on commercial chum access if they are the second most important food for Southern Resident Killer Whales? This reflected a failure of DFO management.

### **2018 ECVI recreational fisheries**

## **2018 Fraser River Summary**

*Barbara Mueller, DFO*

- Chinook 4<sub>1</sub>s: 2018 management measures; preliminary escapement indicates very poor returns and status. For the Nicola, it was 80% hatchery returns. Very few wild fish.
  - **Discussion:** Maynard: If Chinook 4<sub>1</sub> migration timing is early March to early August, why are fisheries closed in January and February? This has been raised before and it negatively affects DFO credibility.
- Chinook Spring and Summer 4<sub>2</sub>s: 2018 management and very poor returns/status.
  - **Discussion:** Effects of different nets, including multi-panel nets, and of very low returns, on accuracy of estimates based on expanding very limited sampling.
- Chinook Spring & Summer 5<sub>2</sub>s: Very poor escapement, skewed sex ratio and smaller sizes.
  - **Discussion:** Paish: Smaller size would add further uncertainty to Albion estimates.
  - **Discussion:** Collins: Upper Fraser SFAC volunteers contributed significant time assisting with spawning estimates in the Nechako, finding the same highly skewed sex ratio, with smaller size, reduced fecundity and egg counts.

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- Fall (Harrison and Chilliwack) chinook: 2018 management; depressed 2018 returns.
- Recap of 2018 chinook conservation measures: For mouth of the Fraser, only 29-6 was open for Aug-Sept for sockeye retention only.
  - **Discussion:** Pew: Interior Steelhead returns were lower than ever, indicating that fishery closures were not effective.
  - Scanlan: Concern that Area 29 SRKW measures were not discussed in the 2018 pre-season planning process, though the closures were labelled as such in the final version of the IFMP.
- Management measures for Fraser River Region 2 and 3.
  - **Discussion:** MacDonald: The Province wanted to close the Upper River to fishing in August before the Adams run, but we appreciated DFO keeping it open for a further 8 days until August 30.
  - Tonelli: Lower Fraser closures had significant impact on recreational fisheries.
  - Clapton: Why was the Lower River shut down in-river for sockeye retention while retention was still permitted outside?
    - DFO: It took a long time to estimate the late-run return because of delayed holding. SFAB's Fraser Panel rep was part of those discussions.
- Comparison of pre-season/in-season estimates for 4 Fraser sockeye management groups.
- Fraser Chum: Low returns, fishery measures in place.
  - **Discussion:** Kristianson: Appreciate that DFO was able to budget for staff to be present for this important presentation, despite initial concerns that it would not happen.
- Interior Fraser Steelhead:
  - Kristianson: The Science paper for proposed SARA (Species at Risk Act) listing of Thompson and Chilcotin steelhead identified pinniped predation as likely a dominant cause of steelhead population declines and recovery as unlikely even if all fishery impacts are stopped, given current trends. The paper did not find consensus on a causal relationship between pinniped and steelhead populations and there were also concerns about unintended ecosystem impacts.
  - Scanlan: Could we have done more to provide micro sport-fishing opportunities on the Fraser while avoiding stocks of concern?
    - Pew: We need to discuss this with DFO decision makers.
    - DFO: It's complex, given the many stocks of concern, plus First Nations' priority rights for FSC (Food, Social & Ceremonial) fishing.

## Update: NTC Fishing Rights Court Action

*Andrea Goruk, DFO*

DFO provided a brief update on the background, current status and next steps in the court action that began in 2009 between 5 Nuu-chah-nulth nations and DFO over the nations' claim to constitutional rights to

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catch and sell fish commercially. DFO will be seeking input from First Nations and stakeholders on an appropriate process to resolve the issues through a review of the salmon allocation policy. Following the latest court case in November the court ordered DFO to complete 3 things by March 31, 2019:

1. DFO to provide fishing plan to address species infringement by Nov. 30 (Done - covers salmon, groundfish, crab and prawn). DFO must engage with the 5 nations before discussing the draft plan in more detail with others.
2. Consult on the plan between December and February with First Nations and others.
3. Provide a final fishing plan by March 31 for implementation April 1, 2019.

The 5 nations are appealing the latest court ruling.

### **Discussion**

- Q/A: This covers parts of areas 24/124, 25/125 and 26.
- Temple: First Nations are proposing establishment of tribal parks and resource management within them. There is little or no awareness despite significant implications.
  - DFO: The court was clear that DFO retains responsibility to manage fisheries.
  - Temple: We were told we had one year's grace period to join the local First Nations' voluntary management program. I'm not against it but this raises complex questions and both DFO and SFAB needs to get on top of this.
- Q/A: DFO plans a separate review of the salmon allocation policy, which will be a longer-term and more comprehensive process than the response to the court action.
- Q/A: The court found that DFO's application of its salmon allocation policy caused unjustified infringement on the 5 nations' rights. A key point of dispute was about basing the allocation for the 5 fisheries as a share of commercial vs. Canadian TAC.
- Comment that meaningful results will require challenging DFO in the courts, as First Nations are doing, instead of relying on DFO to advance fishery interests.
  - Scanlan: SFAB's mandate is to advise the minister, so any legal strategy would be outside this process.
- Several members complained of unsuccessful requests for reporting on DFO's response to SFAB motions.
  - DFO: DFO has now updated the SFAB motions database to 2 years ago.

**ACTION:** Request that Brad/Felix DFO provide access to DFO's SFAB motions database.

- Dewar: DFO has a responsibility to manage fisheries for the benefit of all Canadians.
  - DFO: There will be a letter and plan shared to support stakeholder consultation.
- The Fraser River Sport Fishing Alliance has led legal action to protect access rights.
- Suggestion that individual rights to sustenance (common resource allocation), commercial/tourism and sport fishing access be treated separately. Part of our problem is we're all considered sport fishing, so it doesn't carry as much weight.
  - Paish: That's much larger than this topic and would require a tremendous discussion.

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- Q/A: In the past, we have not increased overall net chinook production to support net pen programs.
  - Gallagher: I'm not sure we're accomplishing anything if net pen production reduces Nitinat production.
  - DFO: It shifts production to an area with more fishing activity.

## Update: SEP Hatchery Operations

*Dave Willis, DFO*

DFO's Salmon Enhancement Program (SEP) update covered the following:

- 2018 BC hatchery release targets.
- Distribution of coho and chinook production by 4 areas.
- ECVI production update & results.
- WCVI production update & results.
  - **Discussion:** Q/A: WCVI hatcheries are seeing some sex ratio skewing for chinook, but not as bad as a few years ago.
- Squamish & Elaho River chinook.
- Fraser Spring & Summer chinook.

### Discussion

- Q/A: Sufficient broodstock numbers were collected this year for the Chilko program
- Q/A: DFO has no plans to increase chinook production for the Upper Fraser. SEP is operating within the capacity of its capital and operating budgets.
  - Collins: New challenges include interior wildfire impacts on stream flows.
  - Kristianson: There is discussion of a production facility on the Willow River to replace the Dome Creek indicator.
  - Clapton: The groups represented here need to lobby DFO for appropriate capital renewal budgets.
- Milligan: Has anything happened re SFAB's motion for production to support mass marking and mark-selective fishing?
  - DFO: Staff has developed proposals for small-scale pilots for mass-marking chinook, which are currently under internal review.
  - Scanlan: Mark-selective fisheries are currently being discussed in PST (Pacific Salmon Treaty) negotiations as the only way to access fisheries.

Presentation, continued:

- Chilliwack coho and chinook production (increased chinook production for 2018 and preliminary planning for 2019 expansion).

### Discussion

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- Q/A: Fish released from Chilliwack hatchery have the best survival of any release strategy in BC, including net pens (4 - 5% survival for chinook and also better coho survivals).
- Paish: We've been discussing sea pens as an effective strategy for SRKW recovery.
  - DFO: Our current approach is not to start stand-alone SRKW programs, but to augment programs that also provide benefits for fisheries.
- Q/A: Epigenetic studies look at changes to gene expression due to environmental factors.
- Bos: we're looking at expanding the Sooke chinook net pen project to other areas.

## **2019 Fishery Planning**

*Wilf Luedke, DFO*

DFO presentation covered the following key points:

- DFO looking for input on 2019 fishery planning process:
  - Issues include required reductions to comply with the new PST (5% - 12.5%).
- PSC chinook model abundance indices for Fraser chinook stock groups.
- SoG coho summer and fall surveys (abundance indicator - annual sampling study) showed high coho counts and bigger fish in the fall 2018 survey.
  - Avid Anglers asked to sample over-wintering coho to assess growth, abundance and distribution.
  - Preliminary comparison of fall 2017 and spring 2018 coho abundance showed very similar results — many fish overwintered in SoG.
  - High abundance of northern anchovy in SoG and high number of chinook also caught in the fall survey.
  - SoG species seems to be doing well. It's not clear why this is not also true for the Fraser stocks.
- Ocean Conditions:
  - Ocean entry years for stocks returning in 2019.
  - Ocean conditions: SST (Sea Surface Temperature) anomalies, which have implications for quality and availability of zooplankton that feed salmon:
    - 2012 - 2014 (The Blob): very warm (bad) migration conditions for some populations.
    - 2015 - 2016: Improvement (cooler SST offshore), except for far north/coastal Alaska.
    - 2017 - 2018: Is The Blob rebuilding?
  - Potential negative impacts of forest fires (erosion, shade, flows).
- 2019 Outlook: Context, categories, map legend:
  - Note that 2018 comparisons are to previous year's outlook, not to actual returns.
  - Sockeye: Below average returns expected for many Fraser sockeye CU's (Conservation Units).

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- Chinook: Low returns expected for the Fraser stocks; COSEWIC expected to report on its Fraser chinook assessments shortly.
- Coho: Too early for Interior coho assessments, but preliminary indications are fairly good.
- Pinks: Big year for Fraser pinks (but low brood year).
- Chum: Uncertainty - poorer returns for northern stocks.
- 2018 management measures: Importance of how to assess results of 2018 measures.

### **Discussion**

- Q/A: DFO expects to implement the new PST in 2019.
- Scanlan: Our notes of the treaty discussion show discussion of 5% reductions, not 5 - 15%.
  - DFO: Reduced noise and disturbance for SRKW (Southern Resident Killer Whales) will be big objectives, so when to start fisheries and where will be key questions.

Presentation, continued:

- Potential performance categories: SRKW observations, physical and acoustic disturbance; chinook abundance and fishery removals, compliance and other information.

### **Discussion**

- Paish: We need a clearer definition of SRKW recovery and performance measures that relate more directly to that.
  - DFO: Scientists believe chinook will keep declining with challenges for SRKW.
  - DFO: COSEWIC's SRKW report identifies the objectives in as much detail as possible, given the data available.
- Kelly: Why is there still a commercial SoG herring fishery, if that's a key prey species for chinook?
  - DFO: Chinook have been identified as critical habitat, which is why there are specific measures for them. But broader environmental factors are also relevant, including chum and herring.
- Kristianson: What information will be used to assess the impact of closed areas, if no data was collected there?
  - DFO: Data collected include reports from the fixed listening stations and limited observations from overflights, etc. Crews were also monitoring and tracking movement of SRKWs in other areas.
  - Kristianson: Will there be data to inform what is the most appropriate time and area to protect?
  - DFO: It will take time to collect sufficient data for that.
- Maynard: We are disappointed that measures were not removed for SoG, given recovery of Cowichan chinook. A DFO letter outlined the intent to hold a structured decision-making process to resolve outstanding questions.

- DFO: The IFMP is a structured decision-making process. Staff is not aware of another such process. Lifting the closure at a time when we are looking for further reductions would raise questions.
- Scanlan: What does DFO expect as 2019 objectives for reductions and new PST implementation?
  - DFO: Whether we're looking for more than the 25% reductions will depend on requirements for Fraser chinook/SRKW. The overall exploitation reduction for 2018 is expected to have been between 13 - 27%. What more will be required will be in part a political decision.

## **SARA listing: Thompson & Chilcotin steelhead**

*Peter Hall, DFO*

DFO presentation highlighted the following key points (See PowerPoint for details):

- Overview of emergency SARA (Species At Risk Act) consultation process for these 2 populations.
- Thompson and Chilcotin steelhead - biology & conservation issues.

