



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

QUARTER 3



## Q3 REPORT, 2019 BC HYDRO COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

**Background:** The BCWF is the main party responsible for the existence of two of the three provincial fish and wildlife compensation programs, i.e., 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 to compensate for fish and wildlife 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 provincial 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. Our committee has attempted to meet with the Minister of Energy and Mines, Michelle Mungall (Minister responsible for BC Hydro and the Compensation Programs) numerous times in the past 3 years to address our issues regarding compensation. She refuses to discuss the issues with us.

Last spring FLNRO issued a contract to a consultant to audit the three compensation programs. This audit was to determine if BC Hydro has and is meeting its water license requirement to compensate for impacted fish and wildlife.

On April 11, 2019 Ken Ashley, Al Martin and Rick Morley met with the senior auditor to provide our assessment of the compensation efforts to date and to suggest how the programs should be conducted in the future. We reported on the issues discussed in our last committee report.

To date we haven't heard any information regarding the audit and, in fact, when we inquired of the auditor when we could expect his report, we were referred to B.C. Hydro. Since the audit was directed at discovering whether BC Hydro has been meeting its compensation obligations, we found this advice very concerning. We have recently sent a letter to the FLNR/D Ministry Deputy Minister John Allen requesting a copy of the audit. He has replied that he is 'looking into it.'

In summary, our progress on this file has been disappointing and we find it frustrating to basically have our efforts 'stone walled' by the present provincial government.

Respectfully Submitted By: Rick Morley, BC Hydro Compensation Committee Chair

## Q3 REPORT, 2019 FIREARMS COMMITTEE



In Q3-2019, as in Q1 and Q2, the main activity of the Firearms Committee was reaching out to the recreational firearms community to encourage them to inform themselves about Bill C-71, the new firearms legislation.

Firearms Committee Chair, Gary Mauser, represented BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) at the Historical Arms Collectors Society of BC sponsored gun shows in July, August and September, as well as at the Vernon gun show in August. Committee member Pete Aussem represented the Firearms Committee at IPE in August. Richard Green and I wrote letters to newspaper editors and to provincial government authorities.

Firearms Committee Chair, Gary Mauser gave talks updating members about Bill C-71 and the 2019 Federal Election at Ridgedale R&G, 11 September 2019, and at BCWF Region 2 Lower Mainland Branch Director's meeting 18 September 2019.

**Bi-annual Introductory Shoot at Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club:** The 50th Bi-Annual Introductory Shoot for SFU students was given in July at Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club. This year, a spouse of a local MP candidate joined us. This year's 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 was the largest in over thirty years: 37 attendees signed up!

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 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, C-71 went directly to the Governor General to receive royal assent on 21 June.

As with most complex legislation, various sections will be phased in; most sections will not be enforced until after the federal election -- if the government is re-elected.

- For at least a few weeks, it may remain legal to transfer a long gun without calling Miramichie and registering your firearm;
- After the election, the government will notify anyone who owns a newly prohibited firearm;
- 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.

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

During Q3, wearing my hat as an "independent professor," I posted multiple comments on [justiceforgunowners.ca](http://justiceforgunowners.ca) and on various social media platforms which were shared by [thegunblog.ca](http://thegunblog.ca), Dennis Young, and others.

*'The Vancouver Province published an opinion column professor Mauser wrote about the responsibility of family members (particularly fathers) to teach young children firearms safety and pointing out the value of target sports in teaching personal responsibility.'*

Thanks to the enthusiastic help from volunteers at Ridgedale R&G, and with the support of BCWF Youth Coordinator, Chris Lim, we hired a professional videographer to make a YouTube video, which included footage at a Wild Kidz event. The objective of the video is to showcase how target sports are a great way to teach young people personal responsibility.

Professor Mauser co-wrote a research paper with John Lott, PhD, and Harvard professor Arthur Berg, *'Do Researchers from Different Fields Have a Consensus on Gun Control Laws and Do Registered Voters Agree With Any of Them?'* Our study debunked the claims of the New York Times that experts – regardless of professional backgrounds – all agree about the effectiveness of stricter gun laws.

