

B.C. FEDERATION OF DRIFT FISHERS

QUARTERLY REPORT DEC, 2021

SFAB Reorganization

The BCFDF has taken an active role province wide in reviewing options toward reorganization and has participated in the several meetings seeking input. Our directors, of which several are SFAC chairs, support the changes proposed as vital to ensuring we have cohesive province wide representation on the many issues impacting our fish stocks and angler opportunity.

We believe the creation of a provincial salmon/non tidal salmon/anadromous working group will allow more joint collaboration benefiting both Skeena and Fraser system issues particularly relating to non tidal salmon and steelhead issues. Other fisheries including those in interior B.C. and Vancouver Island will also benefit from this province wide approach and recommendations, including through the IFMP process.

We are also optimistic the new SFAB model will allow more meaningful collaboration with parallel provincial processes such as the Provincial Angler Advisory Team (PAAT) as well as facilitate active participation with First Nations in the developing "Round Tables" province wide.

Lower Fraser Collaborative Table

The BCFDF has been instrumental for several years in promoting cooperative dialogue with First Nations particularly on the Fraser River. This has helped create the past effective "Peacemakers" process and has morphed into the LFCT. This table represents 23 F/N's, commercial interests, and the major recreational organizations including the SFAB and SFI.

As evidenced at a recent Working Group meeting, F/N's are committed to seeing this process be successful in bringing all sectors together. The common theme from day one has been to conserve salmon and non salmon stocks for our respective future generations.

All can appreciate the significance of all sectors working together presenting joint solutions for implementation by our federal and provincial fisheries managers.

Reconciliation

The issue of Reconciliation and how it will impact all forms of recreation in B.C. is a top priority in the province. The BCFDF has participated in creation of the SFAB Reconciliation committee in the hope that the input from the Recreational fishing community will be given due consideration in the process, representative of B.C. anglers. We support the concept of Reconciliation with the proviso that all B.C. citizens have equal say on how the process unfolds.

We cannot accept predetermined decisions that negatively impact our opportunities and that of our future generations. Recognizing that all forms of recreation in B.C. will be impacted, the BCFDF supports other organizations such as the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) Reconciliation committee through our membership on the board.

It would be prudent for all the various committees province wide dealing with Reconciliation to have an opportunity to compare notes toward a comprehensive agreed position on how Reconciliation is to unfold.

Appreciating that the definition and goals of Reconciliation are elusive to all including FN's and government, we would expect that our elected officials will ensure accountability and transparency going forward.

Non Tidal Salmon Issues

All sectors appreciate the endangered state of many salmon and steelhead species in both the Skeena and Fraser systems. Avoidance of non targeted species is critical which accentuates required selective fisheries within all fisheries and concentrating allowable fisheries more in tributaries thus avoiding threatened stocks and allowing these stocks to migrate the Fraser and other main streams with minimal interference.

Hosted by DFO and involving local F/N's and Recreational reps a series of meetings have developed plans for F/N harvesting with minimal impact on recreational fisheries on both the Vedder/Chilliwack and Chehalis rivers. This past summer and early fall demonstrated the 2 sectors can coexist with virtually zero conflict.

This sharing on the tributaries is the new future as we cannot continue to allow fisheries that impact stocks at point of extreme conservation concern. Truly selective fisheries by all sectors must be mandatory and increased enforcement toward reducing rampant poaching on the Fraser must be a priority.

Habitat Destruction Issues

The recent unprecedented flooding has not only been a disaster for many B.C. residents, it has also created extensive fish habitat destruction including spawning beds which contained salmon and steelhead eggs and killed much of the 2020 brood year. This is a disaster on top of many stocks at point of extreme conservation concern and will require some tough decisions from our federal and provincial fish managers to ensure remaining stocks are carefully protected and ensuring we max out the spawning potential. Our depressed salmon and steelhead stocks just can't get a break.

Outdoor Recreation Council

With a seat on the Board of Directors, the BCFDF has been very active in many of the important issues that the ORC currently reviews on behalf of the 100,000 members. Our participation has enhanced the profile of fisheries issues and the importance of fishing opportunities for the B.C. economy.

We not only speak for our members and the Public Fishery at large, we also engage in discussions relating to many other forms of recreation which are of interest to many of you. Considering the many challenges facing recreational opportunities in B.C including the potential impact of Reconciliation, we take our ORC responsibilities very seriously.

Fundraising issues

Due to Covid concerns we have not had a fundraiser for 2 years. We have booked a location in Langley for May 2022 and details including date will be forwarded early in the New Year. We sincerely hope to see you there and any support you can offer re donations or bringing guests is greatly appreciated.

Please check out our website at: bcfdf.com for all current and upcoming BCFDF activities

In closing on behalf of your hard working directors province wide, I want to wish you and your families a very safe and joyful Christmas.

Rod Clapton, President

rclapton@shaw.ca

