



COMMITTEE REPORTS

QUARTER 2 APRIL - JUNE 2019

**Q2 REPORT, 2019
FIREARMS COMMITTEE**



It is with sadness that I must begin my report by announcing that Bill C-71 is now law.

C71 passed the House in 2018, and was considered by the Senate Standing Committee, National Security and Defense throughout the first six months of 2019.

In Q2-2019, as in Q1, the main activity of Firearms Committee members was reaching out to the recreational firearms community and encouraging firearms owners to sign and send letters to Senators, particularly members of the Senate Standing Committee, National Security and Defence.

Firearms Committee Chair, Gary Mauser, represented BCWF at the Historical Arms Collectors Society of BC gun shows in April, May, and June, as well as at the Kamloops gun show in April, and the Lumby gun show in June.

This year alone, 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, and 163 to Senator Boniface, Chairwoman, Standing

Committee, National Security and Defence, with a request that the letters be distributed to all committee members.

Copies of these signed letters were also sent to the appropriate Member of Parliament; 16 to NDP, 138 to Liberals, & 78 to Conservatives.

Bi-annual Introductory Shoot at Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club

Planning is also underway for the Bi-annual Introductory shoot for SFU students in July at Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club. This year, local MP candidates have been invited to participate, and I look forward to their involvement.

This Intro Shoot, like those in previous years, could not be held without the leadership and enthusiasm of the members of Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club. This year's shoot will be the biggest one in thirty years: 40 attendees have signed up so far. Public support for the shooting sports relies upon such club activities. Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club members have my deep appreciation for their efforts.

Ridgedale Rod and Gun leads the way. The SFU Introductory Shoot is just one of the public events that Ridgedale Rod and Gun hosts each and every year.

Bill C-71 & Minister Blair's Gun Ban

Despite the energetic opposition of a large number of Canadian gun owners and their families, Bill C-71 passed the Senate on 28 May. The Trudeau government ordered its "Independent Senators" to strip the bill of all of the amendments made in committee by responsible non-partisan Senators. Since the bill was unamended, there was no need for it to go back to the House of Commons, so C71 went directly to the Governor General to receive royal assent on 21 June.

As with most complex legislation, various sections will be phased in at different times, to become law over the next few months.

- For at least a few weeks, it will remain legal to transfer a long gun without calling Miramichie;
- Letters will be sent to anyone who owns a firearm that has been prohibited;
- The RCMP is now charged with determining which guns can be prohibited as well as enforcing their decision. Parliament has abdicated its responsibilities.

Minister Blair promises to ban semi-auto long guns and let cities and provinces ban handguns.

Why write letters? Letters to MPs and Senators have played an important role in the campaign to stand up for our rights against irrational and punitive firearms legislation, but now it's time to prepare for the election. Rural MPs know we are a force to be respected.

The Firearms Committee cooperated with Chuck Z, BCWF VP, and BCWF Recreational Shooting Sports Committee to develop questions for members to ask MPs during the election campaign.

During Q2, wearing my hat as an “independent professor,” I posted multiple comments on justiceforgunowners.ca and on Facebook which were shared by thegunblog.ca and other news sites.

The Vancouver Sun published a letter to the editor I wrote criticizing the misrepresentation of Bills C-17 and C-71 by history professor Blake Brown, a virulent opponent of civilians owning firearms.

In his opinion piece, Blake Brown failed to honestly characterize of past firearms legislation in that he ignored the voices of female MPs who opposed additional restrictions on firearms, such as Audrey McLaughlin (NDP) and Elsie Wayne (PC). Apparently, women only have value if they support Brown’s preferred narrative.

Losing a battle does not mean fighting was hopeless from the beginning. Letters to newspaper editors are read by politicians as well as by opinion leaders.

Therefore, I encourage all BCWF members to write newspapers editors and TV ombudsmen to criticize publications that they believe to be misguided. If we don’t stand up for ourselves, who will?

A longer critique of Brown’s error-filled opinion piece was posted on a popular webpage.

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. There is a reason you haven’t heard about a “scapebear” or a “scapecougar,” just a scapegoat.