I have been invited by the Council of Licenced Firearms Owners Incorporated (COLFO) – the largest voluntary shooting-related organisation in New Zealand -- to make a submission to the New Zealand

Parliamentary Select Committee that is evaluating the second round of legal impositions on law-abiding firearms owners after a violent shooting by a deranged environmentalist.

**2019 Federal Election:** Don't give up. Despite Bill C-71 becoming law, it is still important to keep defending lawful firearms ownership. Losing a battle does not mean that opposition was hopeless from the beginning. Letters to newspaper editors are read by politicians as well as by opinion leaders.

We can build upon the support we won for our cause during the battle. Don't lose heart. 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?

**An election is coming**, and 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 only be scapegoated successfully by the government if we don't fight back. There is a reason you haven't heard about a "scape-bear" or a "scape-cougar," just scapegoats.

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 guarantee your loss.

Respectfully Submitted By: Gary Mauser, Firearms Committee Chair

### **Q3 REPORT, 2019 FISHERIES COMMITTEE – INLAND INTERIOR**

After a disappointing fall that was dominated by rain and winds inland fishing awaits the ice fishing season.

Some of the issues that the BCWF is involved in include:

**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 as evidenced by developments of other islands downstream.

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. Some positive news was the province turning down the applications for constructing bridges to the islands—this should lower the price of purchase. The river bottom in and around the two islands will be proposed to be designated as ecologically sensitive habitat under the new Federal Fisheries Act.

**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 total escapement this fall was 60,000, an improvement from the 20-30,000 over the previous 4 years but still a far cry from the 0.5-1.0 million of just ten years ago. 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. To date 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.

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 several 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:** Like 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?

**Mid Fraser sturgeon:** A tagging program led by individual sturgeon guides has revealed a sizeable population in the mid reach area of the Fraser. The tagging work has shown that the previous belief that few juvenile sturgeons survive in this part of the river was incorrect as small sturgeon have been readily caught.

**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 in a very narrow canyon area accessible only by helicopter thus making mitigative measures extremely difficult if not impossible. About 60,000 salmon were moved upstream of the slide via helicopter. Eventually DFO was able to construct a side channel and that combined with lower river levels resulted in Chinook, sockeye and pink salmon being able to swim past the obstruction. Some in-river work is proposed for late fall and or early spring to ensure future fish passage.

**Selective fishing methods on the lower Fraser:** DFO continues to deny that by-catch from gill net fisheries on the lower Fraser has any serious impacts on interior Fraser steelhead (IFS), weak salmon stocks and sturgeon. The following is an op-ed written in response to DFO's intransigence.

**Unsustainable and Uncertifiable Salmon Fisheries:** The BC Wildlife Federation is calling for fundamental change in the management of salmon fisheries. It's time to make the transition from non-selective gillnets to selective fishing methods historically used by Indigenous Peoples. The BCWF wants both levels of government to develop a five-year action plan for the Lower Fraser River fisheries to assist in the transition away from non-selective net harvesting.

This call for action and fundamental change in fishing methods comes on the heels of the recent announcement of self-suspension of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for sockeye, pinks and chum salmon by the Canadian Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Society. The MSC certification is supposed to be a conservation tool. It was intended to provide "the best environmental choice in seafood" to consumers and to create positive incentives that would improve the status and management of fisheries. This self-suspension reflects poorly on the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and essentially confirms the department's failure to manage BC's salmon populations on a sustainable basis.

Endangered Interior Fraser steelhead (IFS), sturgeon and weaker Chinook and Coho stocks are indiscriminately caught every year by net fishers targeting sockeye and chum salmon and, in 2019, pink salmon. The downward trend data speaks for itself and is the reason why these stocks have been subject to efforts to have them listed under the Species at Risk Act. DFO's efforts to convince the public that all is well with these stocks through their mitigation measures have been an abject failure as these stocks continue to trend towards zero. Despite the negative impacts of the gillnet chum fishery on these endangered stocks, this fishery was certified under the MSC---thus making a mockery of the certification process.