### **Discussion**

- Concern that SFAB Main Board will not have an opportunity to approve motions on this issue by Dec 2.
  - DFO: SFAB Chair can submit a letter with any relevant motions by Monday December 3.
- Clapton: Other than today, recreational fishers were not permitted face-to-face discussions with DFO, which warrants a further time extension.
  - DFO: The expedited emergency process did not allow in-person meetings with the commercial sector or ENGOs either. DFO has a legal obligation to consult with First Nations, given potential impacts on rights-based fisheries.

Presentation, continued:

- Implications of Endangered SARA listing (vs COSEWIC assessment) include automatic general prohibitions (which come into place immediately) and attendant permitting requirements, recovery strategy (within 1 year), action plan and identification/protection of critical habitat.
- Emergency SARA listing process.
- Regional DFO listing information package
- Management scenarios: these outline expected measures to mitigate human threats in the event of listing or not:
  - Three scenarios: Baseline, Do Not List (IFMP/non-SARA-based measures) or List (SARA-based requirements).
  - Do Not List or List measures described in these scenarios could change in future based on new information.
- Comparison of measures under 3 scenarios for:
  - Science and conservation activities.

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- **Discussion:** Q/A: Science includes test fisheries. Any rare exemptions permitting harm under a List scenario would likely be reserved for critical science activities.
- Provincially-managed recreational fisheries.
- Federally-managed recreational fisheries. (60-day window closures may need to be extended to 84 days based on the new science document).

### Discussion

- Q/A: Migratory routes were determined from CWT (Coded wire tags) and DNA studies.
  - Temple: We need more data on sample sizes etc if you're talking about closing such a significant corridor.
  - DFO: We did studies in the 1990s and identified their presence along Nitinat and the west coast. There was net fishery sampling, also evidence of interceptions for troll and recreational fishing gear.
- DFO: In 2018, there were no changes to recreational fisheries. If these populations are not listed DFO can look at areas or fisheries of higher or lower risk. But under a List scenario, if we use up all allowable harm for science activities, there would be none left for even limited fishery encounter mortalities.
- Kristianson: What evidence is there of steelhead being caught while halibut fishing?
  - DFO: It relates to the difficulty of determining intent. SFAB could provide input on that for List and Do Not List scenarios.
- Paish: This speaks to the inadequacy of SARA for dealing with far-migrating species. This is leading us straight towards a Do Not List, given the enormous socioeconomic impacts. If listed, will BC Ferries be shut down as well, given the potential to cause harm when crossing the mouth of the Fraser? Why put everyone through this repeatedly if it's so unrealistic?
  - **ACTION:** Agreed that feedback from this portion of the meeting notes, plus any approved steelhead motions to be shared Dec 3 with the DFO SARA team and copied to the SC and Main Board SFAB Chairs as input from the SC SFAB.
- Province of BC: DFO faces very challenging timelines. The Province may make a separate submission to the Minister of Environment and invites SFAB comments to inform that. A Listing scenario removes a lot of options. A Do Not List result gives much more flexibility.
- Kelly: Any management measures should be vetted through a socioeconomic analysis. We never see steelhead in our area (North Island/Port Hardy), and the prospect of rolling closures would have significant economic consequences for small coastal communities like ours, where the local economy and many people rely on these fisheries for their livelihood. Sustainability is important to us but any closures need to be based on solid science, given the serious economic harm posed.
- Q/A: DFO and the Province have been collaborating extensively throughout this process.
  - Province of BC: Going forward, the Province will be developing and submitting input, given that these runs are in trouble. Our scientists think we have a 4-5 year window to reverse the trajectory by dealing with fisheries interceptions. We think that many of the actions needed can be done voluntarily under a Do Not List scenario. Under the latter, we could be more

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strategic. We've also been having discussions with the commercial fisheries regarding the biggest impacts.

- Temple: We hold DFO accountable for advocating for science-based decisions, given the lack of evidence for steelhead encounters in some of the proposed closures for areas/fisheries..
  - DFO: The management scenarios are intended to give an idea of what we expect would be required, based on our best available current information. Actual measures would be adapted accordingly if we have better data in future. We do know that steelhead migrate both inside and outside Vancouver Island.

Presentation, continued:

- Measures for federally-managed commercial salmon fisheries under 3 scenarios
- Measures for First Nations FSC and treaty fisheries. There could be additional potential measures to protect kelts that migrate back out in the spring.
- Other components of the DFO information package that goes to all Cabinet ministers include information on cultural significance, cost-benefit analysis (in progress) and consultation reports.
- Consultations: Opportunities to provide input by Dec 2.
- Next steps in the process. Information for a decision by Spring 2019 or later. Regardless of the outcome, a regular assessment is scheduled for fall 2019.

### **Discussion**

- Kristianson: I sympathize with the challenges of this process and the difficult position this places DFO in. The research document identifies pinniped predation as a significant factor that could be addressed, so I hope that DFO will look at this issue and the opportunity it presents to save these populations (and others).

## **DFO Update: White Sturgeon SARA Listing**

*Pippa Shephard, DFO*

DFO's presentation covered the following key points (See PowerPoint for details):

- Overview of population, conservation issues and listing process.
- Exceptions and exemptions: DFO welcomes any additional data/input on allowable harm to inform the DFO information package to Cabinet.
- Provincially-managed recreational catch and release fishery for White Sturgeon.
- 3 scenarios: Do Not List and List Scenarios with broad/limited scope for exceptions and exemptions.
- DFO is currently working to finalize management scenarios (also welcome input on those by December 15).
- Cost-benefit analysis: Lodges, anglers and guides can request a workbook from DFO to submit input from the Cost Benefit Analysis by January 15.
- Next steps include doing this again for the lower Fraser.

- DFO SARA contacts for input.

## **DFO Update: Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs)**

*Amy Mar, DFO*

DFO's update on RCAs (Rockfish Conservation Areas) covered the following (See PowerPoint for details):

- Background: Rockfish biology, conservation concerns, context of Canada's marine protected area commitments.
- Objectives for review of current RCAs.
- Activities currently permitted within RCAs.
- Risk analysis underway to evaluate human activities (qualitative). SFAB reps attending December 2018 workshop.

### **Discussion**

- Gallaugher: Allowing mid-water commercial groundfish trawl in RCAs poses a risk to rockfish.
- Q/A: DFO does not have a budget to assess biomass within and around these areas.
  - DFO: We acknowledge that the lack of a systematic monitoring program is a gap.
  - Garrett: DFO should consider partnering with the live rockfish commercial fisheries to collect data.
- Kelly: What have we learned in 20 years about the effectiveness of rockfish and specific design elements (location, size, management, etc.)? Without this, the current exercise seems premature. We did some local sampling with First Nations and this was one of the only such studies done. Mid-water trawl certainly impacts rockfish. We also need to consider ecosystem effects, e.g. impacts of the herring fishery.

Presentation, continued:

- Boundary/location re-evaluation; assessment of ecological attributes, appropriate size, siting and minimum size criteria.
- Determining appropriate consultation and engagement also part of the current process.

### **Discussion**

- Scanlan: Socioeconomic considerations were important in the original process, but it looks like the goalposts are shifting now.
  - DFO: Goalposts have not been set; that's part of this process.
- Kelly: Without biomass assessment, we can't answer the key questions. We need to also consider the negative effects of creating larger RCAs, such as concentrating harvest in remaining areas to levels that are not sustainable. You can't close more and more areas and expect to maintain a viable fishery.

Presentation, continued:

- Phase 1 of engagement focussed on Northern Shelf Bioregion. (Marine area protection targets deadline is 2020).

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- Potential management outcomes: Potential boundary adjustments, with possibly 2 types of RCAs, increased recognition of First Nations rights and more collaborative management.
- Discussion questions, measures to improve effectiveness, evaluation measures, priority areas and how to engage and inform SFAB in the process.

### **Discussion**

- Kristianson: Local anglers were extensively involved in the original process and it's important to involve them at that level in the current process. It's also important to ensure that RCAs qualify as contributing to Canada's marine protection targets.
- Ashcroft: BC has already protected 28% of its coastal waters before the current initiatives.
- Q/A: RCAs are intended to protect the current 5 rockfish species: Copper, China, Tiger, Quill and Yelloweye are the 5 species.
- Scanlan: If DFO provides goalposts and data, we can come up with good suggestions to achieve the goals while protecting fisheries, but I'm troubled by the lack of data.
- Q/A: Staff expects DFO to come up with proposed maps and consult on those.
- Q/A: Enforcement/compliance issues are part of the scope.

## **DFO Update: SoG & Howe Sound Glass Sponge Reefs**

*Amy Mar, DFO*

DFO presentation covered the following key points (See PowerPoint for details)::

- Background: Importance of these reefs, their unique nature and important ecological role.
- Conservation initiative, phase 1(9 reefs initially identified).
- Phase 2: Additional reefs identified; subsequent surveys identified all major reefs in SoG.
- Maps of important recreational fishing areas in Howe Sound.
- High and low risk fishery activities.
- Proposed mitigation measures: protection from bottom fishing activities; risks posed by salmon fishing gear hitting shallower reefs in Howe Sound.

### **Discussion**

- Kristianson: Disagree that we've found all of them (they are not rare). They clearly have an important ecosystem function (e.g. prawns). SFAB will develop a motion that tries to address risks while protecting fisheries for Main Board approval in early February.
- Milligan: We can expect to find more reefs in future in shallow inlets, so it's important for DFO to develop an overall policy that protects them while allowing recreational fisheries to survive as well.
- Scanlan: Is there evidence of fishing activity destroying reefs?
  - DFO: There is evidence of some damage.
  - Kristianson: Kristianson: Including from downrigger lines cutting at an angle across the reef.
- DFO: DFO invites further questions and requests to share information with local committees.

## **SFAB Update: Southern Resident Killer Whales**

*Martin Paish, SFAB*

Update covered the following key points:

- Review of background and developments to date.
  - Discussion of proposed closed areas early in 2018.
  - Implementation of finfish closures.
  - Extended distance for vessels.
- Proposed critical habitat extension (includes Swiftsure Bank); consultations & concerns about lack of data supporting the proposals.
- Lobbying by WCVI and other fishery interests for solutions that help whales recover while protecting important economic activity.
  - Solutions include looking at more strategic ways to ensure access to prey (accessibility) and chinook predator control (importance of approaching that option strategically).
- US management as a model and aligning with that. More focus on accessibility vs availability of prey, with proposed measures such as a 400-metre bubble to reduce physical and acoustic disturbance instead of large area finfish closures.
- We need SRKW to recover and that means changing boating culture to emphasize avoidance for everyone on the water. That means not considering them as some form of tourist attraction.
- The importance of clearly defining recovery targets, objectives of measures like fishery closures and more clarity on next steps in this process.

### **Discussion**

- Kristianson: Importance of addressing pinniped control
  - Paish: Re links between SRKW problems, chinook declines and symptoms of a bigger problem. There is concern about DFO adding the SRKW label to measures that don't aid SRKW recovery and which is seen as being disingenuous.
- An analysis of errors in the SRKW paper will be posted shortly to the West Coast Fishing Guides Association website.

**ACTION:** Martin Paish SRKW presentation to be shared with SFAB members.

**MOTION SC-01-02-18:** Whereas research has shown that chum salmon are the second most important diet item for Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) after chinook salmon and Whereas measures have been implemented to lower the recreational fishery harvest of chinook in some parts of the southern BC coast to provide more of these preferred prey for SRKW's and Whereas returns of chum salmon to rivers along the southeast Vancouver Island (SEVI) shoreline have consistently exceeded escapement targets in the last decade triggering commercial fisheries for them in adjacent marine areas "until further notice" and Whereas SEVI is well within the usual geographic range of SRKW's in the late summer and fall period and

Whereas this commercial fishing activity will likely dissuade the presence of SRKW's in these areas by reducing chum abundance and creating noise and disturbance in the water

Therefore be it resolved that the South Coast SFAB request

- a. That DFO explain how allowing terminal area commercial chum fisheries in SEVI is consistent with the forage area constraints imposed in 2018 on the recreational fishery and
- b. Advise DFO to not allow in future years commercial fisheries for chum salmon surplus to escapement on SEVI rivers until such time as a positive population trend for SRKW's has been realized.

Moved: Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

## **Nominations for SC Chair.**

The chair called for nominations for the position of SC SFAB chair and the following nominees were identified:

- Mike Kelly
- George Bates

*Day 1 adjourned at 4:55 pm*

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*Day 2 reconvened at 8:00 am*

## **Day 2: SC Elections**

SC SFAB members voted to elect Mike Kelly as SC Chair and George Bates as Vice Chair, then led a round of applause commending Jon Pew for his contribution as outgoing SC chair.

