



COMMITTEE REPORTS

QUARTER 1 JANUARY - MARCH 2019

Q1 REPORT, 2019 ACCESS COMMITTEE

I would like to start off by saying thanks to the Nicola Valley Fish & Game Club (Merritt) for their won in the court case vs. Douglas Lake Cattle Co. re access to Minnie & Stoney lakes in a landmark court decision last summer. But DLCC has announced it's going to appeal that decision. So, where that leaves us, who knows? They may also need more support if the appeal goes ahead.

Region 1

Shingle Beach Campsite on Texada Island is improving access to the campsite and is adding more campsites and hunters are welcome. The operator of the campsite informed me that they have a problem with too many Raccoons on the Island.

Region 2

Land tenures seem to be coming out the woodwork, sometimes there isn't day that goes by that there isn't. One of the tenures is for a gondola at Bridal Falls, which is looking to take in about 4,202.69 +/- hectares. If this gondola gets the go ahead, the company estimates about 600,000 people a year will visit the area. Together with the Region and the clubs in Pemberton, Squamish and Sunshine Coast, they are dealing applications on a steady basis.

Sometimes the time line to comment on the applications is too short, sometimes not all the information is attached to application, which means you must get a hold of the Authorization Officer that is looking after that application. We are sure if all the applications are being sent out to the BCWF for review.

I can tell you is that we are hearing that the FLNRORD offices that look after these applications are under staffed and that some of the other agencies within FLNRORD are not receiving these applications and/or in a timely fashion, for them to review the applications.

Region 3

The Kamloops and District Fish & Game Association (KDFGA) working in partnership with the Kamloops Fly Fishers Club (KFF) is undertaking efforts to have a trailered boat launch provided at Paul Lake. The B.C. Parks Branch only provides a car top boat launch at this lake at the present time. The provincial parks policy creates significant challenges for senior citizens and physically challenged or disabled people to launch their fishing boats into the lake. The KDFGA and KFF have submitted a proposal to the B.C. Parks Branch that would allow for the provision of a trailered boat launch and address environmental and safety concerns identified by Parks staff. The proposal as submitted to B.C. Parks has been rejected by Parks staff to date. The KDFGA and KFF have met with federal Conservative MP Cathy McLeod and, acting upon her recommendation, have submitted a formal complaint to the B.C. Human Rights Commission. The formal complaint states that non provision of a trailered boat launch by the provincial parks branch is discrimination against senior citizens and physically challenged and disabled individuals who wish to launch their fishing boats into the waters of Paul Lake. The KDFGA and KFF are awaiting word from the Commission as to whether this complaint will be formally reviewed by the Commission's tribunal. Other actions are also being considered to address this 'access' issue to the waters of Paul Lake.

The Clinton Club is working on **Lee's Valley Road**, on the outskirts of Clinton through private property, As well the **road from Big Bar Ferry north** through private property.

Region 4W

Deactivation

Deactivation continues without any type of public consultation or referrals. Many areas are closed without notice resulting in many areas used for recreation no longer available and hunting access restricted. We would like to see some form of access planning with public involvement and notification.

Caribou Matrix habitat impacts

The Caribou Matrix habitat maps have been released under SARA. If the area identified on these maps is given protected status a significant portion of our land base will be off limits to any industrial or recreational activity with road access deactivated.

This is ironic as the last few caribou alive have been captured and moved to a maternal pen in Revelstoke.

The provincial government has remained silent on this issue and it is only through the efforts of a few individuals that the information is getting out after a number of meetings with the Regional District, Mayors and the public which have been well attend.

The impact of closures could have significant impact on the Public as well as industrial access to the back country.

An application for a 30-year License of Occupation for a 6,416-ha non-exclusive extensive use area and two intensive use sites (a lodge and smaller satellite hut). The area under application is located north of Bluewater Creek in the Rocky Mountains, approximately 47 km NNW of Golden, BC. The remote site will be accessed via helicopter (no road access).

Region 6

On the Morrison Mainline east of Babine Lake is a gate that was installed to protect Grizzly Bears. The gate has been there for number of years and now Grizzly Bears are not hunted. A letter has been sent to Minister Donaldson asking for an investigative report by your Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of your northern region. The BCWF is requesting the removal of locked gates on the Morrison Mainline east side of Babine Lake in the Skeena Stikine Resource District.

Region 7B

There are TLE (treaty land entitlement) discussion with First Nations. Treaty 8 (signed over a 100 years ago) had a set number of acres required to be transferred to First Nations and this did not occur. The First Nations have also identified a short fall of land to be transferred. First Nations are in negotiations with MIRR to identify parcels of land for transfer. TLE lands become essentially Federal Government Treaty Lands. An important example is the Blueberry First Nation selection in the Halfway River area. This type of application could possibly block access to the Halfway River Valley. See file below. This also indicates the size and scope of some of these agreements. There is an existing access trail to the upper Halfway. There is a study regarding upgrading this trail.

Tripartite Land Agreements (TLA also known as BC Hydro impact and benefit agreement) are being negotiated. TLA lands are transferred to First Nations in FEE Simple and provincial requirements apply. There is the possibility of a First Nations to apply to have such lands transferred to treaty lands.

Caribou Herd plans are being developed that may restrict access to some areas. From a recreation perspective, snowmobiling may be heavily impacted, especially in the South Peace. There is no certainty at this time that other forms of access will be impacted.

Two parks plans are currently under review. The Northern Rocky Mountain Park and the Redfren-Keily Park. These plans should have little impact on existing access, however there may be minor changes to snowmobile access. These plans are available for review on BC Parks website. The Northern Rocky Mountains Park originally had a Public Advisory Group (PAG) to aid in drafting this plan. The PAG will be reconvened to inform the final plan. The North Peace Rod and Gun Club will have a member and the BCWF will have a member (Gerry Paille) on the PAG.

