

## NEWS BULLETIN – NEW YEAR 2021



THE SVIAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A SAFE, HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

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### NOTABLE CALENDAR EVENTS

JANUARY 25 – 29, 2021

International Pacific Halibut Commission AGM as  
 a Virtual Online Meeting

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

SFAB Ground Fish Shellfish Working Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 5 – 6, 2021

Mainboard SFAB Meeting – Virtual On-Line

FEBRUARY 19 – 21, 2021

Victoria Boat & Fishing Show [**CANCELLED**]

MARCH 27, 2021

Salish Sea Spring Fishing Derby [**NEW**]

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just over a year ago, on New Year's Eve 2019, I don't think anyone in their right mind could have predicted what 2020 had in store. Or, what tragedy and disruption would occur around the world resulting from the Corona Virus. As each month passed, we all watched in horror as we saw what was unfolding. The human and business suffering has been enormous. My sympathy and prayers are with anyone impacted by this dreadful virus, be it from a health or financial perspective.

Queen Elizabeth II, in a November 1992 speech, stated that year had turned out to be an *Annus Horribilis*, after multiple tragedies befell her family in Britain. For those not versed with Latin as a language, that phrase translated = *horrible year*. Well, what unfolded since February last year clearly, from a global perspective, qualifies 2020 for the same title **ANNUS HORRIBILIS!**

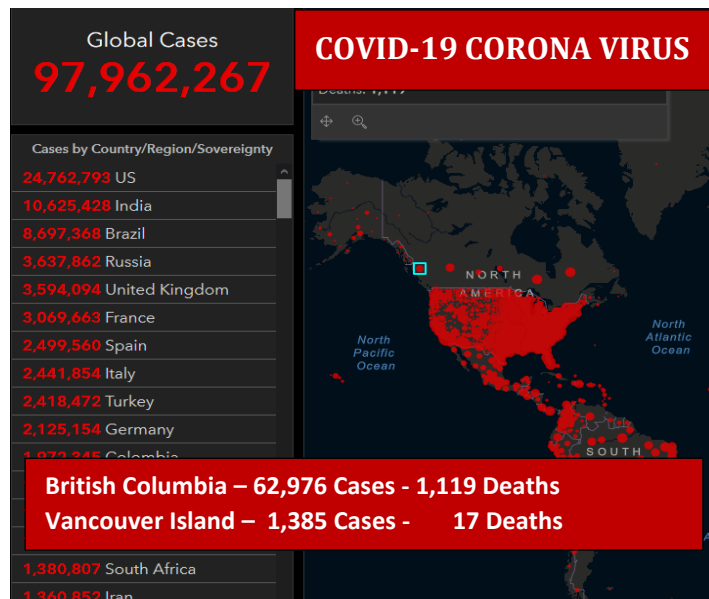
Nevertheless, nestled on the Pacific



North West our little island seems to remain somewhat a sanctuary from many of the worst horrors COVID-19 has wrought elsewhere. Pleasure boating, camping, outdoor recreation and the public fishery seemed to have been popular retreats for many locals who were forced to stay in the area due to the government's travel restrictions.

The amazing people in this part of the world, especially us anglers, have managed to pull together during extremely difficult times and make the most of a bad situation, while doing everything possible to stay safe. There is still laughter, all be it through a face mask. There is still friendship, although there is no hand shaking, just an elbow bump here and there. Let's not forget, we have never washed or sanitized our hands so much either. And for those of us involved in fisheries advocacy and advisory processes, we still conduct business. However, now we

spend hour after hour staring at our computer screens on Zoom or Microsoft Teams meetings, all while our posteriors go completely numb stuck in a chair.