Eleven eligible candidates stood for the SC Group of Seven positions, with the results as follow, in order of the number of votes received:

1. Bob Gallagher
2. Pat Ahearn
3. Ryan Chamberland
4. Sandy MacDonald
5. Jon Pew
6. Josh Temple
7. Deryk Krefting
8. Dan Pollard
9. Jean Rowe

## **Discussion: SFAB Process Issues**

**Group of Seven:** The election process included a brief discussion to clarify terms of reference, eligible candidates and reduced representation in the previous 2016 election round due to DFO budget challenges at the time. Rowe urged that SFAB hold DFO accountable to honouring the terms of reference in future.

**Observers:** Members discussed appropriate guidelines for the role of observers at SFAB and subcommittee meetings. Kristianson noted all meetings are open to the public, and meeting chairs have discretion to permit observers to contribute to discussion (observers may not vote).

**Role of Chinook Coho WG:** Explanation of role and open participation for local committee chairs in this ad hoc committee. In the past it has focussed on SC issues, though issues are becoming more complex. The Chair is elected by the Main Board.

**Victoria Local Committee Elections:** Kristianson provided an update on Victoria's local committee, which was forced to reconvene the fall meeting to elect a new local committee chair, following complaints that proper notice was not provided of the planned election.

## **Motions from the floor**

*Proposed Motion: Whereas certain Southern BC Chinook stocks are at low abundance levels;*

*And whereas the federal government's Species At Risk Act action plan identifies increasing the availability of large adult Chinook salmon for endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales;*

*And whereas low Chinook abundance results in reduces fishing opportunity for First Nations, commercial harvesters and the public;*

*And whereas strategically enhancing Chinook and utilizing strategic enhancement strategies*

*Whereas out-planting juvenile Chinook in pens prior to release increases juvenile to adult survival rates between 1.5 and 5 percent;*

*And whereas penning Chinook prior to release*

*Therefore be it resolved that the SFAB request DFO support the development of multiple community-based net pen out-planting projects to markedly increase adult Chinook abundance for the benefit of SRKW and all Canadians.*

*Moved: Chris Bos; Seconded: Martin Paish; motion referred to Victoria committee for discussion and advice.*

### **Discussion**

- Paish: We all want strategic enhancement initiatives to support chinook, but there are outstanding questions about this program before we can support it.
  - Chamberland: As a project volunteer, I also have transparency concerns.
  - Q/A: This motion was not passed by the Victoria committee.

**MOTION:** To table the proposed chinook net pen motion.

Moved: Chuck Ashcroft; Seconded: George Bates; passed.

### **Discussion**

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- Garrett: There needs to be more transparency in DFO's management and allocation of resources to fulfill its management responsibilities.

**MOTION:** To un-table the chinook net pen motion and refer it to the Victoria committee for advice.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: George Bates; passed.

**MOTION SC-02-02-18:** Whereas the Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the right of Tla-o-qui-aht governance and enable the stewards of Tla-o-qui-aht hahuuli (traditional territory) to protect, manage, and improve the ecological, cultural, and economic vitality of the region for all in accordance with the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks vision; and

Whereas the recreational fishery in areas 123, 124 and 24 often take place within Tla-o-qui-aht hahuuli; and

Whereas the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Park guidelines and voluntary fee structure for 2019 come into effect beginning on January 1st, 2019;

Therefore, be it resolved that the SFAB requests that DFO arrange a meeting prior to January 1st, 2019 between SFAB representatives and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to discuss the resource management protocol, accessibility to waters, and enforcement within the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Park territory.

Moved: Josh Temple; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

### **Discussion**

- Clarification that intent of motion is to request a meeting with DFO only to seek clarification on this issue and assurance that recreational fishing access rights are protected.
- Discussion of the broader context of First Nations asserting their rights to management and governance on unceded traditional territories in BC.

## **SFAB Halibut Update**

Paish gave a brief update, noting the SFAB Halibut Committee is negotiating a provision for 10% over/under carryover of the year's quota for the following year, similar to the commercial fishery. For 2018, there was an 80,000 pound underage that SFAB is requesting be added to the 2019 recreational allocation. The committee's recommended management approach has been precautionary, given reduced harvest allocations, to avoid the risk of in-season recreational fishing closures, which was identified as a top priority. Actual catch on average for the past 6 years has represented 92-93% of TAC. The Halibut Committee has also sought local feedback on management options and priorities for 2019 management. It will be important to have good data from sources like the iARC (national internet survey sample sent to 8,000 licence holders) on the expected impact of different measures.

Kristianson and Ashcroft added that no increase in recreational halibut TAC (Total Allowable Catch) is expected for 2019.

### **Discussion**

- Q/A: SFAB hopes to get the iARC data in time to guide decisions on 2019 management.
- Discussion re need for data and discussion of higher mortality rates attached to this fishery.
- Ashcroft summarized the responses from some local committees on recommended management for 2019.

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- Noted that the Halibut discussion document did not reach the BCI, UFV and LFV committee meetings.
- Paish: Recommended that SFAB's Catch Monitoring WG be invited to participate in designing iARC survey questions to ensure that relevant data is collected in future.
- Discussion: Re appropriate way to provide SC advice on 2019 halibut management.

**MOTION SC-03-02-18:** That the SC SFAB urges DFO to provide an analysis of the iARC halibut data to the Halibut Committee by December 15.

Moved: Martin Paish; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed.

**MOTION SC-04-02-18:** Whereas the local SC committees have provided substantial feedback to the SC SFAB on halibut management options for 2019; and that this feedback indicates that the majority prefer a scenario that would see limits of 1/1 in order to allow anglers the opportunity to maintain the largest halibut possible;

Therefore be it resolved that the Halibut Working Group examine options that would support an outcome of 1/1 with the largest slot size possible.

Moved: Mike Kelly; Seconded: Ted Brookman; passed unanimously

### **Discussion**

- Participants discussed the degree of support for largest fish possible vs. shorter season and a friendly amendment was accepted to remove reference to a shorter season.

## **Local Committee Reports**

### **Upper Fraser Valley**

Local report presented by Chair Dan Pollard and approved as presented. One local motion was defeated:

*UF SFAC 2018-03: Motion to support the letter written by SCWA to be sent to DFO and the SC SFAB to be included and supported by UF SFAC. Made by Craig and seconded by Dan. Passed with all in favour.*

*Moved: Dan Pollard; Seconded: Ted Brookman; defeated*

### **Discussion**

- Several concerns were raised regarding points in the referenced letter that conflict with SFAB's principles and existing settled law.
  - Noted that had the motion focussed more narrowly on what is a legitimate problem, it would likely have been broadly supported. Notwithstanding the defeated motion, SC SFAB members support the committee's efforts.

**MOTION SC-05-02-18:** That SFAB supports efforts to establish a conservation or production hatchery in the Upper Fraser Region (e.g. Willow River) to restore sustainability and provide an indicator stock for the Upper Fraser River 5-2 chinook.

Moved: Dan Pollard; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed.

## **GFSF WG Update**

Ashcroft reported on other groundfish and shellfish issues, including:

**Rockfish**

Management/conservation issues, including source of rockfish release mortality estimates; concern that modification of angler behaviour (avoidance) is not being recognized; species identification challenges; and concerns that XRQ mortalities are being charged against recreational fishery allocations.

**Herring:**

Fishery management reference points under the Sustainable Fisheries Framework; questions about what ecosystem-based management means for herring.

- **Discussion:** Ecosystem-based management, the need to account for the impacts of pinniped predation and accounting models used in East Coast fisheries.

**Clams:**

DFO proposes management changes, including a new minimum size limit and reducing daily/possession limits by 33%.

- **Discussion:** Opposition to reduced daily catch/possession limits and concern that any recreational reductions should be matched by commercial reductions
- Need to discuss ways to manage hotspots with intense recreational activity (e.g. bus tours), including the need for enhanced monitoring/enforcement.
- Clarification of federal and provincial-managed commercial fisheries.

**MOTION SC-06-02-18:** To accept the proposed differential size limit for recreational clam harvest and reject the proposed reduction in daily catch/possession limits.  
Moved: John Falavolito; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed on majority (4 against)

**Oysters:**

Proposed management changes include reduced catch/possession limits.

**Discussion:**

Opposition to reducing limits without evidence and proposal to adopt the Area 14 SFAC's oyster motion as reflecting SFAB concerns:

**MOTION SC-A14 2018-05:** Whereas: the Department has not undertaken Bed Biomass surveys to the extent that was mandated when the management of this fishery was turned over to the department in 2012; and  
Whereas: the department has not moved forward with Specific Oyster First Nations FSC – Recreation Harvest Reserves as requested by the SFAB;  
Therefore Area 14 SFAC moves that the department does not continue their current direction in proposing reduced daily/possession limits for oysters.  
Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Martin Paish; passed.

**MOTION SC-07-02-18:** That SFAB recommends eliminating the volume limit for recreational oyster harvesting.  
Moved: Chuck Ashcroft; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed.

**Crab:**

Proposed management changes include mandating escape rings for 2019 and moving to larger size escape rings in 2019. DFO also proposes to limit night-time trap hauling for certain areas.

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**MOTION SC-08-02-18:** To accept DFO's recommendation for proposed ring size change for crab traps.

Moved: Chuck Ashcroft; Seconded: John Falavolito; passed.

**MOTION SC-09-02-18:** To accept DFO's recommendation to ban night-time trap hauling for the recommended areas.

Moved: Gerry Kristianson; Chuck Ashcroft; passed.

### **Discussion**

- Rafferty: Poaching has also been documented in Area 15, so that should be included in the restrictions.
- Kristianson: Question why DFO is not prepared to respond at this meeting as requested in the Oct 15 letter from MP Goldsmith Jones to DFO?

**MOTION: SC-10-02-18:** The SC SFAB be advised why DFO declined to respond at this meeting to the request from MP Goldsmith Jones in her October 15 letter to the Minister.

Moved: Gerry Kristianson; Seconded: Jean Rowe; passed unanimously.

- Clapton: The concern re DFO's failure to address/respond to this echoes broader concerns about DFO's failure to respond to SFAB motions in general.

### **Prawn:**

Management update included questions about a appropriate process to discuss DFO's proposed reduced catch limit.

### **Discussion**

- Firm opposition was expressed to the proposed catch reduction.
  - DFO noted that further discussion is expected with SFAB regarding proposed changes.
  - Other options include micro-managing high-use areas, trap limits (DFO feels the latter would be a more effective way to restrict harvest) and/or an annual limit for prawns, which has also been proposed.

Proposed that SC adopt the Area 14 SFAC prawn motion as reflecting the concerns about proposed management changes:

**MOTION SC-A14-2018-06:** Whereas: Other than recreational access; currently no other sectors are managed by piece count, daily or annual; and

Whereas: Indications are Prawn biomass seemingly, is starting to improve, again showing the variability in the biomass; and

Whereas: The SFAB has passed through a motion recommending that an annual limit of 4,000 prawns be implemented; And

Whereas: The Department has implemented the recommendation from the SFAB to mandate release of Berried Prawns,

Therefore Area 14 SFAC moves that DFO does not reduce the daily/possession limits for prawn from the current 200/400 daily/possession limits to 100/200.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Chuck Ashcroft; passed.

## SFAB Update: Regulations Review

Ted Brookman provided a brief update, thanking DFO staff for their excellent work to advance regulation changes to support selective fishing. DFO also proposes to compile a list of SFAB motions proposing regulation changes.

