



Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Report
to the SFAB Main Board - April 14, 2018

- On February 16th DFO released a document titled “*Discussion Paper: February 15, 2018 - Proposed 2018 Salmon Fishery Management Measures to Support Chinook Salmon Prey Availability for Southern Resident Killer Whales*”. The document contained proposed recreational fishing closures in several sub-areas of FMAs 18, 20 and 29 which were represented as a way to assist SRKW recovery. The proposed closures correspond to critical habitat and forage areas where Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) traditionally travel and forage during the summer months.
- There were three areas where closures were proposed (i) off the mouth of the Fraser River Sub Areas 29-6, 29-7, 29-9, 29-10 and 29-12; (ii) In the waters around Salt Spring, Mayne, Saturna, Moresby and North and South Pender Islands (FMA 18-2, 18-4, 18-5 and 18-9; and (iii) in the Juan de Fuca Strait (FMAs 20-3 and 20-4).
- In the paper DFO requested that any comments, alternate recommendations or recommended minor alterations to the proposal be sent in by March 15th
- The SFAB executive recognized that the implications of the proposed closures should be shared with the local constituents for input prior to a formal SFAB response being prepared and submitted.
- To ensure the Port Renfrew, Duncan, Victoria, Sooke, Sidney and Lower Mainland angling communities understood what DFO are proposing and had adequate opportunity to respond, five separate *emergency* local SFAB meetings were organized. They were:

Sidney	February 26 th	Mary Winspear Centre	72 people
Victoria	February 28 th	Esquimalt Anglers Lounge	46 people
Duncan	February 27 th	Cowichan Fish and Game Assn	45 people
Sooke	March 6 th	Prestige Hotel	85 people
Vancouver	March 9 th	Tsawwassen Mills	<u>185 people</u>

- A total of 433 people from the angling community signed attendance sheets at the meetings. Particularly in Sooke and Vancouver, many participants missed the opportunity to sign in due to meeting dynamics so actual attendance was much higher.
- The public meetings generated a significant raising of awareness throughout the impacted communities as a result of internet and media exposure.

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- At times the attendees expressed significant frustration and anger based on the fact that at that point, recreational anglers were the only group being asked to make any sacrifices. We informed those groups that DFO had expressed its intent to work with other sectors to ensure their participation as well and in the end each local community provided thoroughly discussed and either majority (in most cases consensus) based advice.
- Individual local committee meeting reports, closure boundary adjustment maps and specific responses to the questions posed by area have been submitted to the IHPC as a consultation report from the SFAB.
- During the meetings, some consistent advice was offered by all areas:
 - There is a strong desire to see DFO invest the necessary resources to provide strategic enhancement opportunities to provide more accessible prey for SRKW's in the short to medium term. Strategies such as sea pen rearing of the appropriate stocks of Fraser River and Salish Sea chinook were specifically mentioned numerous times as initiatives the public would like to see DFO pursue.
 - Long term enhancement and habitat rehabilitation strategies need to be developed to increase the chinook production and juvenile survival of the Fraser River watershed.
 - DFO must invest in research and development of strategies to limit the impact of predation on both juvenile and adult chinook salmon in the Salish Sea. There is a very strong belief that predation plays a much larger role in limiting the recovery of these stocks than does human fishing pressure. DFO needs to either disprove this theory or implement programs to address it.
 - Anglers acknowledge that they have a role to play in rebuilding the SRKW's to sustainable levels and are willing to do their part but are deeply concerned that if the only measures implemented are those contained in the proposal that specifically limit recreational fishing activity that they will not be effective and will not do anything meaningful to promote the recovery of SRKW's. All sectors that have an impact on SRKW's need to step up and make the necessary changes to reduce their impacts on SRKW's.
- The IHPC SRKW committee will have its first meeting April 24th as a webinar and conference call.
- Pat Ahern, Chris Bos and Martin Paish are your delegates to the IHPC SRKW committee and will report back to the SFAB executive as the situation develops.

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Motion:

Whereas:

- The SFAB recognizes the opportunity to aid in recovery of SRKW's and have consulted with our community in good faith based on the understanding that all sectors would be asked to take similar measures.
- The SFAB is concerned that no additional measures will be taken by other sectors which renders the sacrifices made by our sector ineffective.

The SFAB SRKW committee urges DFO to ensure that measures taken to provide protection for SRKW's from competition for prey and physical and acoustic disturbance are applied to all boating related activity in areas where the recreational fishery is facing restrictions to provide these protections.

If DFO is unable to do this, the SFAB advises DFO that the implementation of the bubble is the only acceptable measure that it will recommend.

Moved by Martin Paish, Seconded Chris Bos

Passed unanimously.