River boat access to the boat launch at Fireside on the Liard River was an issue. The Kaska Dena applied for land near an old indian reserve adjacent this boat launch site. Hopefully this issue is resolved with potentially having a Rec Site for river boat access. (Fireside is the only boat launch allowing navigation up the Kechika, Turnagain, and Frog rivers as there are serious rapids on either side of this boat launch. This boat launch provides access to Denetiah Provincial Park, Horneline Creek Provincial Park, and Dune Za Keyih Provincial Park.)

BCWF calls for grazing tenure reform

The BCWF is working on the outdated grazing lease tenure system fails to serve the public interest. Increasingly, this anachronistic system results in the public being locked out of public lands.

Ray Klingspohn (President, Region 7A) and Jesse Zeman (Director of Fish & Wildlife Restoration Program) and committee members are working on this. Ray has been meeting with the BC Cattlemen's Association. Ray has been working on getting both sides together to find a way to make the BCWF's "Passport Program" a viable program that is acceptable to all. Ray believes the program in its current state does not provide ranchers with the confidence they believe is necessary to make it viable.

Closing Comments

When it come to dealing with Access, all clubs need to keep their Region informed as to what their club is working on. This way if there are any problems, the Region is up to-date and then the Region can also keep the BCWF Access Chair informed.

We all need take a page out of the book and follow the lead as to what the Nicola Valley Fish & Game Club (Merritt) has done.

The Access Policy and the Passport Program are under review.

Respectfully Submitted By:

David Oliver
Access Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019
ENERGY, MINES & PETROELUM COMMITTEE

The latest is because of a slump in the oil and gas industry in BC will be on the hook for many orphaned wells and containment ponds.

Each lease site will cost BC \$85,000.00 minimum per site. The last land sale had 0 sales. No revenue for BC there.

And no future drilling on crown lands. Most of the drilling going on now is all on private land because it is so much cheaper to develop.

Some pipeline work being done but mostly just gathering lines.

So, wildlife and habitat will get a short break in the interim.

Site C is moving along, and next step will be the flooding that will take place, with all that habitat lost. There is not much in the way of wind energy to report either.

On one hand First Nations are launching a lawsuit against Enbridge asking for an injunction to stop them from operating an existing pipeline in their territory, yet on the other hand, the First Nations want to partner with Ottawa to build a major pipeline!?? And around we go, that's all for now

Respectfully Submitted By:

Carl Gitscheff
Energy, Mines & Petroleum Committee Co-Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019 FIREARMS COMMITTEE

Throughout Q1 2019, the Firearms Committee kept busy encouraging firearms owners to sign and send letters to Senators. Firearms Committee Chair, Gary Mauser, represented BCWF by attending the Historical Arms Collectors Society of BC gun shows in January, February, and March, as well as helping out Region 2 at the Sportsman Show at Tradex.

233 Canadians were encouraged to sign and send letters to Senators:

- 32 to Senator Yonah Martin, Deputy Leader of the Opposition,
- 23 to Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Leader, Independent Senators Group,
- 163 to Senator Boniface, Chairwoman, Standing Committee, National Security and Defence, requesting that these letters be distributed to all committee members.

Copies of these letters were also sent to the signatory's Member of Parliament:

- 16 NDP
- 138 Liberals and
- 78 Conservatives

Acting as an independent professor, Gary Mauser was invited to address the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence concerning Bill C-71.

His verbal presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on National Security and Defence was entitled, *"Keep it Simple, Senators: Bill C-71 puts public safety at risk by ignoring the KISS principle."*

His presentation, as well as his reply to Senator McPhedran, is posted on a few websites including a variety of Facebook sites.

See: <https://justiceforgunowners.ca/bill-c-71-endangers-public-safety/>
<https://justiceforgunowners.ca/senator-mcphedran-spreads-false-claims/>

Professor Mauser participated in the Outdoors Caucus Advisory (OCAC) Committee Board of Directors annual meeting on February 5, 2019. The Board of Directors discussed Bill C-71, election issues, and issues fishing hunting and fur trapping, problems with tariffs

The Parliamentary Outdoor Caucus is an all-party group of MPs and Senators, with the OCAC created to be a liaison and support body. The Outdoor Caucus is co-chaired by BC MP Bob Zimmer (CPC) and Labrador MP Gudie Hutchings, (LPC). The Outdoors Caucus Advisory Committee Board of Directors has been selected to include important representatives of hunting, shooting, fishing and trapping groups in Canada as well as key Canadian scientific advisors. It is regrettable that BCWF has declined to be involved.

More information is available in this Hill Times article.

<http://www.hilltimes.com/2017/08/23/caucuses-make-public-members-animal-rights-group/116904>

In closing, by the time of the BCWF Convention, Bill C-71 will most likely be law. Minister Blair may have (finally) announced which firearms will be banned and confiscated and if you will be forced to keep your firearms in a community lock-up.

The time for letter writing has passed.

BCWF Committees can't defend your right to own and use firearms alone. BCWF members need to stand up for themselves if we wish to keep our firearms.

An election is coming.

I urge you to get involved with the political party that you think will best defend your rights. Volunteer to help elect (or re-elect) the MP who will stand up for law-abiding firearms owners.

If you don't know who represents you in Ottawa, you can find your MP by keying in your Postal Code at the Parliamentary website.

Elections matter.

Law-abiding firearms owners can be scapegoated successfully by the government only if we don't fight back.

You can make a difference.

Never give up.

If you fight back, you might lose.
If you give up, you will lose for sure.

Thank you for reading my report.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Gary Mauser
Firearms Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019

FISH & WILDLIFE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The BCWF is responsible for the existence of two of the three provincial fish and wildlife compensation programs ie. the Peace and the Columbia programs. The Coastal compensation program is a voluntary program by B.C. Hydro. It was the BCWF that stood as an intervener at the 1970's water hearings and demanded compensation for the fish and wildlife impacts that would occur as a result of the building of the Columbia River Treaty dams. The three programs provide approximately \$10 million each year for projects that are supposed great fish and wildlife to compensate for the losses.