- DFO expects public consultation to begin shortly on proposed changes.
- Discussion of proposed leader length changes

**MOTION SC-11-02-18:** Whereas DFO has been negligent to uphold their commitment IAW the SFAB TOR; and

Whereas: Contained in the SFAB TOR under accountability: "The Department is accountable to participants for explaining how their advice/input was used and why and how decisions were taken."; and

Whereas: Under Operational Procedures in the SFAB TOR: "DFO will provide prior to each meeting, reports on the disposition of previous advice & recommendations & what if any action has been taken by the respective govt agencies";

Therefore be it resolved commenting immediately, DFO uphold their commitment & obligation IAW the SFAB TOR and provide the SFAB by 1 Jan 2019 a list of all outstanding motions/actions brought forward by the SFAB from 1 Jan. 2016 to date.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Rod Clapton; passed

## Local Committee Reports

### Mid Fraser Okanagan

Local report and 2 motions presented by Chair Sandy MacDonald and approved as presented:

**MOTION SC-MFTO-01-02-18:** That DFO implement a fishery management approach to rebuild Fraser Chinook salmon stocks that incorporate the following elements:

1. Provide adequate levels of protection for weak Fraser River Chinook stocks to ensure that a sufficient level of spawning biomass is available for these stocks during periods of poor ocean food production (i.e., poor 'pasturing' conditions), which should result in positive rebuilding trends for these depressed stocks when ocean 'pasturing' conditions improve;
2. Manage fisheries directed on stronger Fraser River Chinook salmon stocks in a manner that minimizes incidental impact on the weaker components of the Fraser River Chinook stock aggregate and is consistent with the salmon allocation policy;
3. Implement a management initiative to undertake a scientifically designed program to effectively cull pinnipeds (e.g., Harbour seals) to a level that will not impede stock rebuilding efforts geared towards weak Fraser River Chinook stocks;
4. Using the best scientific information available, determine if weak Fraser River Chinook stocks (e.g., Clearwater River) can be increased in abundance through implementation of a properly designed hatchery enhancement program, recognizing that existing ocean 'pasturing' conditions may be a limiting factor at this time.

**MOTION SC-MFTO-02-02-18:** A MOTION WHICH REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS AND THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IMPLEMENT A VARIATION ORDER STATING THAT ANY ONCORHYNCHUS NERKA OVER 30cm BE DEEMED A SOCKEYE SALMON AND UNDER 30cm BE DEEMED A KOKANEE SALMON

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**OVERVIEW:** It is believed that Sockeye salmon are being deliberately targeted and retained by recreational fishermen in Skaha Lake under the auspices of catching and retaining large Kokanee salmon. A similar situation occurred in Osoyoos Lake a few years ago resulting in a provincial regulation being enacted which stated any Kokanee caught over 30 cm in size would be deemed to be a Sockeye. Our SFAC recommended that a similar regulation be enacted in the waters of Skaha Lake:

Moved that the Province and the DFO initiate a fishery Variation Order stating that any *Oncorhynchus nerka* caught over 30 cm in size in Skaha Lake must be released.

Moved: Sandy MacDonald; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed

### **Upper Fraser SFAC**

Local report and 3 motions presented by Chair Gerry Dewar and approved with friendly amendment to motion #1.

**MOTION SC-UFV-2018-11-13-1:** (As amended) Whereas Fraser Interior Steelhead and Coho stocks are at point of extreme conservation concern;

And whereas; selective fishing methods have proven effective in reducing by-catch & mortality of these species;

Therefore, be it resolved that DFO initiate further consultation with all sectors (Recreational, First Nations, Commercial) to investigate and implement for the 2019 season, strictly selective terminal fishing methodology during specific times where Interior Fraser Steelhead and Coho are known to be present in the Fraser River.

**MOTION SC-UFV-2018-11-13-2:** Whereas there is strong scientific evidence that mortality of acoustically tagged Thompson steelhead smolts suggests a large proportion of mortality is occurring within inshore areas and

Whereas diet and energetic studies indicate that piniped predation specifically harbour seals, is perhaps a dominant cause for the decline in productivity of Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead and Whereas scientific studies have determined that harbour seal predation of out-migrant smolts is confined to a small number of specific animals and locations and

Whereas there is no scientific study to support the efficacy of a broad area wide cull or harvest. Be it resolved that the SFAB recommends that DFO investigate and implement a science based selective harvest of problem harbour seals which have been identified as habituated to out-migrant smolt predation as soon as reasonably possible.

**MOTION SC-UFV-2018-11-13-3:** Whereas there are concerns by recreational fishers regarding the obligation of DFO to ensure opportunities for today and the future

Therefore, be it resolved that DFO reaffirm its commitment to recreational fishing community as presented in the document.

And to have DFO reaffirm its commitment to the GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Moved: Gerry Dewar; Seconded: Rod Clapton; passed.

### **Lower Fraser Valley**

Local report and motion presented by Laurie Milligan were approved as presented.

**MOTION SC-LFV-2018-11-15-1:** Whereas, since 1987 there has been the discovery of Glass Sponge Reefs that were once thought to be extinct along the BC Coast and the expectation is for more of these reefs to be located in the future, and  
Whereas the Recreational Fishery wants to ensure the Health and Sustainability of these Reefs while maintaining the maximum opportunity to conduct fishing in these Areas, and  
Whereas the DFO July 26th Workshop has suggested that Recreational fishing with downriggers could be prohibited in these Areas, and  
Whereas the Risk Assessment on the use of Downriggers showed they scored between a low risk(6) that requires no management action be taken to a moderate(8) that may require some management action, and  
Whereas Recreational fishers can avoid contact with the bottom by setting their gear at an appropriate level that will not contact bottom, and  
Whereas we are now in a world that a Recreational Angler can download an app that will allow them to use a smartphone to show their location and the location of these Reefs,  
Therefore be it resolved that DFO along with Recreational Fishing Partners design an education program that promotes angler use and best practices when using a downrigger inside the 150 meter buffer zone around these Reefs. The best practice would be to not have your downrigger set to a depth greater than 80% of the water column they are fishing in. It would also encourage any angler that would be fishing in an Area that has known Reef's to have an appropriate GPS device that can show their current location and the location of these reefs.  
Moved: Laurie Milligan; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

### **Squamish Lillooett**

Local report and motion presented on behalf of the local committee by DFO and approved with a friendly amendment to clarify the motion is about anglers collecting data.

**MOTION SC-SQ-LILL-2018-11-08-1:** (As amended) Whereas there are on-going concerns about the absence of stock assessment programs in the Squamish watershed,  
Therefore be it resolved that **anglers** collect chum genetic data to help inform stock assessment information in the Johnstone Straits mixed-stock chum fisheries.  
Moved: Gerry Kristianson; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

### **Victoria**

Local Chair Ryan Chamberland presented 3 meeting reports and motions, which were addressed as follows:

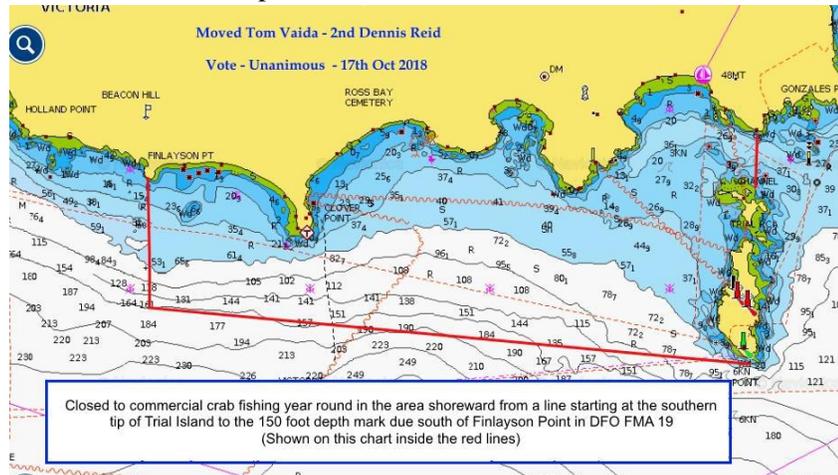
#### Minutes of October meeting

**MOTION:** To refer the 4 Victoria motions from the October 2018 meeting to the GFSF WG for further discussion and clarification.

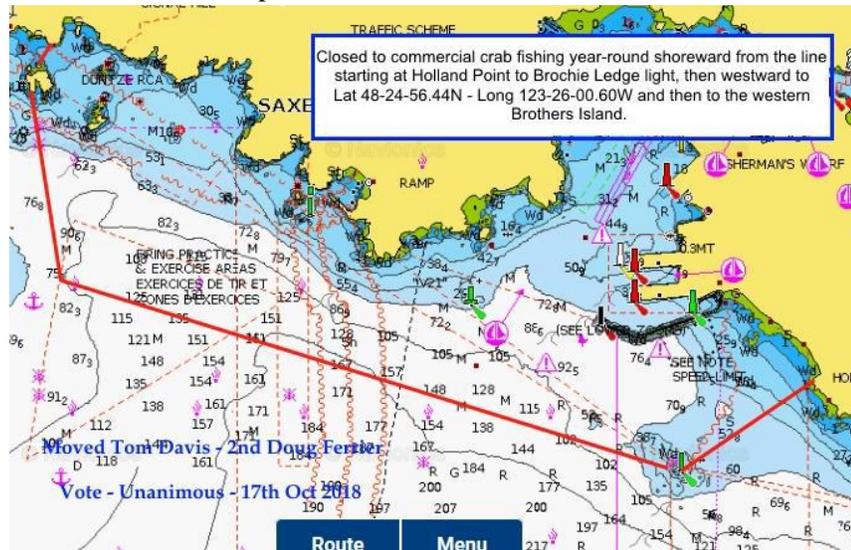
**Motion – 1 -** DFO move urgently to discuss with Transport Canada the issues of safety and navigation due to increased relocation of commercial crab fishing gear to the area off Victoria. Moved – Gerry Kristianson – 2nd Tom Cole – Vote – Unanimous

**Motion – 2** - The SFAB continue to press for size differential to allow for access to legal crab for the recreational fishery - Moved by Tom Davis - 2nd by Rick Preston - Vote Unanimous.

**Motion – 3** – See map below



**Motion – 4** – See map below



Moved: Chuck Ashcroft; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed

- **Discussion:** SFAB members advised that all committee motions should include a clear rationale and sufficient detail to permit others outside the local area to understand the context, implications and reasons to support the proposed action.

Minutes of Nov 7 meeting:

One motion was defeated:

**Motion – 2 - Salmon Fishing Restrictions:** *Be it resolved that there are no further restrictions placed upon the public recreational fishery for salmon in FMAs 19 and 20 plus the Lower Gulf Islands.*

*Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded Marilyn Scanlan; defeated.*

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- **Discussion:** Scanlan noted that SFAB could not agree to such a blanket restriction for one area or coastwide, without knowing what future needs and measures might be required to manage fisheries responsibly and ensure the best long-term opportunities for all anglers.

The following motions were approved following discussion and amendment:

**MOTION SC-VIC-03-02-18– Resubmission of 2018 SFAB SRKW Management Proposal:**

(As amended) Whereas in early 2018 DFO proposed a suite of fisheries management measures related to SRKW including 4 refuge areas;

Whereas the SFAB consulted broadly with the recreational fishing community and submitted a reasonable and viable proposal response to DFO;

Whereas DFO opted to implement fisheries management disregarding the wishes of the SFAB and put in place fisheries restrictions beyond their initial proposal that reduced opportunity to anglers in FMAs 18 and 20;

Whereas DFO has unfairly stopped recreational halibut fishing on anchor in the SRKW refuge areas;

Whereas DFO has not adopted the recommendation for an “avoidance” bubble around SRKW as a viable alternative to closed to finfish fishing refuge areas;

Therefore be it resolved that the SFAB resubmit their original response proposal and strongly urge DFO to adopt its recommendations going forward.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

**MOTION SC-VIC-04-02-18:** (As amended): Be it resolved that all non-research vessels stay at least 400 metres away from SRKW

Moved: Ryan Chamberlain; Seconded: Martin Paish; passed

**MOTION SC-VIC-05-02-18 - Halibut Fishing:** (As amended) Be it resolved that DFO permit recreational Halibut fishing in all areas closed for SRKW critical habitat and protection of Chinook.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded Marilyn Scanlan; passed.

The Nov. 7 Victoria meeting report and remaining 2 Nov. 7 motions approved as presented:

**MOTION SC-VIC-01-02-18 - Proposed New Critical Habitat Presentation:** Be it resolved that the same DFO staff give the same presentation as provided recently in Port Alberni about extending SRKW critical habitat at the next SFAB South Coast meeting.

**MOTION SC-VIC-06-02-18 – Jack Brooks Hatchery:** Be it resolved that DFO be asked to provide support for the new Jack Brooks Hatchery.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded; Gerry Kristianson; passed.

### November meeting #2

**MOTION:** To refer Victoria halibut motion to the Halibut Committee for further discussion:

**Victoria Motion 1: Halibut Guidance:** Whereas halibut under the current recreational fishing size limits in Area 18, 19 and 20 are difficult to catch as halibut of that size are generally not abundant in the area;

Whereas the sheltered waters around South Vancouver Island permit halibut fishing on anchor throughout the year;

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Therefore be it resolved that the Victoria and Area SFAB Committee support a recreational halibut fishing season of February 1 to December 31 with a 1 per day and 1 in possession catch limit and the largest fish possible. The annual possession limit should remain at 6.