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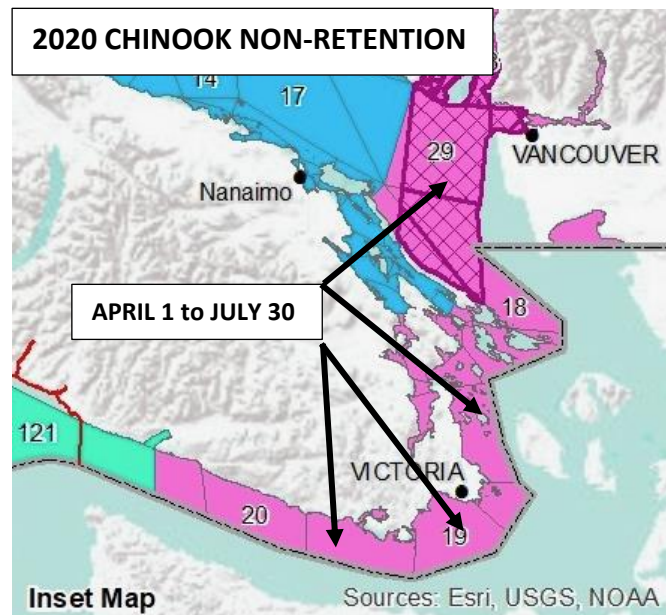
Better days lay ahead and as Canadians, our spirit and our courage combined with hope will keep us marching on. Add to that a positive outlook of a healthy, prosperous recovery from this deadly disease and this *war* will soon be won!

As president of South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition, I can say with great pride that the Board of Directors are an excellent team and have, so far, helped navigate our society through the difficulties that 2020 exposed. They deserve our thanks! Being able to be the only sea pen project that successfully operated on Vancouver Island this past year is a remarkable feat. Board Member Glen Varney, our dedicated Sooke Chinook project volunteers and the Nitnat hatchery staff all deserve our sincere thanks for making it happen and safely too. Your efforts are much appreciated!

For 2021, SVIAC anticipate 650,000 more Chinook smolts will be transferred to our Sooke sea pen, to give a total 2,500,000 healthy fish released. This year is our first significant anniversary for the Sooke Chinook (Sea Pen) Enhancement Initiative. It marks five years of actively operating our program. It is vital we make the 2021 smolt transplant another year of absolute success and continue collecting adult Chinook return data to demonstrate the programs indisputable accomplishments. Sadly, the consequences of the BC and Canadian COVID-19 travel restrictions have been devastating to our sea pen's private funding model. We need all the financial help we can get over the next 24 months to get us over the hump until things get back to normal.

Regarding the future of our fisheries, we are at a particularly complex and difficult moment in its history. Around South Vancouver Island, off the Vancouver waterfront and in the Lower Fraser River our important Public Chinook fishery is in tatters. For more than a decade, the steady increase of DFO salmon fishing restrictions on the Public fishery have failed miserably as a Fraser Chinook recovery plan and are slowly bit-by-bit destroying our precious salmon fishery and its infrastructure.

We urgently need DFO to agree to and start *marking* (adipose fin-clipping) ALL of our hatchery-raised Chinook and Coho. And, where wild Chinook abundance is low or of serious concern, permit retention fisheries directed specifically at the abundant and identifiable hatchery marked fish only. This approach protects wild fish through non-retention regulations and allows them a safe path to recovery while our Public Chinook fishery is maintained on life support mode.





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In addition, the existing Salmon Allocation Policy is now back on the table, which is the Public fishery's priority access to Chinook and Coho over the commercial sector. A BC judge ruled that First Nations fisheries rights have been harmed by the existing policy and DFO have laid out a negotiation and consultation plan going forward. There is just concern of how this will play out for our sector as Chinook and Coho access are the backbone of BC's Public fisheries.



Another significant challenge that we face is the implementation into law of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, (*more information on UNDRIP is available later in this News Bulletin*). There are other fishery and access issues as well, so it really is a crucial time for us!

We are clearly facing a huge fight to protect and save our fisheries at this very moment. We recognize that other organizations, in the angling community, are trying to do their very best on this challenging front as well. As SVIAC members and anglers living on South Vancouver Island, your support for SVIAC right now is more important than ever before. It will ensure we are active in this fight with your local interests at heart and can continue delivering programs like the Sooke Chinook (Sea Pen) Enhancement Initiative.

So, on behalf of the South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition Board of Directors, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous 2021. May this year be a far better year for all of us. I thank you all sincerely for your support in the past and look forward to working for the benefit of our Public fisheries today and in the future. Stay safe and go fish!