Originally the compensation monies were provided to the Fish and Wildlife Branch to spend on compensation projects. But, in the early 1990's, the government agreed to let BC Hydro administer the compensation monies through a 'partnership' with BC Environment. The present partnership includes the public, first nations, BC Hydro, and BC Environment/FLNRO.

In fact, BC Hydro controls and runs these programs and the BCWF has long objected to the arrangement arguing that the perpetrator of the impacts should not be controlling the spending of the compensation funds; it's a conflict of interest. BC Hydro has stated that the funds are BC Hydro monies and we have insisted they are public funds.

The BCWF has consistently argued that the funds should be administered by an independent third party, similar to HCTF. We have also repeatedly requested BCWF membership on the various compensation boards of directors and successive governments have consistently rejected our requests.

Update

The compensation committee has not met with any success in the past year and BC Hydro's dominance of the three programs has continued. In the Spring of 2018, some of us met with the Minister of Energy and Mines Michelle Mungall (Minister responsible for BC Hydro and the Compensation Programs) to hopefully address our issues regarding compensation.

She refused to discuss the issues with us and instead, deflected the subject of the meeting to an update on the demise of the Kootenay Lake fishery. Subsequent attempts to meet with her on the compensation issue have been met with us being offered an opportunity to meet with her staff. We have refused this offer as numerous meetings with her staff (over decades) have met with no results.

This spring FLNRO issued a contract to a consultant to audit the three compensation programs. The audit is taking place in March until the end of May and an on line questionnaire has been sent out and forwarded to BCWF members to complete. We encourage members to go on line and complete the questionnaire.

On April 11, 2019 Ken Ashley, Al Martin and Rick Morley met with the senior auditor, Brian Brauer, to provide our assessment of the compensation efforts to date and to suggest how the programs should be conducted in the future.

Below are the topics discussed at this meeting:

1. Review of the compensation program history and BCWF involvement.
2. Lack of BC Hydro's ability to meet its compensation responsibilities under the terms of their water licence(s) and the continued approval of projects that do not relate to BC Hydro's compensation responsibilities. BC Hydro's attempts to divert the program into a 'conservation entity' and away from compensation for dam impacts
3. Under funding of the program.....comparison to the US compensation and BC Hydro's inappropriate suggestion regarding increased funding.
4. BCWF's request for a seat on the three compensation boards
5. Confidentiality and insistence from agencies that public board members be 'muzzled.'.....lack of transparency to the extent that proponents are not told 'why' their projects have been rejected.
6. Biased in the rejection of projectsie Whatshan proposed fertilization project.
7. Public member selection process for the Board and how it doesn't apply to any other members of the 'partnership.'
8. BC Hydro's continued control of the program through their control of the manager position and manipulation of the Board
9. First Nations involvement and the inherent conflict of interest especially with regard to ONA involvement and their attempts to take over the program
10. Libby Dam impacts in Canada and still no compensation in Canada after 40 years.

As this was an opportunity to provide information to the auditor, we will have to wait to see the results of our efforts.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rick Morley
Fish and Wildlife Compensation Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019

INLAND FISHERIES COMMITTEE

Inland fisheries are not without its share of controversial issues and these are discussed below. The big win was of course the Nicola Club's successful court challenge of access denial to two lakes by the Douglas Lake Cattle Company (DLCC). The court ruled in favour of the Club that contended the lakes were public and locked gates by the DLCC were illegal. The DLCC evidently has appealed the decision but meanwhile full credit to the club for its perseverance in the face of big money!

Nechacko Sturgeon

The original purpose of this hatchery was to rebuild the upper Fraser sturgeon population that was severely impacted by the Kenney dam. During the last few years wild sturgeon eggs have been collected and successfully reared and released as year old juveniles. The original target production was a best guess since it was unknown how many sturgeons were lost due to changes in the river. It turns out that the released juvenile survival has been far higher than expected and now the river is fully saturated with various size fish. The problem is that nowadays too many sturgeons are being produced and the excess fish have moved downstream into the mainstem of the Fraser. Reduction in sturgeon production is controversial as local people do not want to see the hatchery shut-down yet it is a scientific fact that too many sturgeons are being produced and this has genetic implications for wild sturgeon downstream. The Ministry is in disagreement with itself on what to do despite the science and again points to the need for central authority for decision making. The solution to this issue is likely conversion of most of the hatchery to trout or salmon production.

Dragon Lake

This issue is a reflection of ignorance by one or two individuals. Someone released their pet goldfish into the lake a few years back. The goldfish population exploded owing to relatively productive nature of the lake and vast areas of shallows preferred by goldfish. It appears the goldfish are competing with the stock of rainbow trout that are annually planted. Today the trout are smaller and in relatively poor condition. There are two solutions at hand: chemically remove all fish and restock the lake with trout. This practice was widespread back in the 1960s and 70s and produced some of the best fishing lakes throughout the interior. Despite the science that indicates rotenone does not pose a threat to human beings the general public usually object to this management tool and most ministry people will not attempt its use. The second management tool that can be used to combat the goldfish population is to introduce a strain of rainbow trout that will prey on goldfish. This strategy is now being considered by the Ministry with some good results so far from the Horsefly strain of rainbow trout.

Heart of the Fraser

This issue is all about protecting invaluable fish habitat in the gravel reach of the Fraser River near Chilliwack BC. Owners of two islands want to develop the islands for agriculture but to do so means protecting the islands from annual floods. That means hardening the shorelines with rip rap rock & modifying the riparian zones. That means salmon and sturgeon spawning and rearing habitats will be negatively impacted. The BCWF has proposed the two islands be purchased and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has stepped in to assist the BCWF in negotiating purchase of the islands as both owners are willing to sell. Meanwhile applications have been made to both levels of government for funds as well as a commitment by one large private donor.

