



FALL QUARTERLY REPORT TO MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

November 2023

The BCFDF has been extremely busy with many issues impacting the fish & the fishers. Below are just some of the priority issues that our directors & supporters are involved in. It's important that all appreciate the challenges facing our fisheries now & for future generations. We take these challenges very seriously & provincially our directors are directly involved in the many initiatives necessary to ensure healthy fish stocks & preserving opportunities for our future generations. These include:

SPORT FISH ADVISORY BOARD (SFAB)

Under the professional stewardship of BCFDF director Pat Ahern, the modernization of the 50 plus year old DFO/Recreational advisory process has progressed over the past 3 years with the new model ready for introduction at the SFAB Conference board meeting end of Nov. This has been a very involved process with literally thousands of volunteer hours & dedication from the rec community toward a process more reflective of current needs. The BCFDF values our relationship & contribution to the SFAB process. We believe that over the past two decades we have brought significant attention to non tidal salmon & steelhead issues. This has resulted in the creation of a third region within the SFAB mandate. We now have an Inland Non Tidal Salmon/Anadromous caucus which will provide additional attention to the concerns for non tidal salmon & steelhead & the

growing issues faced by anglers.

This new region also supports collaboration between both north & south SFAB participants & encourages joint initiatives with the province under whose mandate steelhead mgt falls. All can appreciate the overlap of impacts facing some fish stocks which demonstrates that both DFO & the province must work together. The non tidal salmon fisheries have been severely impacted over the past several years which also supports joint actions particularly selective fishing including gear options designed to target more plentiful species while avoiding stocks of concern.

Recent positive discussion with DFO staff re issues such as bar fishing regulation indicate that after decades of pursuing this issue we may have some practical solutions to get this family friendly fishery reopened at least by 2025. Changes must be made to the B.C. Sportfishing regs which unfortunately cannot take place until Spring of 2025. These bureaucratic obstacles are frustrating, but we have demonstrated incredible patience over two frustrating decades of championing this issue.

We recognize the necessity of increasing participation in all levels of the SFAB process, particularly at the sfac level. We also recognize of necessity of succession planning with too much grey hair (or no hair) common to current participants. We have recently recruited some new young directors who are eager to learn and take the BCFDF to the next level and the next decade. We encourage readers to consider attending local sport fish advisory committee (sfac) meetings in your area. They are held only twice a year & are an opportunity to voice your concerns & participate in the future of our fisheries.

Although we were created primarily as a river fishery organization our members participate in all forms of tidal & non tidal fisheries. We are looking for reps for the upper & lower Vcr Island & upper Fraser River region. Please contact us at: bcfdf.com or contact me directly at info below. Our member participation in the SFAB process is growing province wide & we are very confident that the future of the BCFDF in SFAB activities and elsewhere will be in competent hands

BCFDF SOCIAL MEDIA, COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION ISSUES

Recognizing that the BCFDF must embrace the many forms of communication, particularly those common to the younger generation, we have formed a small committee of some of our new younger directors to review all options & draft plans to ensure we reach all generations of fishers. This committee will develop recommendations which will include potentially videos under the BCFDF banner promoting ethical angling which includes respect for all anglers, sharing the resource, selective fishing & correct handling of species released. We must educate the new generations of anglers whose etiquette may seem questionable, which is often a lack of adequate knowledge as opposed to deliberate flaunting of common courtesy & respect for the fish.

Recognizing the emergence of many ethnicities enjoying the many angling opportunities

in B.C. it's imperative that we reach out to all to support our efforts toward protecting fish stocks & preserving angler opportunities. Through expanding our media presence we can include all these ethnic groups in our education efforts & ensure they play an important role in our many advisory & advocacy efforts.

RECONCILIATION & COLLABORATION WITH FIRST NATIONS

The BCFDF recognizes that Reconciliation is the dominant issue for this decade and beyond. We recognize past injustices and want to work with our F/N friends toward addressing past wrongs and assuring that our priceless fisheries resources are preserved for our respective future generations. We support Reconciliation and suggest that we can be an important part of the process to ensure opportunities remain for all Canadians.

The BCFDF participates in Reconciliation committees through the SFAB process and also chairs the committee established through the "Outdoor Recreation Council: (ORC) Both committees recognize the significant challenges and the patience and respect required by all participants to ensure these committees play a crucial role. These committees will be a priority for the BCFDF going forward.

The Lower Fraser Collaborative Table (LFCT) has been in existence for 3 years and playing a major role toward reinforcing respect and understanding of our respective fisheries. Its predecessor the "Fraser River Peacemakers" played a significant role in establishing the base required for the more inclusive LFCT. Progress has been cautious recognizing the sensitivity of many issues while identifying common issues. The next major in person forum of the LFCT is Dec 4th and some of these common issues on the agenda.

Gratifying that members from all sectors (commercial, recreational & F/N's) acknowledge the progress and importance of the table and it has been mentioned that perhaps this type of grass roots initiative without govt in the room is true Reconciliation. It is acknowledged that the LFCT is the largest initiative of this type in B.C. which while fish related, can serve as a template for all Reconciliation collaborative activities province wide.

The SFAB Reconciliation committee is also active and an important part of the new SFAB process.

PROVINCIAL ANGLING ADVISORY TEAM (PAAT)

With the new TOR & some Ministry restructuring it's anticipated that the PAAT will play an important roll in protecting inland fish stocks and retaining and expanding angler opportunity. We must say that the progress of PAAT has been viewed by many as abysmally slow. The good news is that the member groups have been consistent in their support asv thhis is theb only official venue for discussion of province wide concerns and implementation of actions benefitting the fish and fishers.

A small WG was created a year ago to redo the TOR and make it more relative to todays concerns and reflect the common goals of members. It also acknowledges the necessity of working with the SFAB process toward issues of common concern between DFO and the province. It's important to note that the new carefully constructed SFAB TOR also recognizes the value of working with the province particularly through the PAAT process.

This official collaboration will pay significant dividends toward formalizing structure which can only benefit strategic initiatives and enhance relations between the two official venues and their members. It should be noted there is considerable dual representation of members on both advisory committee.

OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL (ORC)

The BCFDF values it's participation in the ORC process with a seat on the Directors panel and we also chair the Reconciliation committee. With our participation it helps profile both tidal and non tidal fisheries in B.C. and the tremendous social and economic value. We are very active in promoting the ORC Reconciliation committee as a means of reaching the 100,000 members and hopefully providing some guidance in their grass roots initiatives toward meaningful collaboration with their Indigenous neighbours toward toward correcting past injustices while ensuring that our priceless natural resources are preserved for all future generations.

We recognize past injustices and the constitutionally protected rights of Indigenous peoples. We support Reconciliation with the proviso that non Indigenous peoples are active and recognized participants in the process. The recreation opportunities now and for future generations demands this inclusion.

BCFDF ANNUAL AUCTION

Please support our current auction which is running until November 30th at 9:00 PM. Some fantastic items donated by our amazing supporters. So far the turnout has been tremendous and we expect the last few days to be busy. Follow the link below to view the 2023 auction site.

<https://can.givergy.com/2023onlinecampaign/>

In closing, we are optimistic that with our recent recruitment of some new young ambitious directors the future of the BCFDF is bright & we will continue in our goals to conserve fish stocks & preserve & enhance angler opportunities .

Warmest Regards,

Rod Clapton

President

BC Federation of Drift Fishers