Yours in conservation,

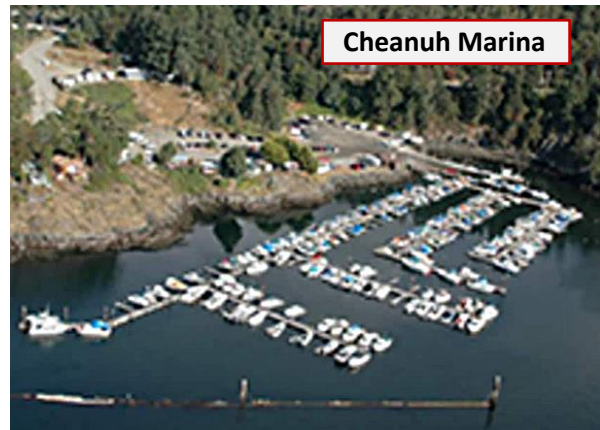
Christopher Bos

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### 2021 SVIAC SALISH SEA SPRING FISHING DERBY (NEW) – SAT MARCH 27TH

After receiving so many positive comments and *thank yous* from the entrants of the 2020 Salish Sea Salmon Challenge fishing derby last September, the SVIAC Event Team sensed adding a second fishing event to the calendar would be a great idea. Our good friends at Cheanuh Marina also suggested SVIAC consider holding an additional fishing event at their marina. At the December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 SVIAC Board of Directors meeting, it was formally agreed to organize an early season fishing event.

So, a new SVIAC **halibut and salmon derby** is born. The **Salish Sea Spring Fishing Derby (SSSFD)** will be on **Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with fishing between 5:45 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** We hope this new event is well received by the angling community. Our good friends at Cheanuh Marina have again agreed to host the event headquarters and the weigh scale. Of note, the tides are excellent for sitting on an anchor while halibut fishing that day and the salmon regulations (*unless altered again*) will allow anglers to retain two Chinook per day greater than 45 centimeters (NOTE: only hatchery greater than 67 centimeters)



The event is listed on the SVIAC website at:

<https://www.anglerscoalition.com> where you

can also purchase SSSFD derby tickets. The fishing boundaries, regulations and prize board will all be available on our website in the near future.



The SSSFD prize board will provide one large cash prize for the biggest legal salmon weighed in and one large cash prize for the biggest legal halibut weighed in. The value of each cash prize is dependent on the volume of ticket sales, and our forecast suggests the biggest halibut and salmon cash prizes to be approximately \$3,000.00 (based on 150 rod tickets being sold). There will also be random draw prizes, chosen at the close of the event (after the weigh scale closes at 4:00 p.m. Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March) and expect one of them to be of substantial value. To make the playing field fair to all levels of anglers, all random draw prizes will be awarded to verified derby ticket holders. You will not have to weigh in a fish, nor will you have to be in attendance

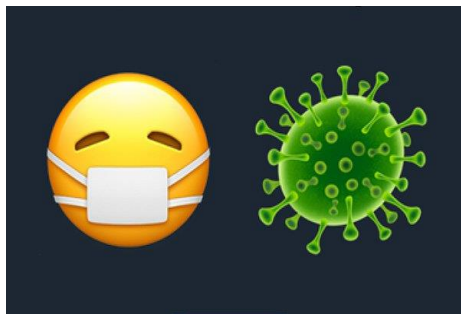
at Cheanuh at the close of the derby to collect your prize. We are planning to run a small raffle for a specific prize and a boat skipper challenge (side bet) too. And finally, if you do buy a ticket,

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you do not even need to go fishing that day, but as a verified derby ticket holder you can still win any of the random draw prizes.

Tickets are \$60.00 each and are for one rod. At this time, tickets can be purchased online on the SVIAC website at <https://www.anglerscoalition.com> or by phone at (778) 426-4141. Event tickets will soon be available at Ceanuh marina and from the SVIAC office Unit 3 – 774 Bay Street, Victoria, BC V8T 5E4 (Gizmos Computer). This event is a fundraiser for SVIAC and all profits will go towards supporting the Sooke Chinook Enhancement Initiative and our advocacy efforts.

**REGARDING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:** We value the health and safety of our derby entrants, the Ceanuh Marina staff and the SVIAC Event Team crew. We must, therefore, caveat this announcement with a disclaimer: Should the COVID-19 pandemic render it unsafe, or any associated government restrictions or specific orders blocking such an event be in effect at the time, the derby will not take place. In the event of a Corona Virus related cancellation all ticket holders can receive a refund or apply the value of their ticket towards other SVIAC membership fees, tickets or merchandise.