Moved: Martin Paish; Seconded: Marilyn Scanlan; passed

Minutes of 2nd Victoria November meeting and steelhead motion approved, as amended.

**MOTION SC-VIC-02-03-18: SARA Rolling Closures regarding Chilcotin and Thompson River Steelhead** (As amended) Whereas Fraser Interior Steelhead stocks are at point of extreme conservation concern, and:

Whereas; selective fishing methods have proven effective in reducing by-catch and mortality of these species, and;

Whereas; steelhead are not documented to be encountered in recreational salmon and halibut fisheries whatsoever in marine areas, therefore presenting extremely limited risk to steelhead recovery;

Therefore, be it resolved that should Thompson – Chilcotin Steelhead become listed under SARA, DFO initiate further consultation with SFAB to investigate and implement recreational fishery restrictions limited to strictly specific times and locations where Interior Fraser Steelhead are known to be intercepted in recreational fisheries in marine approach areas.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded: Marilyn Scanlan; passed

### **Cowichan/Port Renfrew**

Local report and 2 motions presented by Chair Bob Gallagher and approved as presented:

**MOTION SC-PRC-01-02-18 - Cowichan area 18 Chinook motion Nov. 7/18:** Whereas: Cowichan returns have been well above 6500 adult Chinook for the last 4 years.

Whereas: Chinook stocks of concern [Fraser] are not in the traditional recreational fishing area of 18-7

Whereas: Consultation with DFO enforcement, DFO stock assessment and local SFAC committee take place to determine boundaries in area 18-7

Whereas: This would provide a rec fishery in the near terminal area for local Cowichan area residents after August 1st

Be it resolved: The sub area of 18-7 or part of be opened all year for a retention of 1 Chinook per day and a possession limit of 2

**MOTION SC-PRC-02-02-18: Port Renfrew area 20 motion:** Whereas: In area 20-1 the 20 day fishing closure [off shore] from .8 mile west of Owen pt., out 1/2 mile and east to the Bell buoy does little to protect San Juan Chinook and more to protect U. S. Chinook.

Whereas: San Juan Chinook returns are well above the double base rate years set by the Pacific Salmon Commission. Escapement was 606 Chinook from 1979-1982 in the San Juan.

Whereas: Fishing effort will be spread out over a larger area and will give small boaters a safe place to fish without having to travel further out in open waters off shore.

Whereas: Coded wire tag data [2004] indicated more tags were from U. S. Chinook than Canadian Chinook cwts

Whereas: This fin fish closure was only applied to the recreational sector

Whereas: The San Juan community hatchery is operating at 1/3 capacity for Chinook

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Whereas: DFO has terminated the Port Renfrew Chinook net pen project, operated by the recreation sector, as no longer needed for enhancement of local San Juan Chinook.

Be it resolved: The conservation measure of the fin fish closure from the Bell buoy to .8 mile west of Owen pt. be removed for 2019. The SFAC work with stock assessment in providing experienced rec fish volunteers in this area to collect Chinook stock samples from August 15th to Sept. 5/19

Moved: Bob Gallagher; Seconded: Martin Paish; passed.

### Nanaimo

Local report and motions presented by Chair Deryk Krefting and approved with an amendment to motion #2:

**MOTION SC-NAN-2018-10-25-1:** Whereas, the anglers of the Nanaimo river are not able to fish for hatchery Coho salmon in the fall except with a limited fishery on Nov.1st, and;

Whereas, the other fisheries in tidal areas have access to the hatchery coho salmon prior to Nov. 1st while the recreational in-river fishery does not;

Therefore, be it resolved that the SFAB recommends DFO open the fall fishery on the Nanaimo River between the bridge and fire hall pool on Oct.15th based on abundance from the hatchery.

**MOTION SC-NANAIMO-2018-10-25-2:** (As Amended) Whereas, the anglers of the Nanaimo river are not able to fish for Chum salmon in the fall except with a limited fishery on Nov.1st, and;

Whereas, the commercial and recreational fisheries in tidal areas have access to the chum prior to **Oct 15** while the recreational in-river fishery does not;

Therefore, be it resolved that the SFAB recommends DFO to open the fall fishery for chum salmon on the Nanaimo River between the bridge and fire hall pool based on abundance from the hatchery.

Moved: Deryk Krefting; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

### Area 14

Local report and remaining 3 motions presented by Chair Jean Rowe and addressed as follows:

**MOTION:** To refer the Area 14 coho motion to the Chinook Coho WG:

**Area 14 2018-04 Coho:** Whereas We continue to be concerned at how the Department manages our South Coast Coho stocks and in particular the Recreational fishery in the SOG. For over 23 years the SOG has been managed under a “precautionary approach” to minimize fishing impacts on IFR Coho and other SOG Coho stocks.

And whereas A large portion of hatchery Coho and their offspring from Hatchery Rivers are not marked/clipped. Therefore including the unmarked Hatchery Coho as wild Coho is inappropriate and not a true representation of wild Coho.

And whereas In 2018 DFO increased the ER for IFR Coho from 3% to a range of 3-5%

And whereas Most, if not all, SC areas with the exception of the SoG areas 13 to 17 have some form of wild Coho retention.

And whereas The recent DFO research paper “Genetic stock identification of interior Fraser River Coho salmon in marine fisheries in 2014” clearly shows IFR Coho migrate out the SoG and are caught throughout SC waters.

Therefore be it resolved that the Comox SFAC is requesting that the Chinook Coho working Group revisit the current allowable recreational allocation of Coho interceptions to allow for some wild Coho retention in the Northern Portion of the SoG.

And be it further resolved that Coho openings in the Northern Portion of the Strait of Georgia be as follows;

If the IFR Coho ER is set at 3% we request Coho opening of 2 per day hatchery/marked only until Sept 1 then 2 per day one of which maybe unmarked.

If the IFR Coho ER is set at 3-5% we request Coho opening of 2 per day hatchery/marked only until August 1st then 2 per day one of which maybe unmarked.

If the IFR Coho ER is set at 5% or above we request Coho opening of 2 Coho per day June 1st one of which maybe unmarked.

Further be it resolved that The Area 14 SFAC requests that **DFO** provide documented follow up on this motion back to the Area 14 SFAC prior to the deadline for submissions to the 2019 Salmon IFMP.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed.

- **Discussion:** Maynard noted that while he didn't disagree with the information request, it was not feasible as drafted (friendly amendment accepted). It is also SFAB practice that local committees avoid making recommendations that affect other areas.

Remaining 2 Area 14 motions approved following discussion and amendments.

**MOTION SC-A14 2018-02: (As Amended) Chinook Management Motion:** Whereas DFO is using an expansion factor of 28.9 on observed number of CWTs for Area 14 and areas to the north and south have an expansion factor of 4.

And Whereas DFO used an unprecedented one life cycle (4 years) of Chinook returns in the analysis of Harrison River Chinook exploitation rates.

Therefore be it resolved That DFO correct the expansion factor used for Chinook caught in Area 14.

And further be it resolved That DFO explain why only one life cycle (4 years of returns) is being analyzed in developing the trends of Harrison River returns.

Moved Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Jean Rowe; passed.

**MOTION SC-A14-2018-03: Chinook Spot Closure Motion for inclusion into the 2019**

**Salmon IFMP:** (As amended) Whereas The Chinook non-retention areas were created intending to lower the harvest rate on Cowichan River and other SC Chinook stocks. The Cowichan chinook stock has continued its rebuilding trend in recent years and exceeded the spawning escape-ment target (6500 age 3+ fish) in 2016 & 2017.

Therefore be it resolved The Comox Area 14 SFAC recommends the latter half of the timeframe be reopened for each of the Chinook non-retention areas — Sentry Shoal, Kitty Coleman to Little River area and the Lambert Channel Chinook spot closure — to allow for Chinook retention.

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Further be it resolved that should Chinook limits be set at lower than those in 2017 for the SoG and Area 14, the 1 per day that was imposed by DFO in 2018 the Area 14 SFAC requests that the “Spot Closures” be eliminated in 2019.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

### **Campbell River**

Local reports and 2 motions presented by Chair Jeremy Maynard and approved as presented.

**MOTION SC-CRI-01-Fall 2018:** As detailed in previous motions supported through the SFAB process the Campbell River SFAC requests that DFO implement a two-zone construct (a.k.a. “north” and “south”) to better differentiate recreational catch monitoring between these portions of PFMA 13, beginning in 2019.

**MOTION SC-CRI-02-Fall 2018:** Whereas science research has concluded that “exploitation rates of 30% or less are unlikely to result in overexploitation of SOG Coho Salmon populations represented by the Black Creek indicator stock” and  
Whereas the recreational fishery exploitation rate exerted on SOG coho in recent decades is well within this precautionary range and  
Whereas September is outside the time when Interior Fraser coho might be prevalent in Area 13  
Therefore, be it resolved that in Area 13 retention of 1 wild coho per angler per day within the existing daily bag limit of 2 coho per angler per day occur September 1 to December 31, 2019.  
Moved Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Chuck Ashcroft; passed

**ACTION:** DFO to report back on whether inside/outside measures are still under discussion, as per discussion of Campbell River motions.

### **Port Alberni**

Local report and motions presented by Chair Paul Dore and addressed as follows:

**MOTION:** To refer Port Alberni motion #3 to the Halibut Committee and #4 to the Groundfish Committee:

**Port Alberni MOTION-3:** Whereas, there are varying needs and expectations in different areas between different fishers up and down the Coast, and,  
Whereas, the SFAB main board needs direction as to the best all-around plan that fits our needs within the TAC,  
Therefore, our ASFAC recommends a season from March 1st thru October at a limit and possession of 1 and 1 with a maximum length of 124 to 126cm.

**Port Alberni Motion -4:** Whereas; The shellfish section of the DFO notified the recreational sector of a 50% reduction in daily catch for spotted prawns, and a list of other shellfish in a letter rather than through a normal consultation process, and;  
Whereas, there has not been an announcement of conservation concerns for spotted prawns and other shellfish, and;  
Whereas, there has been no management changes to the commercial prawn fleet to reflect a similar reduction so why single out the recreational sector, and;

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Whereas, the Department has not provided supporting data to substantiate their analysis that the recreational catch and effort has substantially increased such that it represents a conservation concern, and;

Whereas, the Department's rationale that the commercial prawn fishery represents a significant economic benefit to Canada and the recreational fishery must be curtailed to protect that value is incorrect based on the Department's own data demonstrating the commercial landed value in 2016 was \$38.1 million compared to the recreational value based on 2010 data showing expenditures attributable to recreational fishing of prawn are estimated at 36.4 million, and growing by 4 to 5% per year.

Be it resolved that the SFAB does not accept or support this 50% reduction in daily catch of prawns and other shellfish as listed the DFO letter. There has not been any scientific data to support a 50% reduction in the daily catch and to have it to be borne solely on the recreational sector.

Moved: Marilyn Scanlan; Seconded: Chuck Ashcroft; passed

**MOTION** to approve the Port Alberni report and motions 1 and 2:

**MOTION SC-PAL-01-02-18 - SRKW:** Whereas, one of the threat pillars impacting Southern Resident Killer Whales is physical and acoustic disturbance, and,

Whereas, another key threat pillar is prey availability, and,

Whereas, there is strong scientific evidence that both threat pillars can be eliminated if all vessels maintain a 400 meter separation from all boating activity, and,

Whereas, the 400 meter bubble is already in place on Canada's East Coast, it makes sense to apply such nationally,

Therefore be it resolved the SFAB advises the Minister that it supports implementation of a 400 m bubble zone for all vessels under 60 gross tonnes that applies when SRKW are present.

**MOTION SC-PAL-02-02-18: Steelhead motion:** Whereas Fraser Interior Steelhead stocks are at point of extreme conservation concern, and;

Whereas; selective fishing methods have proven effective in reducing by-catch & mortality of these species, and;

Whereas; steelhead are not known to be intercepted in recreational salmon and halibut fisheries in marine areas, therefore presenting extremely limited risk to steelhead recovery;

Therefore, be it resolved that should Thompson – Chilcotin Steelhead become listed under SARA, DFO initiate further consultation with all sectors (Recreational, First Nations, Commercial) to investigate and implement recreational and other fishery restrictions limited to strictly specific times and locations where Interior Fraser Steelhead are known to be intercepted in recreational, commercial and FSC fisheries in marine approach areas.