You can make a difference. Don’t be a goat. 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

Q2 REPORT, 2019 FISHERIES COMMITTEE – INLAND

Inland fishing has been unusual just as variable as the weather itself. Hatches have occurred earlier and favourite flies have not always been as reliable as in the past. Hot days in May and again in June have created challenges for all small lake fishers. Many interior small lakes have declined in recent years owing to introduced exotics such as yellow perch and goldfish. The BCWF will be advancing an initiative to rejuvenate some of these fisheries through a variety of techniques. Some of the issues that the BCWF is involved in include:

Dragon Lake: This lake has produced some fantastic fishing during the last couple of decades but is an example of a declining fishery due to introduction of goldfish. There is no practical means of ridding the lake of goldfish as netting will not remove them in sufficient numbers that rainbow trout growth would improve. Chemical removal is out of the question due to size of the lake and prohibitive cost. The best bet is to introduce a predator that will knock down goldfish numbers to the point that rainbow trout growth will improve.

Discussions with regional fisheries staff indicate their intention to introduce the Horsefly rainbow trout stock into the lake starting in 2020. This stock is a highly predaceous form of trout. Experimental stocking of Horsefly stock in a couple of lakes that have reidside shiners and lake chub have shown very positive results with 5-8 lb rainbows that have preyed upon these non-game fish. Meanwhile BCWF members will be assisting Ministry staff with some netting of goldfish during June-July.

Quesnel Lake: Fisheries managers have increased the daily quota for lake trout to five per day. This measure appears popular with anglers and more and more are enjoying harvests of 5 lakera per day ranging in size from 5 -18 lbs. Current tagging studies indicates a very large population of lake trout and this work led to the increase in the daily quota. Hats off the Williams Lake fisheries managers! Meanwhile these same biologists have been collecting Horsefly River rainbow spawners as part of the program to produce these fish in the hatchery to restock into lakes such as Dragon.

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 and constructing bridges in order to develop the islands. 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. Funding applications have been made to both levels of government for funds as well as a commitment by one large private donor. A full feature film has been produced and was shown at the AGM in Ft. St. John.

Kootenay Lake: The Kootenay Lake fishery remains poor because the kokanee population remains 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 aggressively 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.

In recent years the Freshwater Fisheries Society have team up with some regions to start stocking kokanee in some of the interior small lakes that currently produce rainbow trout. A huge success story has unfolded with some great fishing for 2-4 lb kokanee especially in a number of lakes along Highway 24. Bridge, Deka, Horse are a few that now support great kokanee fishing in addition to rainbow trout with kokanee fishing best in the spring and winter months.

Columbia River Sturgeon: Similar to the Nechako 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?

Fraser River Slide: As if Fraser River Chinook had enough problems---in late June a rockslide event just west of Clinton potentially blocked or partially blocked Stuart Chinook and sockeye migration to their spawning grounds. The slide is located in a very narrow canyon area accessible only by helicopter thus making mitigative measures extremely difficult if not impossible. At time of writing DFO was making an all-out effort to determine how serious the blockage is. Side scanners

were placed in the river upstream and downstream of the slide to determine if fish can negotiate beyond it. Early results suggest some fish have passed by the obstruction but how many will ultimately pass and how many remain blocked are still major uncertainties. Even delay for any length of time could result in poor spawning success. This slide could also impact the Spruce City Club's Chinook brood capture program later this summer.

DFO and the province are formulating plans to move fish upstream of the obstruction either by helicopter or by means of a temporary fishway. As the river drops from high water the chances will improve for fish to get by the obstruction.

Respectfully Submitted By: Harvey Andrusak, Fisheries – Inland Committee Chair

Q2 REPORT, 2019 FISHERIES COMMITTEE – SALTWATER

Recommendations for Restoring Southern British Columbia's Public Chinook Fishery:

- Transition to Mark Selective Fishing (MSF) for the public fishery during the recovery of wild Chinook stocks of concern;
- Utilize strategic enhancement in addition to protecting and restoring critical habitat to reverse Chinook abundance trends; and,
- Protect the \$1.1 billion annual public fishery, sustain employment, and maintain the many benefits that accrue to Canada.