Kootenay Lake

The Kootenay Lake fishery remains at a historical low with the kokanee population the lowest on record. Despite large scale kokanee egg plants, the numbers in the lake are still far too low to see any recovery. The Gerrard rainbow trout spawning population that once commonly yielded 15-25 lb size fish is now represented by size less than 6 lbs with few if any above 10 lbs in size. Without restoration of the kokanee population the trout fishery will remain poor. To turn this situation around the Ministry needs to continue to plant massive numbers of kokanee eggs combined with suppression of Bull Trout that continue to persist in large numbers due to their ability to prey on other fish species in the absence of kokanee.

The kokanee population, once in excess of 1 million spawners is now less than 30,000 with no significant recovery in sight. The Ministry biologists in Nelson are unwilling to implement the recommendation of experts to suppress the bull trout population while at the same time plant as many kokanee eggs as possible. The Ministry has no firm plan other than crossing their fingers---a tactic that assures continued management towards zero. The Ministry should hang its collective heads in shame for the demise of this fishery and inability to do anything meaningful. The answers are there for everyone to see: the same thing happened on Lake Pend O'reille in Idaho except in that case Idaho Fish & Game implemented an aggressive lake trout suppression program (head recovery) while at the same time planting over 10 million kokanee eggs each year. Within ten years that lake once again produces Gerrard rainbow trout as large as 20 lbs.

Arrow Lakes Reservoir

The Arrow Lakes Reservoir has begun to improve now that the Ministry has moved away from the poorly thought out idea of trying to grow large size kokanee. The 2018 kokanee escapement was well over 0.5 million and the Bull Trout size and condition reflect this increased abundance of kokanee. A new fisheries management plan was promised by the former Minister three years ago and that promise included input from the BCWF. To date there has been no effort made to include the BCWF in development of the plan.

Interior Fraser steelhead (IFS)

The BCWF believes one solution for recovery of Thompson-Chilko steelhead is to move the net fisheries off the river in favour of more selective fishing methods such as beach seines, pound nets and fish wheels. Commercial fisheries and First Nations are opposed to such measures even though selective fishing methods will still catch the salmon while live releasing by-caught steelhead.

The BCWF is sponsored a forum on selective fishing methods in Coquitlam BC March 13th in an effort to promote more selective fishing methods on the lower Fraser River. The forum was well attended, and further action is being planned to promote selective fishing methods. See Al Martin's report for additional information.

Small Lakes Fishing

With spring arriving early and lower elevation small lakes ice free the tin boats and fly-fishing enthusiasts are back at it. Unfortunately, East Kootenay anglers are experiencing poor fishing on Whitetail, Whiteswan and Premier lakes owing to poor management decisions by regional fisheries staff. Catch and effort have declined by close to 50% due to fiddling around with stocking of various strains of rainbow trout including the use of poor performing 3N rainbows.

While 3Ns may work in some central interior lakes that are productive they do not perform well in less productive lakes and East Kootenay anglers are unhappy. Recently it has been proposed to stock Grave Lake near Sparwood with 3N kokanee. This again is an ill-advised strategy and these “experiments” are unacceptable. Seemingly fisheries biologists in this region have forgotten their job is to produce good fisheries and should not be permitted to experiment around with these valuable sport fisheries. And, it is not the place of the Freshwater Fisheries Society to be promoting use of 3N fish. This is another example of lack of central authority to override these foolish measures.

Columbia River Sturgeon

Similar to the Nechacko story but even worse---hatchery stocking of juvenile sturgeon has been ongoing on the Columbia River for well over a decade and survival has been far higher than expected. Today a cull of about 4,000 sturgeon is ongoing led by Okanagan First Nation (ONA). The BCWF requested that the public be permitted to cull some of these surplus fish and were turned down by the Ministry. The problem is so great that a recreational fishery is now permitted on Roosevelt Reservoir in Washington State with a cull target of 20,000 sturgeon. This fishery is so popular that it is unlikely to be stopped, an unintended consequence of the original sturgeon stocking goal of preventing this stock becoming extinct. The question is—why in BC are anglers not permitted to fish and harvest the surplus?

Respectfully Submitted By:

Harvey Andrusak
Inland Fisheries Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019 SALTWATER FISHERIES COMMITTEE

Halibut started off the quarter with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) in Victoria BC. Going into the meeting we knew our Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was going to be down but we were not able to plan for how much. The work done by the Canadian Commissioners pointing out our concerns about assigned by catch was finally able to be understood by the USA Commissioners. Canada was able to say that we had been wrongly assigned a share of the total by catch instead of handling our own. This was and is a big step forward for Canada. We have developed a new Recreational fishing plan thanks to the folks in the northern area of our province. We now must ensure that our “catch monitoring” of halibut is as complete as possible.

Once we finished or should I say before halibut was completed, we received the proposals from DFO for a salmon season. This was basically no fishery on Fraser river chinook as well as some of the lower strait of Juan de Fuca around Victoria. This is both a Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) problem and a seeming collapse of the Fraser chinook stocks. We have been actively seeking answers from DFO but at present they are still determining how they are going to advise the Minister to proceed.

This has gone on for two months with sometimes two conference calls a day. Many weeks had daytime and evening calls. the most was in March as we tried to put together a way forward. on Salmon we have nothing yet to report as I write (April 9th).

Prawns the announcement is still a 50% cut in allowable catch from 200 per day and 400 possession to 100 per day 200 in possession. We find no science to back the move up and we feel it is a re-allocation of the resource (Prawns) Clams and Oysters are the same.

Rock fish are in trouble and so we have limited access to the fish that are not on the endangered list. We need to have a descending devise ready to go as a condition of license this year 2019, so be ready for it.