**Team SVIAC and our friends at Ceanuh Marina invite you to join us for a fun day of fishing and helping support our worthy causes.**

### 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND SIGN-UP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Yes, it is that time of year again, your South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition membership fees are now due. In 2021, our annual adult membership remains \$40.00 and our corporate membership is \$500.00. If you are new to SVIAC and want to buy your first membership or, if you are renewing an existing membership, there are several ways you can purchase them:

- ONLINE – Visit our website membership page at <https://www.anglerscoalition.com/>
- IN PERSON – Unit 3 – 774 Bay Street, Victoria, BC V8T 5E4 (at Gizmos)
- BY PHONE – Call (778) 426-4141 with credit card
- MAIL PAYMENT – Attention: SVIAC, Unit 3 – 774 Bay Street, Victoria, BC V8T 5E4

**GO AND BUY YOUR 2021 SVIAC MEMBERSHIP NOW  
AND YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY IN OUR PRIZE DRAW**



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### 2021 MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP DRAW – DEADLINE SUNDAY MARCH 7TH

To show our appreciation of your support, we are offering a membership incentive sign-up draw. Renew your existing membership or buy a new membership before midnight on Sunday March 7th and you will be automatically entered. There are **THREE great prizes** to be won:

- **First Prize – Quality 10' 6" Mooching Rod and Reel Combo - (Value approx. \$500.00)**
- **Second Prize – Ring Security Camera W/ Light + Siren & Two-Way Talk – (Value \$250.00)**
- **Third Prize – 10" Fire HD10 Tablet – 1080p + 32GB + 2 MP Frt & Bck Camera – (Value \$199.00)**



*Mooching Rod and Reel Combo*



*Ring Security Camera*



*Fire HD10 – 1080p Tablet*

Don't miss out on a chance to win one of these three great prizes. Just buy a membership by Sunday March 7th and you are automatically entered. Draw will take place on Monday 8th. Winners will be contacted directly. Random draw results and winners' names will be posted on the SVIAC website and Facebook page.

**PLEASE GO AND BUY YOUR 2021 SVIAC MEMBERSHIP  
NOW AND GET IN OUR PRIZE DRAW**

### THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

This big long officious-sounding title provides us with the acronym UNDRIP. What is it? Why is this showing up in the SVIAC news bulletin? Should we, as anglers, be worried? And what is currently happening with UNDRIP in Canada, especially BC? Here below is a brief summary of what's taking place:

**WHAT:** In 2007 the United Nations passed a non-binding resolution, which defines individual and collective rights of indigenous people. It was given the name "The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People" (acronym is UNDRIP)

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**WHY:** The goal of UNDRIP is to encourage all countries to work alongside their indigenous people to solve long-standing issues.

**SPECIFICS:** UNDRIP consists of 46 articles ratified by the United Nations, recognizing the basic human rights of indigenous people along with their rights to self-determination. The declaration includes articles affirming the right of indigenous people to create their own education systems, receive restitution for stolen lands and participate in all decision-making that affects their interests. One aspect of UNDRIP specifies Indigenous people provide "free, prior and informed consent" to federal and provincial government on matters where their rights and interests are involved, before that government move forward.



**THE CANADIAN SITUATION:** Initially, Canada voted against the UNDRIP declaration at the United Nations in 2007, but later endorsed it in 2010. In 2016, Canada's Senate squashed an NDP Bill introduced to solidify the United Nations declaration into Canadian Law. The Province of BC introduced legislation (BC Bill C41) on October 24, 2019 that adopted UNDRIP for the province.



B.C. Premier John Horgan is presented with a blanket during a ceremony at the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019. (Adrian Wyld/THE CANADIAN PRESS)

At the signing ceremony, BC Premier John Horgan stated this: "Today's legislation is a crucial step towards true and lasting reconciliation. With this new law, Indigenous peoples will be part of the



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decisions that affect them, their families and their territories. Together with Indigenous peoples, we're going to build a better future with good jobs and opportunities for people, strong environmental protections and healthy communities that include everyone." With respect to the Government of Canada, Bill C-15 was introduced into the House of Commons by the Liberals on December 3, 2019. If eventually passed by Parliament, the bill would require the law in Canada to be consistent with the rights set out in UNDRIP.