Moved: Paul Dore; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

### **Tofino**

Local report presented by Co-Chair Josh Temple and approved as presented (no motions).

### **Nootka**

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John Falavolito presented the report along with two motions in an addendum, which were approved as presented:

**MOTION SC-NOS-01-02-18 - C&P:** Whereas increased funding is being made available to SC C&P; Therefore be it resolved that more on water patrols be committed to Area 25.

**MOTION SC-NOS-02-02-18 - Coho:** Whereas in 2014 DFO accepted a proposal by Area 25 SFAC to fund an increase in the numbers for Conuma Hatchery clipped coho to 500,000; and Whereas this agreement has been approved to 2024; and Whereas the first returns of this project was in 2018; and Whereas the intent of this coho enhancement has successfully extended the coho fishery in Area 25 salt & fresh water; and Whereas DFO limits for coho in the Conuma terminal area were increased to full limits 4 per day, 8 possession in 2018; and Whereas throughout Area 25 a significant increase in clipped coho has been observed by the creel surveyors & anglers; Therefore be it resolved that the full limits on coho be extended to all of Area 25.

Moved: John Falavolito; Seconded: George Bates; passed

### **North Island**

Local report with 2 motions presented by Laurie Garrett and approved as presented:

**MOTION SC-NISFAC-2018-11-04-1:** Whereas the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is having difficulty differentiating between XRQ and Regular recreational Halibut catch, and that effort in relation to XRQ and associated Bycatch is being attributed to the recreational catch through over flights artificially inflating catch estimates, the North Island Sport Fishing Advisory Committee (NISFAC) motions that anglers not be permitted to fish both XRQ and Recreational licenses concurrently, and that XRQ participants should have to hail in / out for each trip.

**MOTION SC-NISFAC 2018-11-04-2:** Whereas the Pacific Sport Fishing Guidelines do not provide a minimum head off length for salmon as there is for Lingcod, and whereas most anglers prefer to transport their catch as fillets, and whereas removing the head allows anglers to participate in the Salmon head recovery program, be it resolved that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans develop a “head off” minimum length for salmon and publish this in the tidal waters sport fishing guide.

Moved: Laurie Garrett; Seconded; John Falavolito; passed.

### **New Business**

Scanlan noted a discrepancy between exploitation rate reductions discussed at the PST negotiations and those reported recently by DFO, urging that the Executive Committee follow this up.

**MOTION SC-12-02-18:** SFAB to ask DFO to work with the US Coast Guard and Canadian Navy to establish a bubble zone in the Juan de Fuca live firing range to reduce effects of acoustic disturbances related to SRKW. This live firing range is in SRKW critical habitat.

Ryan Chamberland; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed.

## **Organizational Reports**

Written reports submitted in advance and accepted.

DFO proposed that the next fall SC meeting be held a week earlier to facilitate accommodations.

- **Discussion:** Noted that it's important to hold the meeting when DFO has information ready.

*Adjourned: 2:30 pm*

## Summary of Motions, Elections and Action Items

### *Action Items*

- Request that Brad/Felix DFO provide access to DFO's SFAB motions database.
- Agreed that feedback from the SARA steelhead portion of the meeting notes, plus any approved steelhead motions to be shared Dec 3 with the DFO SARA team and copied to the SC and Main Board SFAB Chairs as input from the SC SFAB.
- Martin Paish SRKW presentation to be shared with SFAB members.
- DFO (Brad) to report back on whether inside/outside measures are still under discussion, as per discussion of Campbell River motions.

### *Election results*

#### **SC Chair:**

Mike Kelly

(George Bates - Vice Chair)

#### **SC Group of Seven & alternates**

1. Bob Gallagher
2. Pat Ahearn
3. Ryan Chamberland
4. Sandy MacDonald
5. Jon Pew
6. Josh Temple
7. Deryk Krefting
8. Dan Pollard (alternate)
9. Jean Rowe (alternate)

### *Motions Approved*

#### **Salmon**

**SC-MFTO-02-02-18:** A MOTION WHICH REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS AND THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IMPLEMENT A VARIATION ORDER STATING THAT ANY ONCORHYNCHUS NERKA OVER 30cm BE DEEMED A SOCKEYE SALMON AND UNDER 30cm BE DEEMED A KOKANEE SALMON

OVERVIEW: It is believed that Sockeye salmon are being deliberately targeted and retained by recreational fishermen in Skaha Lake under the auspices of catching and retaining large Kokanee salmon. A similar situation occurred in Osoyoos Lake a few years ago resulting in a provincial regulation being enacted which stated any Kokanee caught over 30 cm in size would be deemed to be a Sockeye. Our SFAC recommended that a similar regulation be enacted in the waters of Skaha Lake:

Moved that the Province and the DFO initiate a fishery Variation Order stating that any *Oncorhynchus nerka* caught over 30 cm in size in Skaha Lake must be released.

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Moved: Sandy MacDonald; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed

**SC-MFTO-01-02-18:** That DFO implement a fishery management approach to rebuild Fraser Chinook salmon stocks that incorporate the following elements:

1. Provide adequate levels of protection for weak Fraser River Chinook stocks to ensure that a sufficient level of spawning biomass is available for these stocks during periods of poor ocean food production (i.e., poor 'pasturing' conditions), which should result in positive rebuilding trends for these depressed stocks when ocean 'pasturing' conditions improve;
2. Manage fisheries directed on stronger Fraser River Chinook salmon stocks in a manner that minimizes incidental impact on the weaker components of the Fraser River Chinook stock aggregate and is consistent with the salmon allocation policy;
3. Implement a management initiative to undertake a scientifically designed program to effectively cull pinnipeds (e.g., Harbour seals) to a level that will not impede stock rebuilding efforts geared towards weak Fraser River Chinook stocks;
4. Using the best scientific information available, determine if weak Fraser River Chinook stocks (e.g., Clearwater River) can be increased in abundance through implementation of a properly designed hatchery enhancement program, recognizing that existing ocean 'pasturing' conditions may be a limiting factor at this time.

Moved: Sandy MacDonald; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed

**SC-PRC-01-02-18 - Cowichan area 18 Chinook motion Nov. 7/18:** Whereas: Cowichan returns have been well above 6500 adult Chinook for the last 4 years.

Whereas: Chinook stocks of concern [Fraser] are not in the traditional recreational fishing area of 18-7

Whereas: Consultation with DFO enforcement, DFO stock assessment and local SFAC committee take place to determine boundaries in area 18-7

Whereas: This would provide a rec fishery in the near terminal area for local Cowichan area residents after August 1st

Be it resolved: The sub area of 18-7 or part of be opened all year for a retention of 1 Chinook per day and a possession limit of 2.

Moved: Bob Gallagher; Seconded: Martin Paish; passed.

**SC-PRC-02-02-18: Port Renfrew area 20 motion:** Whereas: In area 20-1 the 20 day fishing closure [off shore] from .8 mile west of Owen pt., out 1/2 mile and east to the Bell buoy does little to protect San Juan Chinook and more to protect U. S. Chinook.

Whereas: San Juan Chinook returns are well above the double base rate years set by the Pacific Salmon Commission. Escapement was 606 Chinook from 1979-1982 in the San Juan.

Whereas: Fishing effort will be spread out over a larger area and will give small boaters a safe place to fish without having to travel further out in open waters off shore.

Whereas: Coded wire tag data [2004] indicated more tags were from U. S. Chinook than Canadian Chinook cwts

Whereas: This fin fish closure was only applied to the recreational sector

Whereas: The San Juan community hatchery is operating at 1/3 capacity for Chinook

Whereas: DFO has terminated the Port Renfrew Chinook net pen project, operated by the recreation sector, as no longer needed for enhancement of local San Juan Chinook.

Be it resolved: The conservation measure of the fin fish closure from the Bell buoy to .8 mile west of Owen pt. be removed for 2019. The SFAC work with stock assessment in providing experienced rec fish volunteers in this area to collect Chinook stock samples from August 15th to Sept. 5/19

Moved: Bob Gallagher; Seconded: Martin Paish; passed.

**SC-A14 2018-02:** (As Amended) **Chinook Management Motion:** Whereas DFO is using an expansion factor of 28.9 on observed number of CWTs for Area 14 and areas to the north and south have an expansion factor of 4.

And Whereas DFO used an unprecedented one life cycle (4 years) of Chinook returns in the analysis of Harrison River Chinook exploitation rates.

Therefore be it resolved That DFO correct the expansion factor used for Chinook caught in Area 14.

And further be it resolved That DFO explain why only one life cycle (4 years of returns) is being analyzed in developing the trends of Harrison River returns.

Moved Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Jean Rowe; passed.

**MOTION SC-A14-2018-03: Chinook Spot Closure Motion for inclusion into the 2019 Salmon**

**IFMP:** (As amended) Whereas The Chinook non-retention areas were created intending to lower the harvest rate on Cowichan River and other SC Chinook stocks. The Cowichan chinook stock has continued its rebuilding trend in recent years and exceeded the spawning escapement target (6500 age 3+ fish) in 2016 & 2017.

Therefore be it resolved The Comox Area 14 SFAC recommends the latter half of the timeframe be reopened for each of the Chinook non-retention areas — Sentry Shoal, Kitty Coleman to Little River area and the Lambert Channel Chinook spot closure — to allow for Chinook retention.

Further be it resolved that should Chinook limits be set at lower than those in 2017 for the SoG and Area 14, the 1 per day that was imposed by DFO in 2018 the Area 14 SFAC requests that the “Spot Closures” be eliminated in 2019.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

**SC-CRI-02-Fall 2018:** Whereas science research has concluded that “exploitation rates of 30% or less are unlikely to result in overexploitation of SOG Coho Salmon populations represented by the Black Creek indicator stock” and

Whereas the recreational fishery exploitation rate exerted on SOG coho in recent decades is well within this precautionary range and

Whereas September is outside the time when Interior Fraser coho might be prevalent in Area 13

Therefore, be it resolved that in Area 13 retention of 1 wild coho per angler per day within the existing daily bag limit of 2 coho per angler per day occur September 1 to December 31, 2019.

Moved Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Chuck Ashcroft; passed

**SC-NAN-2018-10-25-1:** Whereas, the anglers of the Nanaimo river are not able to fish for hatchery Coho salmon in the fall except with a limited fishery on Nov. 1st, and;

Whereas, the other fisheries in tidal areas have access to the hatchery coho salmon prior to Nov. 1st while the recreational in-river fishery does not;

Therefore, be it resolved that the SFAB recommends DFO open the fall fishery on the Nanaimo River between the bridge and fire hall pool on Oct. 15th based on abundance from the hatchery.

Moved: Deryk Krefting; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

**SC-NANAIMO-2018-10-25-2:** (As Amended) Whereas, the anglers of the Nanaimo river are not able to fish for Chum salmon in the fall except with a limited fishery on Nov. 1st, and;

Whereas, the commercial and recreational fisheries in tidal areas have access to the chum prior to **Oct 15** while the recreational in-river fishery does not;

Therefore, be it resolved that the SFAB recommends DFO to open the fall fishery for chum salmon on the Nanaimo River between the bridge and fire hall pool based on abundance from the hatchery.

Moved: Deryk Krefting; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

**SC-SQ-LILL-2018-11-08-1:** (As amended) Whereas there are on-going concerns about the absence of stock assessment programs in the Squamish watershed,

Therefore be it resolved that **anglers** collect chum genetic data to help inform stock assessment information in the Johnstone Straits mixed-stock chum fisheries.

Moved: Gerry Kristianson; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

**SC-NISFAC 2018-11-04-2:** Whereas the Pacific Sport Fishing Guidelines do not provide a minimum head off length for salmon as there is for Lingcod, and whereas most anglers prefer to transport their catch as fillets, and whereas removing the head allows anglers to participate in the Salmon head recovery program, be it resolved that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans develop a “head off” minimum length for salmon and publish this in the tidal waters sport fishing guide.

Moved: Laurie Garrett; Seconded; John Falavolito; passed.

### **Steelhead**

**SC-PAL-02-02-18: Steelhead motion:** Whereas Fraser Interior Steelhead stocks are at point of extreme conservation concern, and;

Whereas; selective fishing methods have proven effective in reducing by-catch & mortality of these species, and;

Whereas; steelhead are not known to be intercepted in recreational salmon and halibut fisheries in marine areas, therefore presenting extremely limited risk to steelhead recovery;

Therefore, be it resolved that should Thompson – Chilcotin Steelhead become listed under SARA, DFO initiate further consultation with all sectors (Recreational, First Nations, Commercial) to investigate and implement recreational and other fishery restrictions limited to strictly specific times and locations where Interior Fraser Steelhead are known to be intercepted in recreational, commercial and FSC fisheries in marine approach areas.