With the self-suspension of the chum and other salmon fisheries, it is now time to get it right. If this fishery is to be certified, then it needs to be conducted from now on using selective fishing methods to protect the weak stocks. Otherwise, the chum fishery cannot be considered sustainable hence not eligible to be certified since the endangered stocks are incidentally captured and killed by the gillnets.

The BCWF is not just critical of the chum fishery. The Fraser sockeye population is in dire straits with the 2019 spawner return at an all-time low of only 10 percent of its pre-season prediction of almost 6 million. The lower river sockeye gillnet fisheries targeting the stronger sockeye stocks are also by-catching weaker salmon stocks.

The primary causes of declining stocks are climate change, overfishing and habitat loss. Of the three primary causes of salmon declines, only fishing can be regulated to improve spawner numbers, at least in the short term.

The announced \$142 million by the Federal and provincial governments (British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund [BCSRIF]) last summer was intended to address salmon conservation issues. The only effective method to improve salmon numbers immediately is through sustainable fishing methods. Unfortunately, BCSRIF did not fund a single project that would address selective fishing methods such as pound nets and fish wheels. The BCSRIF is well-intended but has lost credibility with those interested in conservation and sustainable fisheries.

At the rate salmon are dwindling, it may be time to remove all nets from the lower Fraser. The BCWF acknowledges this is a drastic measure but may be required to address a desperate situation.

A fundamental change in the way DFO manages salmon fisheries is required. It is time to bring salmon management into the twenty-first century.

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



**Q3 REPORT, 2019**  
**FISHERIES COMMITTEE – INLAND NORTHERN**

The fight to shut down retention and most gear fisheries is a tiring arduous process that my processors dealt with and continues to plague the region. This is not a small region, nor a largely populated region yet the fight to make fly fishing catch and release only never ends. Maybe it's time the province starts running the fishery with science and data and leave science fiction out of the equation.

Respectfully Submitted By: David Lewis, Fisheries – Inland Northern Committee Chair

### **Q3 REPORT, 2019 FISHERIES COMMITTEE – SALTWATER**

Reading Ken's report on the north coast fishery is a mirror to much of the south coast as well.

We had closures for the Resident Killer Whales, due to the lack of fish through the counting facilities either electronic or visual on our Fraser River fishery.

We have very few chum salmon returning to many of the Island east coast rivers. There is no commercial opening in Johnson Strait. It appears that there will be few if any openings along the east coast of Vancouver Island.

What we did receive after the closures of chinook salmon were off was a very good west coast fishery. Was it due to the opening delay in the Alaskan fishery? The studies of stock return are not complete yet and it will be very interesting to find out the results. Several rivers in California had record returns so we are awaiting the "science" work on distribution of the fleets and the impact the delay in opening had.

The change in chinook limits is of major concern to the ordinary fisherman. Is this a reallocation as Ken describes? Taking away fully 2/3 of our annual catch needs to be explained to us and it is on the agenda for later this week in a conference call.

Halibut is another concern as we try to ensure that our catch records are consistent and reflective of our catch. Since we, SFAB (Sports Fish Advisory Board) have been designing our recreational fishery for the last number of years we have some anomalies. Our catch monitoring should balance out over time to a statistically believable average. This has been questioned, as we continue to try different size limits to satisfy the fishers. What we really need is for the halibut to stabilize so there is a consistent TAC (Total Allowable Catch). We have had changes recommended and accepted by DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) now for next year. We will continue to move forward as conditions change.

We have many other issues in the saltwater fishery as we move towards fulfilling promises from government to expand Marine Protected Areas (20% plus of the seabed), preserve Resident Killer Whales, deal with seals/sea lions and most importantly continue to be able to manage for the future.

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

## **Q3 REPORT, 2019 FISHERIES COMMITTEE – TIDAL**

**Area F Directed Coho Troll Fishery:** The Area “F” Directed Coho Troll Fishery caught 173,083 Coho. The catch per unit effort by early September dropped to 8 Coho per day. Such relentless effort prevents the pass through of coho for both First Nations fisheries and the public fishery. From an escapement perspective, the Tyee Test Fishery cumulative index to September 3 was 36.07. Well below the 2010 – 2018 Avg of 44.06 and significantly below the 2017 index of 61.42.