**WHEN:** Although recently affirmed into law, we believe the BC Government will approach the adoption of the UNDRIP declaration slowly and methodically. Initially, there will be the development of an implementation plan and each year a report will be generated accounting for the progress made across the provincial government. It is estimated that business in general will not see any significant changes right away. Canadian Government legislation adopting UNDRIP has yet to pass the House of Commons and therefore implications to the Public fishery are, as yet, unclear as to when any potential changes to fishing and access to fish may occur. Although, to be clear, the reconciliation *push* is ongoing. Canadian Government negotiators may use the forthcoming adoption of UNDRIP as a catalyst to expedite existing proposals.

**THE 2021 SVIAC MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE**  
**- PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND RENEW -**  
**DO SO BEFORE SUNDAY MARCH 7TH AND YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY**  
**BE ENTERED IN THE SVIAC MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DRAW**

In addition, DFO has recently released a draft Terms of Reference for the Salmon Allocation Policy and outlined how they plan to proceed with timelines and objectives. This process is the re-opening of the existing Priority Access Policy for Pacific salmon between the Commercial and Public fisheries. (The Power Point pdf document outlining the Departments TOR plans can be found at: <https://www.anglerscoalition.com/salmon-allocation-policy> ).

Recent history shows, reconciliation is clearly a very complex process. Under Canada's Indigenous rights regime, true reconciliation requires a consideration of both the Indigenous perspective and the broader, societal perspective.

The UNDRIP declaration is both reasonable and an honourable goal that Canadians far and wide can embrace. Resolving long-standing grievances and coming to agreement over Indigenous peoples' rights issues relating to land, resources and self-government are, indeed, noble causes and are much needed. Having the historic unrest resolved and a clear framework to manage resources in the future would be of great value. It would also provide certainty for both Indigenous people as well as those non-Native Canadians who rely on access to Canada's resources to earn a living or support their businesses. Certainty is a good thing for business.

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However, UNDRIP has recently emerged as a perceived threat to BC's angling community. So why is there apprehension about this coming into force? There are several factors that potentially make UNDRIP implementation a minefield for the future of the Public fishery. The uncertainty of what the future holds is troubling to those who love to fish and more so, those who rely on the fishery for their income. Here are a few areas of concern:

- DFOs recent actions in specific fisheries appear to be motivated by reaching reconciliation and not based the actual science or existing policy, where the Public and commercial fisheries are concerned (e.g., Fraser Chinook and Spot prawn management);
- Government of Canada or Province of BC moving from the current "duty to consult" to UNDRIP's gaining "free, prior and informed consent" before approving fisheries plans and access to fish;

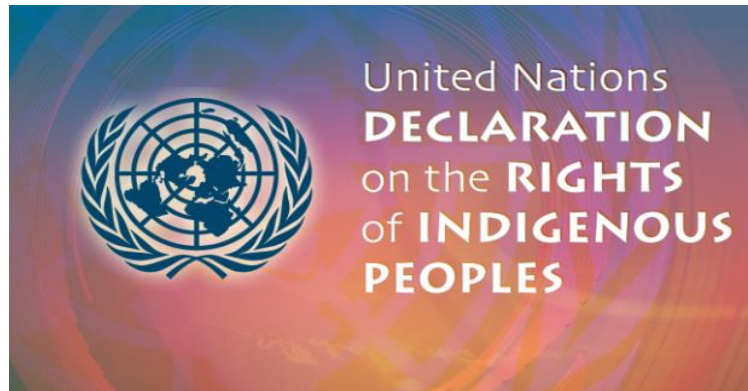
In 2019, British Columbia became the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass UNDRIP legislation. BC Premier John Horgan remarks, "free, prior, and informed consent is not the end of the world."

- Current re-opening of the Pacific Salmon Allocation Policy between the commercial and Public fisheries, (anglers often refer to this as the Priority Access Agreement). It is being re-opened following a court ruling expressly to account for Indigenous people's fishing rights (implication being the Indigenous right to harvest fish for commercial sale may trump non-Native Canadians opportunity to fish). Some knowledgeable anglers report the SAP draft Terms of Reference contains some troubling wording too;
- Canadian Government – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada negotiations with Indigenous people are done behind closed doors, meaning non-Native and other stakeholders are commonly not at those tables (implication being the rights and opportunities, especially related to the Public Fishery and the public's access to salmon and other fish and invertebrates, can be offered as incentives to achieve other goals within the treaty process); and
- Other potential negative changes for fishing related business may arise from legislative amendments, developed in government consultation with Indigenous groups and other stakeholders and/or decision-making agreements between the government and Indigenous governing bodies.