Moved: Paul Dore; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

**SC-VIC-02-03-18: SARA Rolling Closures regarding Chilcotin and Thompson River Steelhead** (As amended) Whereas Fraser Interior Steelhead stocks are at point of extreme conservation concern, and; Whereas; selective fishing methods have proven effective in reducing by-catch and mortality of these species, and;

Whereas; steelhead are not documented to be encountered in recreational salmon and halibut fisheries whatsoever in marine areas, therefore presenting extremely limited risk to steelhead recovery;

Therefore, be it resolved that should Thompson – Chilcotin Steelhead become listed under SARA, DFO initiate further consultation with SFAB to investigate and implement recreational fishery restrictions limited to strictly specific times and locations where Interior Fraser Steelhead are known to be intercepted in recreational fisheries in marine approach areas.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded: Marilyn Scanlan; passed

**SC-UFV-2018-11-13-1:** (As amended) Whereas Fraser Interior Steelhead and Coho stocks are at point of extreme conservation concern;

And whereas; selective fishing methods have proven effective in reducing by-catch & mortality of these species;

Therefore, be it resolved that DFO initiate further consultation with all sectors (Recreational, First Nations, Commercial) to investigate and implement for the 2019 season, strictly selective terminal fishing methodology during specific times where Interior Fraser Steelhead and Coho are known to be present in the Fraser River.

Moved: Gerry Dewar; Seconded: Rod Clapton; passed.

**SC-UFV-2018-11-13-2:** Whereas there is strong scientific evidence that mortality of acoustically tagged Thompson steelhead smolts suggests a large proportion of mortality is occurring within inshore areas and Whereas diet and energetic studies indicate that piniped predation specifically harbour seals , is perhaps a dominant cause for the decline in productivity of Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead and Whereas scientific studies have determined that harbour seal predation of out-migrant smolts is confined to a small number of specific animals and locations and Whereas there is no scientific study to support the efficacy of a broad area wide cull or harvest. Be it resolved that the SFAB recommends that DFO investigate and implement a science based selective harvest of problem harbour seals which have been identified as habituated to out-migrant smolt predation as soon as reasonably possible.

Moved: Gerry Dewar; Seconded: Rod Clapton; passed.

### **SRKW**

**SC-01-02-18:** Whereas research has shown that chum salmon are the second most important diet item for Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) after chinook salmon and Whereas measures have been implemented to lower the recreational fishery harvest of chinook in some parts of the southern BC coast to provide more of these preferred prey for SRKW's and Whereas returns of chum salmon to rivers along the southeast Vancouver Island (SEVI) shoreline have consistently exceeded escapement targets in the last decade triggering commercial fisheries for them in adjacent marine areas "until further notice" and Whereas SEVI is well within the usual geographic range of SRKW's in the late summer and fall period and

Whereas this commercial fishing activity will likely dissuade the presence of SRKW's in these areas by reducing chum abundance and creating noise and disturbance in the water

Therefore be it resolved that the South Coast SFAB request

- That DFO explain how allowing terminal area commercial chum fisheries in SEVI is consistent with the forage area constraints imposed in 2018 on the recreational fishery and
- Advise DFO to not allow in future years commercial fisheries for chum salmon surplus to escapement on SEVI rivers until such time as a positive population trend for SRKW's has been realized.

Moved: Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

**SC-12-02-18:** SFAB to ask DFO to work with the US Coast Guard and Canadian Navy to establish a bubble zone in the Juan de Fuca live firing range to reduce effects of acoustic disturbances related to SRKW. This live firing range is in SRKW critical habitat.

Ryan Chamberland; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed.

**SC-PAL-01-02-18 - SRKW:** Whereas, one of the threat pillars impacting Southern Resident Killer Whales is physical and acoustic disturbance, and, Whereas, another key threat pillar is prey availability, and, Whereas, there is strong scientific evidence that both threat pillars can be eliminated if all vessels maintain a 400 meter separation from all boating activity, and, Whereas, the 400 meter bubble is already in place on Canada's East Coast, it makes sense to apply such nationally,

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Therefore be it resolved the SFAB advises the Minister that it supports implementation of a 400 m bubble zone for all vessels under 60 gross tonnes that applies when SRKW are present.

Moved: Paul Dore; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

**SC-VIC-01-02-18 - Proposed New Critical Habitat Presentation:** Be it resolved that the same DFO staff give the same presentation as provided recently in Port Alberni about extending SRKW critical habitat at the next SFAB South Coast meeting.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded; Gerry Kristianson; passed.

**SC-VIC-03-02-18– Resubmission of 2018 SFAB SRKW Management Proposal:** (As amended)

Whereas in early 2018 DFO proposed a suite of fisheries management measures related to SRKW including 4 refuge areas;

Whereas the SFAB consulted broadly with the recreational fishing community and submitted a reasonable and viable proposal response to DFO;

Whereas DFO opted to implement fisheries management disregarding the wishes of the SFAB and put in place fisheries restrictions beyond their initial proposal that reduced opportunity to anglers in FMAs 18 and 20;

Whereas DFO has unfairly stopped recreational halibut fishing on anchor in the SRKW refuge areas;

Whereas DFO has not adopted the recommendation for an “avoidance” bubble around SRKW as a viable alternative to closed to finfish fishing refuge areas;

Therefore be it resolved that the SFAB resubmit their original response proposal and strongly urge DFO to adopt its recommendations going forward.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

**SC-VIC-04-02-18:** (As amended): Be it resolved that all non-research vessels stay at least 400 metres away from SRKW.

Moved: Ryan Chamberlain; Seconded: Martin Paish; passed

**SC-VIC-05-02-18 - Halibut Fishing:** (As amended) Be it resolved that DFO permit recreational Halibut fishing in all areas closed for SRKW critical habitat and protection of Chinook.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded Marilyn Scanlan; passed.

### **Catch Reporting**

**SC-CRI-01-Fall 2018:** As detailed in previous motions supported through the SFAB process the Campbell River SFAC requests that DFO implement a two-zone construct (a.k.a. “north” and “south”) to better differentiate recreational catch monitoring between these portions of PFMA 13, beginning in 2019.

Moved Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Chuck Ashcroft; passed

### **SEP/ Enhancement**

**SC-NOS-02-02-18 - Coho:** Whereas in 2014 DFO accepted a proposal by Area 25 SFAC to fund an increase in the numbers for Conuma Hatchery clipped coho to 500,000; and

Whereas this agreement has been approved to 2024; and

Whereas the first returns of this project was in 2018; and

Whereas the intent of this coho enhancement has successfully extended the coho fishery in Area 25 salt & fresh water; and

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Whereas DFO limits for coho in the Conuma terminal area were increased to full limits 4 per day, 8 possession in 2018; and

Whereas throughout Area 25 a significant increase in clipped coho has been observed by the creel surveyors & anglers;

Therefore be it resolved that the full limits on coho be extended to all of Area 25.

Moved: John Falavolito; Seconded: George Bates; passed

**SC-VIC-06-02-18 – Jack Brooks Hatchery:** Be it resolved that DFO be asked to provide support for the new Jack Brooks Hatchery.

Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded; Gerry Kristianson; passed.

**SC-05-02-18:** That SFAB supports efforts to establish a conservation or production hatchery in the Upper Fraser Region (e.g. Willow River) to restore sustainability and provide an indicator stock for the Upper Fraser River 5-2 chinook.

Moved: Dan Pollard; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed.

### **Enforcement**

**SC-NOS-01-02-18 - C&P:** Whereas increased funding is being made available to SC C&P; Therefore be it resolved that more on water patrols be committed to Area 25.

Moved: John Falavolito; Seconded: George Bates; passed

### **Marine Area Protection**

**SC-LFV-2018-11-15-1:** Whereas, since 1987 there has been the discovery of Glass Sponge Reefs that were once thought to be extinct along the BC Coast and the expectation is for more of these reefs to be located in the future, and

Whereas the Recreational Fishery wants to ensure the Health and Sustainability of these Reefs while maintaining the maximum opportunity to conduct fishing in these Areas, and

Whereas the DFO July 26th Workshop has suggested that Recreational fishing with downriggers could be prohibited in these Areas, and

Whereas the Risk Assessment on the use of Downriggers showed they scored between a low risk(6) that requires no management action be taken to a moderate(8) that may require some management action, and

Whereas Recreational fishers can avoid contact with the bottom by setting their gear at an appropriate level that will not contact bottom, and

Whereas we are now in a world that a Recreational Angler can download an app that will allow them to use a smartphone to show their location and the location of these Reefs,

Therefore be it resolved that DFO along with Recreational Fishing Partners design an education program that promotes angler use and best practices when using a downrigger inside the 150 meter buffer zone around these Reefs. The best practice would be to not have your downrigger set to a depth greater than 80% of the water column they are fishing in. It would also encourage any angler that would be fishing in an Area that has known Reef's to have an appropriate GPS device that can show their current location and the location of these reefs.

Moved: Laurie Milligan; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

### **Groundfish**

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**SC-03-02-18:** That the SC SFAB urges DFO to provide an analysis of the iARC halibut data to the Halibut Committee by December 15.

Moved: Martin Paish; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed.

**SC-04-02-18:** Whereas the local SC committees have provided substantial feedback to the SC SFAB on halibut management options for 2019; and that this feedback indicates that the majority prefer a scenario that would see limits of 1/1 in order to allow anglers the opportunity to maintain the largest halibut possible;

Therefore be it resolved that the Halibut Working Group examine options that would support an outcome of 1/1 with the largest slot size possible.

Moved: Mike Kelly; Seconded: Ted Brookman; passed unanimously

**SC-NISFAC-2018-11-04-1:** Whereas the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is having difficulty differentiating between XRQ and Regular recreational Halibut catch, and that effort in relation to XRQ and associated Bycatch is being attributed to the recreational catch through over flights artificially inflating catch estimates, the North Island Sport Fishing Advisory Committee (NISFAC) motions that anglers not be permitted to fish both XRQ and Recreational licenses concurrently, and that XRQ participants should have to hail in / out for each trip.

Moved: Laurie Garrett; Seconded; John Falavolito; passed.

### **Shellfish**

**SC-06-02-18:** To accept the proposed differential size limit for recreational clam harvest and reject the proposed reduction in daily catch/possession limits.

Moved: John Falavolito; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed on majority (4 against)

**SC-A14 2018-05:** Whereas: the Department has not undertaken Bed Biomass surveys to the extent that was mandated when the management of this fishery was turned over to the department in 2012; and Whereas: the department has not moved forward with Specific Oyster First Nations FSC – Recreation Harvest Reserves as requested by the SFAB;

Therefore Area 14 SFAC moves that the department does not continue their current direction in proposing reduced daily/possession limits for oysters.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Martin Paish; passed.

**SC-07-02-18:** That SFAB recommends eliminating the volume limit for recreational oyster harvesting.

Moved: Chuck Ashcroft; Seconded: Bob Gallagher; passed.

**SC-08-02-18:** To accept DFO's recommendation for proposed ring size change for crab traps.

Moved: Chuck Ashcroft; Seconded: John Falavolito; passed.

**SC-09-02-18:** To accept DFO's recommendation to ban night-time trap hauling for the recommended areas.

Moved: Gerry Kristianson; Chuck Ashcroft; passed.

**SC-10-02-18:** The SC SFAB be advised why DFO declined to respond at this meeting to the request from MP Goldsmith Jones in her October 15 letter to the Minister.

Moved: Gerry Kristianson; Seconded: Jean Rowe; passed unanimously.

**SC-A14-2018-06:** Whereas: Other than recreational access; currently no other sectors are managed by piece count, daily or annual; and

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Whereas: Indications are Prawn biomass seemingly, is starting to improve, again showing the variability in the biomass; and

Whereas: The SFAB has passed through a motion recommending that an annual limit of 4,000 prawns be implemented; And

Whereas: The Department has implemented the recommendation from the SFAB to mandate release of Berried Prawns,

Therefore Area 14 SFAC moves that DFO does not reduce the daily/possession limits for prawn from the current 200/400 daily/possession limits to 100/200.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Chuck Ashcroft; passed.