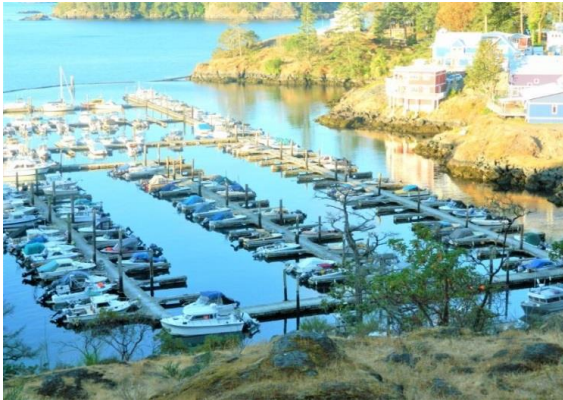
Prologue; this briefing note has been prepared by a broad group of concerned southern Vancouver Island citizens. The group includes local fishing, conservation and advocacy organisations, Sc'ianew First Nation, fishing lodges, charter captains, fishing tackle manufacturers and retailers. It also includes salmon habitat and enhancement volunteers and technicians, plus Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard (DFO) and Provincial biologists.

The purpose of this document is to recommend viable solutions to restore the Chinook resource and protect the socio-economic benefits and jobs related to BC's \$1.1 billion Public Fishery, while the recovery efforts for certain Chinook stocks and Southern Resident Killer Whales are in place.

Anglers by nature are conservationists who recognize the importance of a healthy environment. This has been demonstrated for decades by thousands of volunteers who have devoted hundreds of thousands of hours annually toward salmon habitat and enhancement projects, as well as gifting millions of dollars to the conservation and enhancement of wild Pacific salmon. Endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW's) benefit from efforts to restore weak runs of Upper & Middle Fraser River Chinook. The angling public cares about SRKW wellbeing and supports their recovery.

Currently there is a crisis related to Middle and Upper Fraser Chinook salmon. These large salmon are known as stream-type Chinook, because they spend an additional year in freshwater before migrating to sea. Unfortunately, these runs are experiencing a steady decline due to watershed issues related to human activities and climate change. In the 1990s these Chinook were healthy contributors to coastal and in-river fisheries. Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW's) return to BC waters in the springtime and prey upon these large Chinook salmon whose migration timing coincides with the whale's arrival.

Over two decades ago, as Fraser stream-type Chinook abundance began to decline, DFO and the Provincial Government failed to respond quickly or effectively. A number of small hatcheries within the Fraser watershed were closed due to financial constraints and poor salmon returns, and there has been minimal enhancement or habitat restoration in the region since then.



Comparison of fishing boats moored at Cheanuh Marina on the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation Reserve in East Sooke (Left picture taken Jun 2018 – right picture taken May 2019)

Instead of dealing with the issues in the watersheds, DFO relied upon fishery restrictions and closures as the principal recovery tools. These restrictions on the public fishery began in 2008 and increased in intensity, culminating in the current situation where we now have Chinook non-retention fishing over virtually the whole South Coast region during the bulk of the critically important May to mid-September Public fishery season.

This magnitude of seasonal loss of opportunity and the resulting economic hardship, now being realized, are unsustainable for small regional businesses and could have been avoided. The recent move to long periods of Chinook non-retention, when other salmon species are generally not present for retention, has produced estimates of angler participation drop of approximately 90%, which far exceeds the pre-regulation DFO estimate. Public fishery representatives are deeply concerned that the fishery infrastructure could permanently collapse. The angling community predicted this outcome and fore-warned the Fisheries Minister and staff before the April 2019 regulations were announced. Anglers do not launch or moor boats, invest in extensive maintenance costs, spend on other angling necessities or book lodge and guided trip services if they cannot keep a Chinook salmon; and this has been proven without a doubt during the first two months of Chinook non-retention regulations.

The quandary for DFO is how to maintain or rebuild wild Chinook stocks of concern during potentially long salmon recovery periods, while simultaneously maintaining opportunity for the public salmon fishery to survive. Chinook non-retention as a fisheries management policy is unsustainable for the public fishery. The result will be continued declines of struggling salmon stocks and the collapse of the Public Chinook fishery that the business infrastructure and support industry cannot endure. It is vital that a viable alternative be instituted immediately. We strongly support the following action plan for recovery of Chinook stocks of concern and the maintenance of the Public Fishery. Restoring Southern British Columbia's Public Chinook Fishery.

i) Transition to Marked Selective Fisheries (MSF) for the Public Fishery During the recovery of Wild Chinook Stocks of Concern:

Marked Selective Fishing is a valuable fisheries management tool that promotes conservation and protection of threatened wild Chinook & Coho stocks while allowing controlled opportunities for anglers to retain “enhanced”, and more abundant, components of the Chinook salmon resource. Chinook MSF must be implemented in Southern British Columbia waters immediately;

The current South Coast Chinook non-retention regulations do not permit the public to keep any Chinook whether they originate from healthy wild or productive hatchery stocks except in a handful of exempted terminal fishing areas.