For those of us in the southern part of our province we need to be aware of the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) work that is being done. It is also wanting to be completed this year. Which is a huge stretch of resources for us in the recreational fishery as many of us strive to have family time in the summer months. Some of the areas to be protected are immense and take away our fishing rights as they become closed to fishing. Stay alert as I will send out information as it become available so you can participate in the public comment time frame.

Ken and I will both be at convention so make use of us.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Ted Brookman
Fisheries Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019 TIDAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE

Ahousaht Indian Band and Nation V Canada (Attorney General)

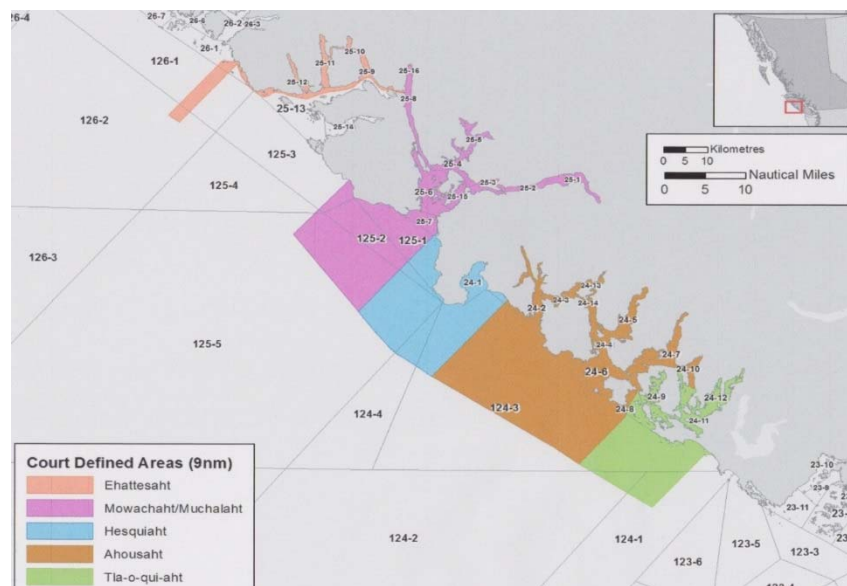
2018 BCSC633 is a complicated case to say the least. The case was originally heard by Hon. Madam Justice Garson. She ruled that the plaintiffs have aboriginal rights to fish for any species of fish within their fishing territories and to sell that fish. The case went back to court and on April 19, 2018 Hon. Madam Justice Humphries ruled a right to “A small scale, artisanal, local, multi species fishery, to be conducted in a nine (nautical) mile strip from shore, using small, low cost boats with limited technology and restricted catching power and aimed at wide community participation”

She also found that:

- The right is multi-species; therefore, it is the totality of the fishery that is relevant, not one particular allocation of species;
- The right is not unrestricted;
- The right is not exclusive;
- The right is not to an industrial fishery;
- The right is not to accumulate wealth; and
- The right does not provide a guaranteed level of income, prosperity, or economic viability.

She also ruled that “according priority to the recreational fishery over the plaintiff’s fishery was not justified as aboriginal commercial rights have priority over recreational fishery and the general commercial fishery.”

Be aware, that believe it or not, the Plaintiffs were not satisfied with Humphries ruling and are appealing to the B.C. Court of Appeal! We better be there. Humphries ruling challenges the magna carta and is in complete contradiction to the ruling in Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band V. Canada (Attorney General) 2011 SCC 56. The ruling sets a dangerous precedent for other bands to follow. You need to be concerned.



Marine Protection Area Initiative

The SFAB will be hosting a series of meetings this spring to explain the process and gather input from public fishery participants.

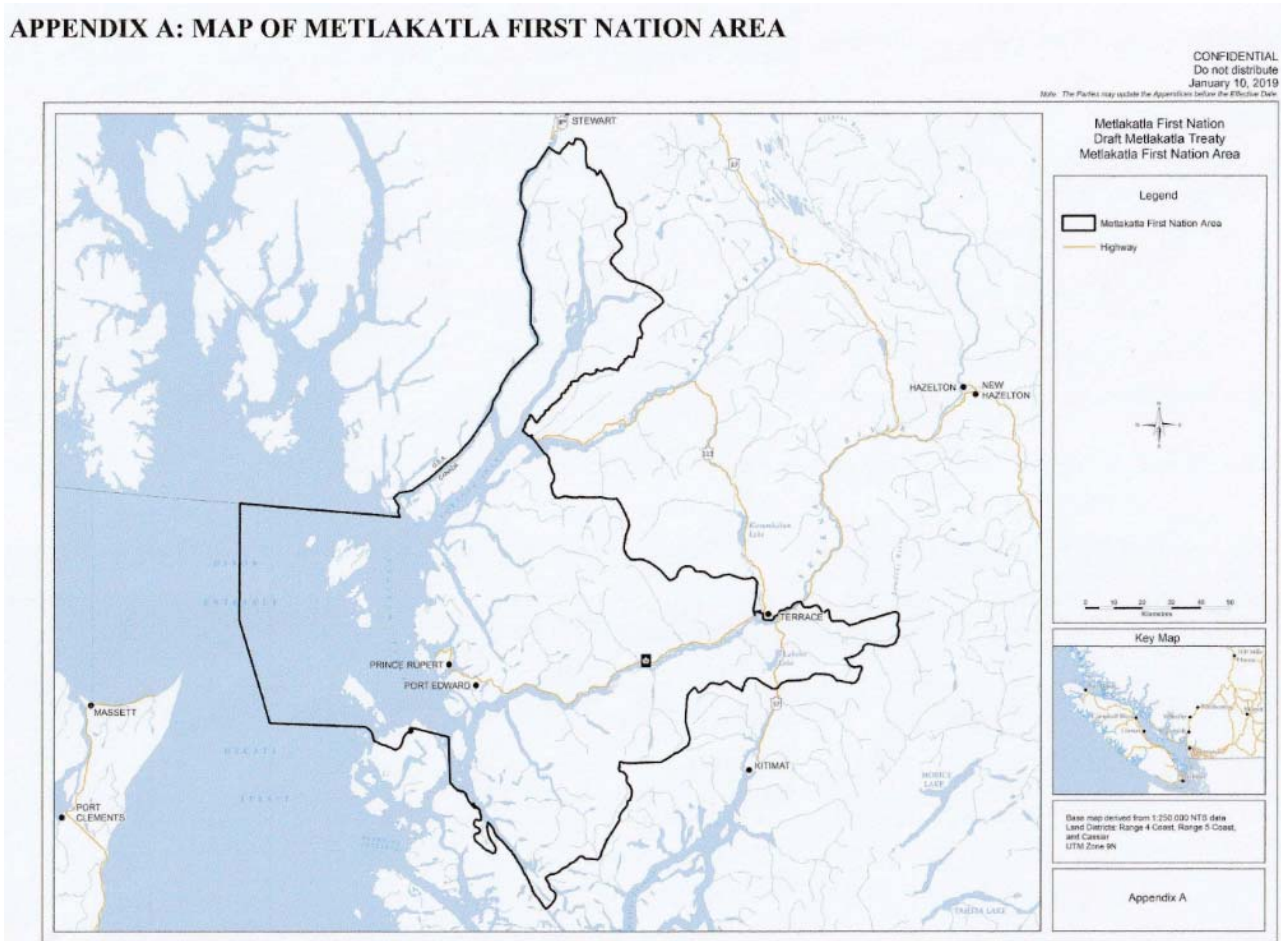
The marine protection area planning process is an initiative for protection and maintenance of marine biodiversity and ecological representation in the northern shelf bio region. More information can be found at <http://mpdnetwork.ca/bcnorthernshelf>