The mismanagement of this fishery continues to be a problem. Both the SFAB and BCWF raised the issue with DFO in the early summer of this year but were both ignored. The Board will need to continue to pressure DFO to improve the way they conduct this fishery. The recreational fishery is supposed to have priority access to coho over directed commercial fisheries. DFO is ignoring their own policy again.

**Annual Chinook Limits:** The Minister of Fisheries decided to reduce the annual chinook limit this year from 30 to 10. Don't be fooled into believing this was a conservation driven decision. This was a re-allocation to seals and sea lions as well as to First Nations and commercial fisheries.

An annual chinook limit of 30 chinook forced DFO to manage to that number even though few anglers ever retained a full annual limit. There are certainly instances when an annual chinook limit of 10 is insufficient: for example, the winter spring fishery out of Prince Rupert provides anglers with a supply of fresh fish from November to April. A large component of those fish are hatchery augmented Columbia River fish. Those fish are enhanced for the purpose of catching them. Why would you put an annual limit on them?

I plan to move a motion through the SFAB process this Fall to return to the 30-chinook annual limit. Remember the recreational fishery is supposed to have priority access to chinook over directed commercial fisheries.

### **Other Issues:**

- Implementation of the vision document
- Review of the allocation policy

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



### **Q3 REPORT, 2019**

#### **INDIGENOUS RELATIONS & RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE**

The Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation Committee has been reviewing the previous Policy and hope to have it completed and approved prior to the next board meeting in January 2020.

There have been several meetings with Jenelle Brewer of the Okanagan Indian Band; who oversee Forestry practices in the Central Okanagan. We have also contacted Colleen Marchand in Central BC, regarding the synergies between any First Nations Projects and their mandates.

Continued meetings with Brenley Yuan of O.N.A (Fisheries Biologist) regarding Salmon spawning habitat projects.

We are also pursuing to contact key government officials such as Sarah Plank, Scott Fraser and Doug Caul, in order to solidify and ensure that they know, we at the BCWF have an Indigenous & Reconciliation Committee.

Looking at Bill 41 that has been introduced to Legislation but has yet to be passed – The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

For the upcoming year of 2020, pending on budgets and finances, the committee will be meeting and planning on spear heading what First Nations Organizations that we must build stronger ties and relationships with, to further strengthen our causes in Wildlife Conservation.

United we stand, divided we fall.

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

### **Q3 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:

The Resolutions chair liaised with the office staff to produce a membership wide note to solicit resolutions for the upcoming 2020 AGM, this was circulated to the membership in mid October.

Ongoing work includes:

- Updates 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.

As per BCWF bylaw 6.6, the Resolutions Chair has reached out to various Committee Chairs and Executive following up on the progress to report on the action taken pertaining to the passed resolutions from last years AGM.

A few resolutions have been implemented; however, a few remain outstanding and our committee will follow up again. If still no response, we will bring this to the attention of the executive to handle.

Earlier this year our committee had two members step down from their positions. Last quarter a request to the BCWF Chairman went 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.

Respectfully Submitted By: Jared Wilkison, Resolutions Committee Chair

## Q3 REPORT, 2019 WILDLIFE & ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

**Cariboo Moose Allocation/Environment Appeal Board Guide Outfitter Appeals:** As previously reported, the number of moose 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. Guide Outfitter allocation and quota was correspondingly decreased.

The formal appeal process has begun and the eleven outfitter appeals, because of their similar nature, have been combined into a single group appeal. The BCWF will review the aspects of the appellants' appeal and provide a response as a "participant" in the appeal. The submission will be limited to addressing the potential impacts of these appeals on the *Provincial Wildlife Harvest Allocation Policy* and the interests of the membership of the BCWF.

The BCWF's submission will be limited to addressing the potential impacts of these appeals on the *Provincial Wildlife Harvest Allocation Policy* and the interests of the membership of the BCWF. 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 these principles.