The opportunity to keep a salmon is fundamental to the success of the Public Chinook Fishery. Under a MSF regime, anglers can keep any sized hatchery produced Chinook or Coho which is easily identifiable by a clipped adipose fin, while releasing wild salmon from stocks of concern. This strategy allows the fishery to continue successfully, while simplifying potentially complex regional management rules.

Releasing wild (unmarked) Chinook is part of the MSF plan. It requires wild Chinook to be released which allows them to migrate through the fishing area and back to their home rivers, while permitting the Public fishery to operate at a sustainable level by retaining adipose clipped salmon. The release of wild Chinook in ocean fisheries facilitates Fraser River First Nations access to food, social and ceremonial fishery requirements;

Currently DFO clips just 10% of hatchery Chinook production annually through the Salmon Enhancement Program. This low rate of marking must be increased dramatically and quickly. There are approximately 25,000,000 Chinook raised in Southern BC hatcheries each year, of which the bulk are produced for harvest opportunities.

Washington State, according to law, mass marks Chinook and Coho at a 100% rate. Adipose clipped US hatchery production contributes between 50% and 80% of the abundance of Chinook in key southern BC angling waters during the spring and early summer key fishing period but must be released under the current Chinook non-retention regulation. Washington State has plans to increase Chinook hatchery production an additional 12 million by 2020. Additional mass marking of all existing southern BC hatchery Chinook will further increase the proportion of available adipose-clipped fish for MSF retention opportunities; and,

Transitioning towards an MSF as soon as possible is a priority component of a well thought out comprehensive Chinook action plan. This type of initiative will accelerate wild Chinook recovery, restore reasonable fishing expectations and opportunities for the public and rebuild confidence in the stability of the world class Public fishery service infrastructure in Southern British Columbia.

(ii) Utilize Strategic Enhancement Combined with the Protection and Restoration of Critical Habitat to Reverse Chinook Abundance Trends:

The strategic enhancement and habitat restoration of Upper and Middle Fraser River Chinook stocks of concern must take precedence immediately. A multi-faceted “all tools in the box” approach will be required. These tools include but are not limited to accelerated habitat restoration, modern Chinook hatchery production technologies, the use of proven over-wintering protocols, pen rearing for improved survival rates, water conservation and protection, research and stock assessment, angler cooperation and relationship building with 1st nations for the benefit of salmon and those who depend on them, public/private financial investments, strategic increases in Chinook production, and proper land use and habitat protections that put salmon first. These goals have not been acted on in any effective way to date by the DFO and the Provincial government.

Aside from enacting increasingly restrictive fishing regulations over the last decade with failed outcomes, DFO has ignored progressive solutions to rebuild these important Fraser River Chinook stocks. The recently announced 5 year joint Federal/Provincial \$142 million salmon recovery fund is a welcome step in the right direction, but its success will depend on how the money is spent.

In the face of climate change DFO and the Provincial government must shift Chinook recovery thinking away from methods that were unsuccessful. They must move towards strategies that embrace new thinking, require decisive and proactive actions on those stocks that are most likely to be affected by adverse climate impacts, moderate and preferably reduce predator/prey interactions and effectively mitigate adverse impacts from increased human activities and population growth. Partnering with the private sector, including the sharing of proven technologies, are keys to halting and reversing declines, and will assist in accelerating the achievement of successful outcomes.

BC Chamber of Commerce Survey Data

379 Businesses on Vancouver Island Surveyed
ONE MONTH AFTER NON-RETENTION REGULATION IMPLEMENTED

71% of businesses have experienced cancelled bookings
22% report business being down over 50% compared to this time last year

(iii): Protect the \$1.1 billion public fishery infrastructure, sustain employment and maintain the many benefits that accrue to Canada

Chinook salmon are the backbone of the public fishery. Chinook are revered around the world as spectacular game fish attracting many thousands of tourist anglers to BC every year. The resident angler has a long-standing cultural attachment to these salmon and considers bringing one home for the dinner table as one of the most important benefits of the overall angling experience;

There is great diversity within the BC Public fishing industry much of it homegrown and cutting edge. It includes manufacturers, distributors, retailers, boat and engine sales and maintenance, charter boat and fishing lodge operations. The bulk of it is 100% BC owned and operated. Much of this infrastructure is located in remote communities where other job opportunities are scarce. This \$1 billion business has historically grown out of the desire to catch, and more importantly, retain a Chinook salmon;

The disintegration of the Public Fishery and its infrastructure must be avoided. In 2019 DFO badly miscalculated the consequences of a Chinook non-retention policy that virtually eliminated Chinook fishing expectation and opportunity. This sent out a message that BC is closed to fishing.