If you fish and or recreate between the north end of Vancouver Island and the Alaska pan handle you will want to attend one of the upcoming meetings.

Metlakatla First Nations Draft Metlakatla Treaty

This draft treaty has recently been released for review. The fisheries chapter is not included as of yet, but the wildlife chapter and access chapters are there. I am hopeful that the BCWF Wildlife and Access Committees will be reviewing and commenting on these chapters. I contacted treaty negotiators from the Provincial Government, and they have agreed to do a presentation for the Prince Rupert Rod & Gun Club in July.

APPENDIX A: MAP OF METLAKATLA FIRST NATION AREA



BCWF Legal Defense Fund

As you are probably aware our Board of Directors and Executive have been withdrawing money from this fund to defend your legal rights to fish and hunt and to maintain access to both land and water. The good part is that the Judge has ruled in our favour in most of the legal battles we have been involved in; the bad part is that the court room is expensive and our members and club members need to be contributing to this fund on a regular basis if we are to have a continued presence in these ongoing legal challenges and to be in a position to participate in new challenges that are sure to arise in the near future.

North Coast Chinook

Escapement to the Skeena River last summer was about 40,000 chinook. DFO are satisfied that returns in 2019 will be sufficient to allow for fishing activity to take place on the Haida Gwaii and the North Coast in both tidal and some non-tidal waters. I should be able to provide an update at the convention.

North Coast Coho

2018 saw poor returns of coho on both north and central coast. Fisheries are anticipated for 2019 but we may be looking at reduced daily and possession limits. Again, I should be able to update BCWF members at the convention.

Halibut

Regulations for halibut for 2019 have changed. This year it will be one per day up to 126cm. Your possession limit will be 1 between 90cm and 126cm or two under 90cm.

Prawns

DFO is proposing to reduce bag limits by 50%. There is no conservation concern north of Cape Caution and no excuse or justification for such a reduction.

Clams

DFO is also proposing a 50% reduction in bag limits and a minimum size limits for clams. Again, there is no justification for these reductions north of Cape Caution as there is not a conservation concern not to mention the fact that DFO has not provided one single beach on the north coast where the public can dig clams.

If there are specific beaches on the South Coast that DFO has concerns with they need to deal with them individually and refrain from Coast wide blanket reductions.

Respectfully Submitted

Ken Franzen
Inland Fisheries Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019 PARKS & WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

This committee was assigned a new chair earlier this year.

The reformation of this committee is underway, and the first step is recruiting committee members that share a commitment to protecting wilderness, and the restoration and enhancement of these hard to reach areas, so that our children may enjoy the challenge, the reward, and the serenity of a wild place for years to come.

A meeting with MLA Linda Larson was held. Focal points of the meeting were predator hunting and managing road densities in the southern interior.

Discussion points were:

- Realizing a provincial net gain in road density will have to stop and/or be reversed at some point
- Illustrating the fact that in the southern interior road densities exceed the prescribed forest industry standard of .6 km of road/hectare of land by up to three times
- Establishing a goal of managing areas where resource extraction is active to .6 km/ha which is a number written into FRPA policy, and also accepted by wildlife managers as tipping point where wildlife becomes displaced
- The importance of writing finite numbers like .6/km into law instead of policy, so the numbers actually mean something
- Why we think it is important to restore some of the “finished” areas to a more natural state
- The importance of making legislative decisions based on facts and science, rather than opinion and emotion

Respectfully Submitted By:

Brian Hancock
Parks & Wilderness Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019
RECREATIONAL SPORTS SHOOTING COMMITTEE

**Presentation to the Senate
Standing Committee on National Security and Defence**

**Bill C-71
An Act to Amend Certain Regulations in Relation to Firearms**

Monday April 01, 2019

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, and members of the committee.
Thank you for inviting the 50,000 members of the B.C. Wildlife Federation to communicate with you regarding Bill C-71.

Firearms Ownership is A Way of Life

for the responsible firearms owners of BC. We appreciate the outdoors experience and are committed to placing natural wholesome food on our family's dinner tables.

We realize that this experience bonds us to our ancestors and the pioneer spirit. It forms the values that hold our families and society together. This is what gives meaning to our lives.