The EAB panel's decision is due in mid-January 2020.

**E-Licensing Project:** Several BCWF board members and one BCWF staff member attended a workshop in Victoria in October with the data and licensing group to get an update on release 4 of the online system.

The two main changes that impact resident hunters are:

1. The requirement to provide the name of the insurer and corresponding policy number as a requirement for proof of insurance for the Fraser Valley and Gulf Islands special licence areas.
2. Online submission of the report associated with a Permit to Accompany.

Compulsory reporting for all big game species and using the online system to facilitate data collection were also discussed. An expert from SFU was contracted to review the current hunter sampling process and the validity of the resulting information such as the big game harvest statistics, and it was felt that increasing the amount of data collected through compulsory reporting on all species would not provide any more accurate information.

The hunter harvest questionnaire and the data that is collected through the questionnaire are under review by the Wildlife and Habitat Branch. The BCWF will be asked to participate in this review process at some point.

**Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation:** A *Together for Wildlife* working draft has been produced as a result of the Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation consultation process with over 60 stakeholder groups and the First Nations Forum involving 40 "participants" from across the province. First Nations have written a significant portion of the document.



Chuck Zuckerman and Gerry Paille represented the BCWF at a one-day workshop involving many stakeholder groups to review, “grade” and provide feedback on the document which focuses on:

1. Understanding and Communicating Our Shared Priorities: A Voice For All British Columbians
2. Informing Stewardship: Management Driven by Data, Information & Knowledge
3. Delivering Stewardship: Achieving Tangible Results
4. Measuring Our Progress: Accountability & Transparency
5. Advancing Reconciliation: A Shared Path with Indigenous Governments

While there are many positives in the draft, the BCWF representatives tended to grade each section lower than most of the other stakeholders and noted the absence of any mention of an independent funding model and leveraging other funding sources, which were two topics that continually came up and were widely supported in previous workshops and webinars. There is also a concern that there is no clear direction as to how the *Together for Wildlife* plan will transition into changes on the landscape with well-defined and measurable objectives.

In addition to a Provincial Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council with representation from British Columbians with a wide range of perspectives and interests from across the Province, the draft is very focused on collaboration with indigenous peoples and ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are respected.

**Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT):** Hunting Practices Sub-Committee Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team.

The recommendations of the Hunting Practices Sub-committee of PHTAT were presented at the PHTAT meeting in October — all recommendations of the sub-committee were accepted by the PHTAT group and will now be considered by government to be included as proposals for public engagement, which should start in December.

**Species Licence for Wild Turkeys:** The BCWF continues to push for a species licence for wild turkeys, which are found mostly in regions four and eight. Exploration will continue, but reluctance from government continues.

**Regional and Provincial Hunting Regulation Proposals:** Hunting regulation proposals for the 2020-2022 regulation cycle are being finalized for public engagement through advisory groups, public meetings and the government’s public engagement website. Proposals should appear on the website some time in December.

**Chronic Wasting Disease:** Hunters in the East Kootenays have now submitted over 500 heads, most of which have come from the mandatory submission wildlife management units. The first batch of 162 samples have now been tested in the lab in Saskatchewan and none have come back positive for CWD. The BCWF’s efforts in helping with public outreach and providing freezers at collection sites continue to be widely recognized.

**Caribou Recover:** Lorne Brownsey, a former Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations, and Patrick Kelly, an Aboriginal-Corporate Relations Consultant, have been appointed by Premier Horgan to facilitate a public engagement process to conclude the Caribou Recovery Agreements in a manner that reflects public concerns. There has been some speculation that the partnership agreement between the BC Government and West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations has been signed, but

apparently such is not the case. Government has provided the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation with \$6.5 million over three years for projects related to Caribou Habitat Recovery.

**Northern Wildlife Symposium:** Representatives from the BCWF will be attending the Northern Wildlife Symposium in Dease Lake in early November and will be presenting on the BCWF and BCWF programs.

Respectfully Submitted By: Gerry Paille, Wildlife & Allocations Chair