The impact will affect most of the Province's south coast waters for at least two thirds of the peak fishing period. Few businesses can realistically survive this type of unnecessary regulatory attack for more than one season. It could have been avoided because there is already a sufficient amount of adipose clipped Chinook in south coast waters to support a limited Selective Mark fishery.

BC Chamber of Commerce Survey Data

379 Businesses on Vancouver Island Surveyed
ONE MONTH AFTER NON-RETENTION REGULATION IMPLEMENTED

96% of businesses say they will lose customers and clients
37% will have to lay off staff
46% fell the future of their business is now in question
27% say they will have to close their business this season or next

In Summary:

“People need salmon and salmon need people” (Tom Rutherford-retired DFO Community Advisor). The creators of this briefing note strongly recommend our government takes immediate and decisive action to implement a Southern BC Chinook salmon recovery program, to include habitat protection and restoration, innovative freshwater water management and allocation, research and strategic stock enhancement. The program must include implementation of Marked Selective Chinook fishing made possible through mass marking all hatchery reared Chinook and strategically enhancing Chinook to benefit the public fishery and endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales. With the Federal Election approaching, your support for British Columbia’s Public Fishery and assistance in these objectives being implemented are critical.

Respectfully Submitted By: Ted Brookman, Fisheries – Saltwater Committee Chair

Q2 REPORT, 2019 FISHERIES COMMITTEE – TIDAL

Area “F” Troll Fishery: DFO plans to allow a troll fishery for coho on the A-B line with no catch ceiling and no time and area closures. This action will have a very negative effect on the recreational coho fishery coast wide.

Skeena River Chinook and Coho Fishery: There is recreational fishing opportunity on the Skeena River this year for both chinook and coho. See the link to fisheries notice FN0567.

https://notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm?pg=view_notice&DOC_ID=222428&ID=all

Annual Chinook Limits: DFO decided to reduce our annual tidal water chinook limits in 2019 from 30 to 10. Don't be fooled into believing that this was a conservation initiative. This is a re-allocation away from the recreational fishery and over to First Nations and Southern California Resident Killer Whales. I plan to get this issue back on the table at the next round of SFAB meetings.

Skeena Sockeye: According to DFO only 27,132 large sockeye have past the Tyee Test Fishery as of July 7 which suggest the total escapement will be below the 800k threshold to continue recreational sockeye retention, so they plan to close the Skeena Watershed and approach waters.

2019 Skeena Drought Plan: According to the Province and DFO some Skeena River tributaries have already reached the first point in the Provinces drought management plan and they may be asking DFO to mirror their management actions by “Implementing additional recreational harvesting restrictions in-river for northern chinook to protect these stocks and hopefully maximize spawning success”

We will be reminding DFO that the 14-day forecast for Terrace and Smithers is cool daily temperatures and rain. This can hardly be considered the drought situation that we saw in 2018. Let's hope that was an anomaly.

Respectfully Submitted By: Ken Franzen, Fisheries – Tidal Committee Chair

Q2 REPORT, 2019
INDIGENOUS RELATIONS & RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

As many of you may know, this has been an ongoing topic as a committee for the last couple of years. Part of the reason that not much has transpired in the last couple of years, was because of funding & the idea of perhaps hiring a person with legal background in First Nation, to chair this committee.

I have since been in conversation with Tom Christensen, a former Member of Parliament, who for a year and a half was the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for the Province.

Tom is willing to share the relationships and contacts he had made though out his career and will provide any assistance we may require in order to strengthen our relations with First Nations regarding concerns when it comes to wildlife and the environment of BC.

Tom Christensen has since returned to his profession as a Lawyer here in Vernon, BC.

I intend to have a list of names and contact information of First Nations that would be of benefit to the Federation at our upcoming Board of Directors meeting the weekend of July 26th, 2019

Respectfully Submitted By: Boris Ivanoff, Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation Committee Chair

Q2 REPORT, 2019
PARKS & WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

The federal and provincial governments have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Sylix/Okanagan Nation to begin formally working to establish a 273 km² national park reserve.