### **Recreational Vision**

**MOTION SC-UFV-2018-11-13-3:** Whereas there are concerns by recreational fishers regarding the obligation of DFO to ensure opportunities for today and the future

Therefore, be it resolved that DFO reaffirm its commitment to recreational fishing community as presented in the document.

And to have DFO reaffirm its commitment to the GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Moved: Gerry Dewar; Seconded: Rod Clapton; passed.

**SC-02-02-18:** Whereas the Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the right of Tla-o-qui-aht governance and enable the stewards of Tla-o-qui-aht haḥuuli (traditional territory) to protect, manage, and improve the ecological, cultural, and economic vitality of the region for all in accordance with the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks vision; and

Whereas the recreational fishery in areas 123, 124 and 24 often take place within Tla-o-qui-aht hahuuli; and

Whereas the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Park guidelines and voluntary fee structure for 2019 come into effect beginning on January 1st, 2019;

Therefore, be it resolved that the SFAB requests that DFO arrange a meeting prior to January 1st, 2019 between SFAB representatives and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to discuss the resource management protocol, accessibility to waters, and enforcement within the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Park territory.

Moved: Josh Temple; Seconded: Gerry Kristianson; passed

**SC-11-02-18:** Whereas DFO has been negligent to uphold their commitment IAW the SFAB TOR; and  
Whereas: Contained in the SFAB TOR under accountability: "The Department is accountable to participants for explaining how their advice/input was used and why and how decisions were taken."; and  
Whereas: Under Operational Procedures in the SFAB TOR: "DFO will provide prior to each meeting, reports on the disposition of previous advice & recommendations & what if any action has been taken by the respective govt agencies";

Therefore be it resolved commenting immediately, DFO uphold their commitment & obligation IAW the SFAB TOR and provide the SFAB by 1 Jan 2019 a list of all outstanding motions/actions brought forward by the SFAB from 1 Jan. 2016 to date.

Moved: Jean Rowe; Seconded: Rod Clapton; passed.

### ***Motions Defeated***

**Victoria Motion – 2 - Salmon Fishing Restrictions:** *Be it resolved that there are no further restrictions placed upon the public recreational fishery for salmon in FMAs 19 and 20 plus the Lower Gulf Islands. Moved: Ryan Chamberland; Seconded Marilyn Scanlan; defeated.*

**UF SFAC 2018-03:** *Motion to support the letter written by SCWA to be sent to DFO and the SC SFAB to be included and supported by UF SFAC. Made by Craig and seconded by Dan. Passed with all in favour.*

*Moved: Dan Pollard; Seconded: Ted Brookman; defeated*

*(See Meeting minutes for discussion/rationale for motion votes)*

### ***Motions referred to Committees for Advice***

**(Note: These motions were neither approved nor defeated)**

#### **Motion referred to CHINOOK COHO WG**

**Area 14 2018-04 Coho:** *Whereas We continue to be concerned at how the Department manages our South Coast Coho stocks and in particular the Recreational fishery in the SOG. For over 23 years the SOG has been managed under a “precautionary approach” to minimize fishing impacts on IFR Coho and other SOG Coho stocks.*

*And whereas A large portion of hatchery Coho and their offspring from Hatchery Rivers are not marked/clipped. Therefore including the unmarked Hatchery Coho as wild Coho is inappropriate and not a true representation of wild Coho.*

*And whereas In 2018 DFO increased the ER for IFR Coho from 3% to a range of 3-5%*

*And whereas Most, if not all, SC areas with the exception of the SoG areas 13 to 17 have some form of wild Coho retention.*

*And whereas The recent DFO research paper “Genetic stock identification of interior Fraser River Coho salmon in marine fisheries in 2014” clearly shows IFR Coho migrate out the SoG and are caught throughout SC waters.*

*Therefore be it resolved that the Comox SFAC is requesting that the Chinook Coho working Group revisit the current allowable recreational allocation of Coho interceptions to allow for some wild Coho retention in the Northern Portion of the SoG.*

*And be it further resolved that Coho openings in the Northern Portion of the Strait of Georgia be as follows;*

*If the IFR Coho ER is set at 3% we request Coho opening of 2 per day hatchery/marked only until Sept 1 then 2 per day one of which maybe unmarked.*

*If the IFR Coho ER is set at 3-5% we request Coho opening of 2 per day hatchery/marked only until August 1st then 2 per day one of which maybe unmarked.*

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*If the IFR Coho ER is set at 5% or above we request Coho opening of 2 Coho per day June 1st one of which maybe unmarked.*

*Further be it resolved that The Area 14 SFAC requests that DFO provide documented follow up on this motion back to the Area 14 SFAC prior to the deadline for submissions to the 2019 Salmon IFMP.*

### Motions referred to GFSF WG

**Port Alberni Motion -4:** *Whereas; The shellfish section of the DFO notified the recreational sector of a 50% reduction in daily catch for spotted prawns, and a list of other shellfish in a letter rather than through a normal consultation process, and;*

*Whereas, there has not been an announcement of conservation concerns for spotted prawns and other shellfish, and;*

*Whereas, there has been no management changes to the commercial prawn fleet to reflect a similar reduction so why single out the recreational sector, and;*

*Whereas, the Department has not provided supporting data to substantiate their analysis that the recreational catch and effort has substantially increased such that it represents a conservation concern, and;*

*Whereas, the Department's rationale that the commercial prawn fishery represents a significant economic benefit to Canada and the recreational fishery must be curtailed to protect that value is incorrect based on the Department's own data demonstrating the commercial landed value in 2016 was \$38.1 million compared to the recreational value based on 2010 data showing expenditures attributable to recreational fishing of prawn are estimated at 36.4 million, and growing by 4 to 5% per year.*

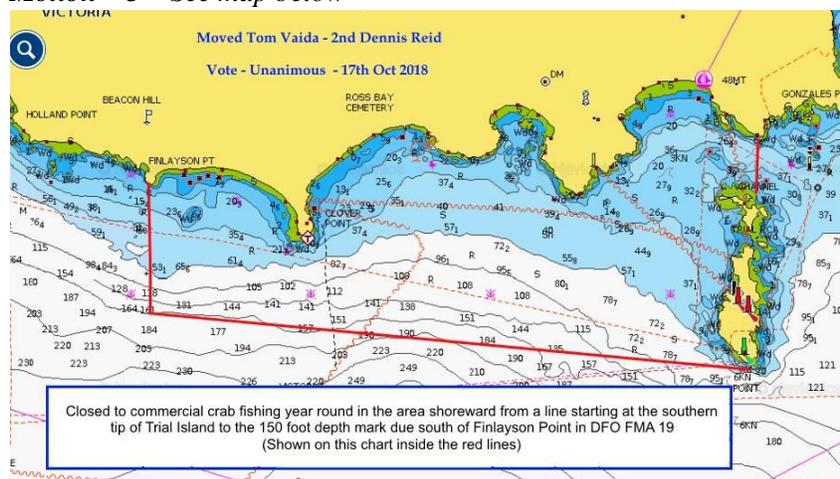
*Be it resolved that the SFAB does not accept or support this 50% reduction in daily catch of prawns and other shellfish as listed the DFO letter. There has not been any scientific data to support a 50% reduction in the daily catch and to have it to be borne solely on the recreational sector.*

**MOTION:** To refer the 4 Victoria motions from the October 2018 meeting to the GFSF WG for further discussion and clarification.

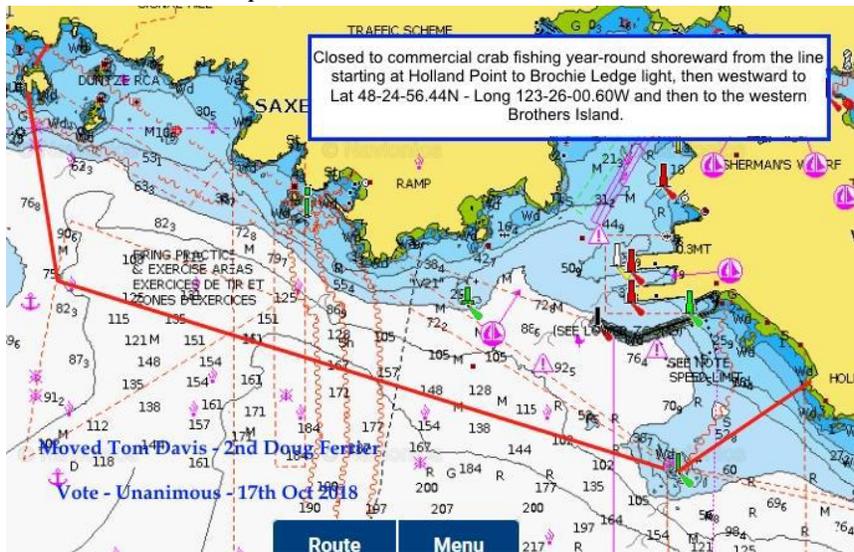
**Motion – 1 - DFO** move urgently to discuss with Transport Canada the issues of safety and navigation due to increased relocation of commercial crab fishing gear to the area off Victoria. Moved – Gerry Kristianson – 2nd Tom Cole – Vote – Unanimous

**Motion – 2 - The SFAB** continue to press for size differential to allow for access to legal crab for the recreational fishery - Moved by Tom Davis - 2nd by Rick Preston - Vote Unanimous.

**Motion – 3 – See map below**



**Motion – 4 – See map below**



### Motions referred to Halibut WG

**Port Alberni MOTION-3:** Whereas, there are varying needs and expectations in different areas between different fishers up and down the Coast, and,

Whereas, the SFAB main board needs direction as to the best all-around plan that fits our needs within the TAC,

Therefore, our ASFAC recommends a season from March 1st thru October at a limit and possession of 1 and 1 with a maximum length of 124 to 126cm.

**Victoria Motion 1: Halibut Guidance:** Whereas halibut under the current recreational fishing size limits in Area 18, 19 and 20 are difficult to catch as halibut of that size are generally not abundant in the area; Whereas the sheltered waters around South Vancouver Island permit halibut fishing on anchor throughout the year;

Therefore be it resolved that the Victoria and Area SFAB Committee support a recreational halibut fishing season of February 1 to December 31 with a 1 per day and 1 in possession catch limit

### Motion referred to Victoria Committee

**Proposed Motion:** Whereas certain Southern BC Chinook stocks are at low abundance levels;

And whereas the federal government's Species At Risk Act action plan identifies increasing the availability of large adult Chinook salmon for endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales;

And whereas low Chinook abundance results in reduces fishing opportunity for First Nations, commercial harvesters and the public;

And whereas strategically enhancing Chinook and utilizing strategic enhancement strategies

Whereas out-planting juvenile Chinook in pens prior to release increases juvenile to adult survival rates between 1.5 and 5 percent;

And whereas penning Chinook prior to release

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*Therefore be it resolved that the SFAB request DFO support the development of multiple community-based net pen out-planting projects to markedly increase adult Chinook abundance for the benefit of SRKW and all Canadians.*

*Moved: Chris Bos; Seconded: Martin Paish; motion referred to Victoria committee for discussion and advice.*

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Jon Pew, SC Chair	Brad Beath, DFO
Gerry Kristianson, SFAB Chair	Wilf Luedke, DFO
Marilyn Scanlan	Barbara Mueller, DFO
Laurie Milligan	Andrea Goruk, DFO
Chuck Ashcroft, GFSF Chair	Dave Willis, DFO
Martin Paish, Boating BC	Felix Marcellivus, DFO
Gerry Dewar, UFV	Pippa Shephard, DFO
Jason Tonelli, LFV	Peter Hall, DFO
Sandy MacDonald, Mid-Fraser	Amy Mar, DFO
Dan Collins, Upper Fraser	
John Wright, Squamish	
Dan Lafferty, Powell River	
Deryk Krefting, Area 17	<b>Province of BC</b>
Jean Rowe, Area 14	Andrew Witt
Jeremy Maynard, Campbell River	
Lawrie Garrett, North Island	
Mike Kelly, Area 12	
John Falavolito, Nootka	
Josh Temple, Tofino	<b>Other</b>
Paul Dore, Port Alberni	Clyde Wicks, observer
Bob Gallagher, Port Renfrew	Bill Shaw, observer
Ryan Chamberland, Victoria	
Chris Bos, Victoria	Dawn Steele, note-taker
Tom Cole, Victoria	
Ted Brookman, BCWF	
Rod Clapton, BCFDF	
George Bates, BCLCA	

**Attendance**