Firearm Usage is an Important Harvesting Tool

When it is based on the scientific management of species and Fair Chase ethics.

The Benefit of Appropriate Harvesting is:

- It limits negative wildlife interactions,
- It prevents crop predation,
- It protects livestock,
- It saves the government the cost of employing Conservation Officers to address problem wildlife

Safety

I am a licensed Firearms Instructor, a Master CORE Hunting Instructor and a competition handgun shooter.

A student may be issued a Restricted Firearms course report only after attending a two-day training session and passing written and practical tests.

Safety is a priority and foremost in the instruction is always pointing the firearm in a safe direction and keeping your finger off the trigger.

Learning the safe and legal use, storage, transportation, and display of a non-restricted firearm requires that they be unloaded and have a trigger lock applied to them or have them stored in a safe or securely locked container or room.

Restricted firearms further require that they also be unloaded, with a trigger lock applied and transported in a locked case with the ammunition transported in a separate locked case.

Transporting restricted firearms in any other manner is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada. It is illegal to carry a loaded or unloaded restricted firearm, on your person.

Only when the student successfully completes the course do they become illegible to submit an application. That application must then pass the scrutiny of an RCMP background check.

Bill C-71 Proposed Regulations

create more onerous layers of regulation that only law-abiding firearms owners will follow.

The proposed Bill does nothing to address the issue of illegal firearms use or possession.

What other recreational activity is so regulated requiring background checks every five (5) years?

Bill C-71 Proposes to increase the five-year background check. This would rephrase the questions on Form 5592e to:

You must provide details on a separate page if the answer to any of the following questions is yes:

- a) Have you ever been subject to a peace bond or protection order?
- b) Has any member of your household ever been prohibited from possessing any firearm?
- c) Have you ever threatened or attempted suicide? Have you ever suffered, been diagnosed or treated for depression, alcohol, drug or substance abuse; behavioral problems, or emotional problems?
- d) Have you ever experienced a divorce, a separation, or a breakdown of a significant relationship; a job loss or a bankruptcy?

When Comparing Licensed Drivers to Licensed Firearm Owners

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) stated that there were:

- 642 Motor Vehicle Accidents per 100,000 licensed drivers.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in August reported that were:

- .6 firearm deaths per 100,000 licensed firearm owners and
- .07 accidental shootings per 100,000 licensed firearm owners

Our question is if licensed drivers are over 600 times more likely to have an accident than licenced firearms owner, then why are they not required to undergo similar background checks?

As alcohol and speed contribute to 51% of motor vehicle accidents perhaps a renewable Alcohol Purchase Licence and speed governors should be required as are seat belts?

In Conclusion

Would not money be better spent training and employing more law enforcement personnel?

Would not a better solution be applying more resources to relieving the causes of crime e.g. poverty, economic inequality, inadequate education, and drug addiction?

To mitigate against criminal activity would it not be better to discuss parenting skills and effective conflict resolution techniques as mandatory subjects in schools?

Societal values can only be changed by education not regulation.

Success!

After your Committee testified at the Senate hearings concerning the proposed changes to the firearms legislation Bill C-71, the Committee made amendments in favour of all the BCWF's concerns regarding the legislation.

Excerpts from the April 8, 2019 Hill Times report:

The following is the legislations' next hurdles:

1. The committee will submit its report to the full Senate this week.
2. The Senate will vote on the committee report and may accept or reject the amendments.
3. The Bill then goes back and forth between the Senate and the House of Commons until they agree on a final text for adoption.

The Liberal Party government controls the House of Commons and the Senate and the original Bill C-71 could become law by the end of June.

The favourable Amendments passed included:

1. The RCMP would not obtain the exclusive responsibility of Firearms classification. The government will retain its ability to override and fix bad decisions on firearm classifications by the unelected and unaccountable federal police.
2. There will be no changes to the current ATT system. Sport shooters will not require special Authorizations to Transport handguns and certain rifles and shotguns, and additional ATTs will not be required to transport restricted firearms to repair shops, gunshots, airports, or to the border.
3. There will not be a lifetime background check. Police will retain the authority to do so as needed, as they do now.

4. The Minister of Public Safety is required to report to parliament on how firearm-classification decisions in the past calendar year affected individuals and businesses.

Bill C-71 will however:

1. Create new restrictions, prohibitions and penalties for lawful firearm owners.
2. CZ 858 and SAN Swiss Arms rifles will be prohibited and eventually confiscated.
3. Section 12 suggests more prohibitions are coming.
4. There will be a “connections registry” of all gun owners who buy and sell any firearms including non-restricted firearms.
5. Gun stores will be required to record all details of personal firearm purchases and keep the data for at least 20 years.

Senators Voting Against Bill C-71 were:

1. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, Conservative
2. Paul McIntyre, Conservative
3. Victor Oh, Conservative
4. Don Plett, Conservative
5. David Richards, Non-affiliated
6. David Wells (for Jean-Guy Dagenais), Conservative

Senators Voting For Bill C-71 were:

1. Gwen Boniface (Chair), Independent Senators Group
2. Marc Gold, Independent Senators Group
3. Mobina Jaffer (Deputy Chair), Non-Affiliated
4. Marilou McPhedran, Independent Senators Group
5. André Pratte, Independent Senators Group

Senator Voting Sometimes For, Sometimes Against
Diane Griffin – Independent Senators Group

Respectfully Submitted By:

Chuck Zuckerman & Doug Bancroft
Recreational Sports Shooting Committee Co-Chairs
BC Wildlife Federation

Q1 REPORT, 2019 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Please find below a brief summary of the actions undertaken by the Resolutions Committee in the First quarter of this year:

- In preparation for the 2019 AGM in May, our committee has spent a substantial amount of time reviewing and deliberating on the resolutions submitted from the membership. In all 20 eligible resolutions were received by the office, of which only 2 of those were not recommended to be heard at the AGM, alternatively they were tasked to the appropriate committee for action.
- As per bylaw 6.6, committee chair, Jared Wilkison reported to the Chairman of the Board with an update on the action for 2018 resolutions.
- Other duties performed were updates to the “History of Resolutions” manual and the “Summary of Resolutions Direction from the BCWF membership 1972-2018” manual.
- Committee member, Wilf Pfleiderer provided our committee with a draft version of a resolution tracking document spreadsheet to aid in the process between the committee and office. The committee will review and refine with the plan of having an official document for release and use to the office for the next resolution season upcoming after the AGM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jared Wilkison
Resolutions Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation

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WILDLIFE & ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Draft Section 11 SARA Agreement and Partnership Agreement Caribou Recovery

Government is now conducting a series of public engagement sessions in many centres across the province to gather public feedback on two draft caribou recovery agreements. Inadequate public engagement and the lack of transparency prior to the release of the two agreements in late March, along with the public engagement meetings that started in early April, resulted in a lot of negative speculation about the agreements. The BC Wildlife Federation, along with other stakeholders, has been calling for an extension of the public input period and on April 15, Premier John Horgan announced that the province is extending the engagement period to May 31, 2019. Mr. Horgan also announced that Blair Lekstrom has been appointed as community liaison tasked with engaging residents and local government leaders in the Peace Region on the draft caribou recovery agreements. Blair Lekstrom is the former mayor of Dawson Creek and former South Peace MLA.

On April 16, Chief Roland Willson of West Moberly First Nations and Chief Ken Cameron of Saulteau First Nations released a joint press release to address what they are referring to as misinformation about the agreements and racism that has “surfaced in recent weeks,” particularly in social media. When referring to the back country, the chiefs said: “The agreements place no restrictions on hiking. None on mountain biking. None on camping. Or hunting. Or fishing. And if there are going to be any restrictions on snowmobiling in critical caribou habitat, then there will be new snowmobile areas opened up.”

The BCWF supports efforts to recover endangered caribou species, but more time is needed to assess the impacts of the agreements and provide comments on southern mountain caribou recovery. The plan not only needs to address long-term viability of the caribou, but also needs to consider access for hunting and angling, recreation and resource extraction, while incorporating the input of First Nations, stakeholders and various levels of government.

The BCWF is encouraging its members to take action by submitting comments through the government’s public engagement website and by talking to their MLA’s about caribou recovery.

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou/section11agreement/>

Predator Hunting Contests

The recent outcry over hunting contests has arisen due to member frustrations over lack of effective wildlife management by successive governments. The BCWF supports predator hunting and trapping, predator control initiatives related to caribou recovery and short and long-term objectives for critical habitat. This sort of intensive management of habitat and predators for caribou recovery does not occur for other commonly hunted ungulate species, but it needs to.

Our position going forward is to press the government for far greater funding for wildlife management and direction to wildlife biologists that habitat and predator management are legitimate tools for managing all wildlife. Predator management is required to achieve a balance between predators and prey, particularly across disturbed landscapes until they recover.

Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation (IWMHC) Engagement Webinars

The second phase of government's IWMHC engagement continues with four more two-hour webinars on the following topics:

- Data, Information and Knowledge
- Funding
- Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat
- Stakeholder Engagement

Al Martin and Gerry Paille continue to represent the BC Wildlife Federation's interests in this process. The purpose of the second set of webinars was to review the stakeholder input to date, confirm agreement and identify priorities. The final step in Phase Two Engagement will be the preparation of a report that provides recommended policy options to the FLNRORD based on the stakeholder input received during the face-to-face workshop and webinars.

In phase three of the process, FLNRORD will speak with First Nations and various stakeholders over the summer and prepare a Policy Intentions Paper. The Intentions Paper is targeted for release in September 2019, followed by engagement during the fall of 2019. It is anticipated this engagement will have a strong regional focus. The general public will have an opportunity to review and provide comments on the Intentions Paper via Engage BC. There will be a separate parallel process with First Nations.

Supporting the Managed Hunt

The BC Wildlife Federation is aghast at statements being made by the Wildlife Defense League in a new campaign to ban cougar, lynx and bobcat hunting. The BCWF supports the present hunting and trapping regulations related to wild-cats as developed by the province's wildlife biologists.

The BCWF is encouraging members to let their MLA, Premier Horgan and Minister Donaldson know they support the hunting and trapping regulations as set out in the Hunting and Trapping Regulation Synopsis, and in particular, that they support the hunting of cougars, lynx and bobcats by sending them a letter through the BCWF's website (<https://bcwf.thankyou4caring.org/bcwf-call-to-action>) or by sending personal letters. Nearly 11,000 submissions have been made through the website to date and the BCWF would like to recognize the support of BCWF clubs, the Wild Sheep Society of BC, the Guide Outfitters Association of BC, and several hunting related Facebook groups and online forums in spreading the word.

Moose Solutions Roundtable

Gerry Paille and Ken Last attended the Moose Solutions Roundtable in Williams Lake on April 2. The sessions were well attended, respectful, well informed and productive for the most part. Region 5 biologist Daniel Lirette presented the most recent moose inventory data and historic trends. While there generally has been a significant decline in moose populations and bull/cow ratios in most game management zones since the late 1990's, there is some indication that the trend is slowing and possibly reversing in some cases (South Chilcotin). The rest of the day was spent in smaller group sessions discussing specific objectives and solutions.

There was agreement on moving forward with recommendations to FLNRORD executive on the following three points:

1. Access management, especially related to disturbances resulting from fighting wildfires and salvage logging;
2. Decrease cow and calf moose mortality with a focus on predator control and habitat work;
3. Improving data, information and knowledge by amalgamating western, local and traditional sources, and providing better accessibility.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Gerry Paille
Wildlife & Allocations Committee Chair
BC Wildlife Federation