The announcement does not mean that the park will be established right away, the document outlines how the various stakeholder governments will work together in the process.

The provincial government has bought two private properties at the top end of Christina Lake for 1.74 million dollars. The properties will add 6 hectares to the existing Gladstone Provincial park. Sandner Creek, which is used by 70% of the lake's stream spawning Kokanee as well as Rainbow trout, runs through the properties.

BC Parks has yet to determine what will become of the new public lands, but in the meantime, the previously private 6 hectares – including the beaches – will now be open to the public.

Respectfully Submitted By: Brian Hancock, Parks & Wilderness Committee Chair

Q2 REPORT, 2019 RECREATIONAL SPORTS SHOOTING COMMITTEE

**Letter From Ms. Brenda Butterworth-Carr,
Assistant Deputy Minister & Director of Police Services:**



June 20, 2019
Ref: 555893

Parksville-Qualicum Fish & Game Association
PO Box 988
Parksville BC V9P 2H1

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is developing policy options to address the misuse of firearms and imitation firearms in our communities. I am writing to ask for your participation in the Province's proposal to disrupt gang and gun violence.

Potential actions may involve enhanced recordkeeping for shooting ranges.

Recognizing that you may have an interest in this initiative, your feedback on this proposal would be appreciated. If you would like to provide feedback, please direct it to PolicingSecurityConsult@gov.bc.ca by August 6, 2019. The Ministry will use the information you provide to further develop policy, and in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Please see: http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96165_01.

I appreciate your assistance and thank you in advance for your timely response.

Take care,



Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Tr'injä shär njit dinstlät
Assistant Deputy Minister
And Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and
Solicitor General

Policing and Security Branch

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Telephone: 250 387-1100
Fax/telex: 250 356-7747
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/psag

Draft Letter to be Sent to Clubs & Members:

- Still awaiting approval from BC Wildlife Federation Executive & Board of Directors

The BCWF's Recreational Shooting Sports Committee (RSSC) requests that all Clubs and individuals respond to the attached letter from Victoria asking for the following information specifically regarding the statement that new policies "may involve enhanced record keeping for shooting ranges".

1. What information is being requested for enhanced record keeping?
2. How is this information necessary or useful to the government?
3. Our Club already fully complies with all federal regulations and we would like to know why your Office thinks that is insufficient?
4. Could you please provide us with any studies or data that suggests problems with range administration, or that gang members have been illegally obtaining PALs and this requires us to ask for documentation?
5. Why does the government need this information, when the Federal Government has already certified that range users are legally entitled to possess, transport, and use firearms for hunting and recreational sports?

Sincerely yours,

Club Contact
Club Name
Club address

Q2 REPORT, 2019 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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

After the Annual general meeting in Fort St. John, the Resolutions chair liaised with the office staff to produce the 2019 Disposition of Resolutions and circulate to the membership. As with all resolution's correspondence, a copy can be found on the BCWF website.

Consistent with the above, required updates were conducted to the "Resolutions: Direction From the BC Wildlife Federation membership" and "History of BC Wildlife Federation" Resolutions by the committee and led by the chair, this is currently in for review by the resolutions committee before being circulated later in July.

Recently our committee learned that two of our committee members are stepping down from their positions. I would like to thank Les Husband and Wild Pfeleiderer for their contributions to our committee over the years, providing correction, mentorship and guidance to our fellow members and me as chair. In particular, I would like to thank Wilf for his dutiful efforts as past chair and carrying out updates to the Resolutions manuals.

A request to the BCWF Chairman to go out to the Board and regional presidents to solicit any interest in joining the resolutions committee, we are looking for interested parties from the Cariboo, Omineca, Peace, Skeena or Kootenay regions to sit on our committee. If you know of anybody that is interested, encourage them to contact myself or a member of the resolutions committee.

In closing, on behalf of the entire committee, I would like to thank all the members, clubs and regional associations for submitting resolution proposals for consideration to be heard at the past 2019 AGM, a friendly reminder that resolutions for the 2020 AGM can be submitted any time during the calendar year, no need to wait until just before the deadline of December 31st.

Respectfully Submitted By: Jared Wilkison, Resolutions Committee Chair

Q2 REPORT, 2019 WILDLIFE & ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Cariboo Moose Allocation: The running of the LEH authorization draw was delayed this year because the final decision on the number for moose authorization in the Cariboo region was not determined until well into June — the same thing was true for guide outfitter moose quotas. The director of wildlife and habitat has the responsibility for allocation and her decision was delayed because of considerations for First Nations' treaty rights and concessions made by First Nations, more recent inventory data and the impacts of wildfires. As a result, the number of authorizations in some LEH zones in the Cariboo was decreased by up to 80%, and in some cases down to a single authorization for specific seasons.

The BCWF continues to advocate for an evidence-based and a multispecies approach to wildlife management, and this decision by the director is contrary to those principles. The director has recognized the recommendations out of the Moose Solutions roundtable including access management in areas that saw access increased as a result of wildfires and salvage logging, predator and habitat work, and a focus on better and more data — there has been no word on where these recommendations are going at this point.

E-Licensing Project: The ability for resident hunters to apply for Permits to Accompany and guide outfitters to complete their hunter reports within the online system is to be incorporated for the 2019 hunting season. Coming in the future to WILD is online compulsory inspection and reporting data.

Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation: The phase two, policy recommendations report, is now available on the Engage BC website. The report notes recommendations for the establishment of a “Minister’s Advisory Council” and regional advisory committees — we are confident that the BCWF will be involved in each.

Hunting Practices Sub-Committee Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team: The Hunting Practices Sub-committee is still in the process of evaluating a variety of methods, tools and tactics, and classifying them as “regulate, encourage, discourage or ignore”. The recommendations of the subcommittee will be ready to present to the PHTAT group for the late fall 2019 meeting.

Chronic Wasting Disease: There are now two confirmed and three possible cases of chronic wasting disease near Libby, Montana. Being as this discovery is in close proximity to BC’s east Kootenay region, it is extremely important to exercise due diligence by increasing CWD surveillance efforts and educational outreach programs in the region. After attending the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters’ two-day CWD symposium that included presentations from CWD experts and academics from the USA and Canada, it is abundantly clear that CWD poses a devastating concern for cervids and has implications for hunters.

FLNRORD, along with stakeholders including the BC Wildlife Federation, is in the process of finalizing a CWD response plan — more tissue samples are needed from the east Kootenays to properly inform actions according to the response plan. Immediate action could include the compulsory submission of deer heads harvested within several wildlife management units along the BC/Montana border in the east Kootenays.

The East Kootenay region of the BCWF is in the process of identifying possible cervid head collection depots and aiding in distributing information. The BCWF is a signee to a letter directed at major appliance retailers with the goal of acquiring freezers to store samples at a reduced or no cost.

Caribou Recovery: Blair Lekstrom, who was appointed by Premier Horgan as community liaison on caribou recovery, completed and made public his report on what he heard from local government and stakeholders. Soon after, the premier announced a two-year moratorium on any new resource development in what has been identified as critical caribou habitat.

The BC Wildlife Federation submitted a response through the official engage BC process related to the Section 11 and Partnership agreements for caribou recovery. The main concerns continue to be the lack of stakeholder involvement, especially in the “technical working group” that decides on objectives for habitat and wildlife, the single species approach to managing wildlife and the displacement of 300,000 m³ of the annual allowable cut from caribou habitat to other parts of the timber supply areas and what the potential consequences might be.

Canadian Wildlife Service Grizzly Bear Management Plan: The federal government has been approaching regional governments, and possibly others, to see how they might want to be involved in a Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) led grizzly bear management plan: “We are reaching out to let you know that we are beginning the early engagement process to develop the approach that we will use to prepare this Management Plan. We would like your feedback on if and how you would like to be engaged.” The BCWF has not received a similar invite to date, but we have contacted the CWS to see what their intent is.

Wildlife Act Update: The government is in the process of updating the Wildlife Act to include provisions related to First Nations. A group of approximately 30 First Nations leaders have been meeting in an “Indigenous Wildlife Forum” and they have been discussing the Wildlife Act updates and providing recommendations related to Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation.

Respectfully Submitted By: Gerry Paille, Wildlife & Allocations Chair

Q2 REPORT, 2019
REPORTS NOT PROVIDED

Access Committee – David Oliver
Energy, Mines & Petroleum - **VACANT**
Fish & Wildlife Compensation Committee – Rick Morley
Forestry Committee – Doug Janz
Fundraising – **VACANT**
Habitat & Sustainability, North – **VACANT**
Habitat & Sustainability, South – **VACANT**
Hunter Retention & Recruitment – John Thornton
Wildlife Disease/Human Conflict Committee – Doug Janz