When Canadian and British Columbia laws are changed, amended or re-written or historic policies are changed, there are outcomes both good and bad. The concern shown by those in the Public fishery who understand the potential of unintended deleterious consequences is not unfounded. It is not the essence of achieving reconciliation, a goal we can all agree is worthy, but the worry of what the unknown may bring and any negative results that might emerge.

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For the very reasons stated in this article it is necessary that our sector, the Public fishery, be extremely vigilant as the reconciliation process continues and UNDRIP is implemented in Canada and BC. We can not permit any unnecessary erosion of our right to fish, our access to fish or our sustainable fisheries being closed not based on science. While our existing representatives in the Sport Fishing Advisory Board are very capable and knowledgeable about our fisheries as well as exceptionally generous with their donation of volunteer time to the cause, we believe our sector needs more. This claim is not based on the existing representative inability, but the requirement we be present at every possible table concerning our fishery and access to fish going forward. And where appropriate, have professional advice.



There is a growing mountain of emerging consultative processes pertaining to fisheries and, we believe, SFAB would be stretched too thin without paid resources to be effectively represented at all of the meetings. We further believe that being provided scientific expertise is also becoming



more and more critical. Producing science-based study papers that support our request for fisheries and the ability to have a science-based response, where claims are made against our fishery is becoming increasingly necessary. Additionally, the federal government must provide the Public fishery with a paid lawyer or lawyers for legal advice to the SFAB and, where necessary, legal representation in the

courts. Our fishery is far too important, both socially and economically, for our rights, opportunities and access to be lost.

Please be clear, the purpose of this article in the SVIAC bulletin is not in any way based on racism or trying to represent Indigenous people in an unfavourable way, in fact the opposite is true. As an organization SVIAC's Board of Directors openly welcomes working cooperatively with First Nations and have proven so by our actions with T'sou-ke Nation on our Sooke Chinook (sea pen) Enhancement Initiative. We also hold fishing events at Cheanuh Marina and are working with the Sc'ia-new Nation to help them set up a Chinook sea pen in Beecher Bay similar to our Sooke program.



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History informs us that Canada's Indigenous people have been treated terribly in the past. If UNDRIP is a vehicle that can move Canada past the quagmire that treaty negotiations have often been and can help Indigenous people feel whole and achieve their aspirations, then that is clearly a very good thing. Yet, non-Native Canadians opportunity to continue to enjoy fishing and having meaningful access to all the species important to the Public fishery needs our on-going laser-focused attention. And the public, who may be impacted by UNDRIP, must be given the opportunity to participate in fair, equitable and transparent negotiations.



### SOOKE CHINOOK (SEA PEN) ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE – (URGENT HELP NEEDED)

In our August 2020 News Bulletin there was a detailed article about the successful delivery of the 2020 Sooke Chinook (sea pen) Enhancement Initiative (*that August 2020 news bulletin article can be accessed at ... <https://www.anglerscoalition.com/news-portal/newsletters/> )* It was reported that even under the threat of cancellation due to the Corona Virus, the SVIAC sea pen team and DFO did a first class and very safe job of transplanting 630,000 healthy Chinook smolts. The News Bulletin article also requested help raising funds to cover the 2020 funding shortfall. Funding has now become a critical issue.

Unfortunately, the truth is that the global COVID-19 pandemic has really devastated our fundraising model. In early 2020, most of our regular repeat sponsors, who rely on tourism to generate business revenue, were placed in a situation where supporting projects like ours was just not possible. Most of our big-dollar donors' businesses generate their income from International visitors, and with almost a year of government travel restrictions and closed borders, those businesses are fighting for their very survival. So, tragically, a lot of our donated funds have dried up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### SINCERE THANKS TO OUR MOST RECENT SPONSORS

**- Fred Welter - Scott Plastics - Pacific Salmon Foundation - Sandy Jadresko -  
-The Amalgamated Conservation Society - Victoria Golden Rods and Reels -**

**FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONALLY GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

At the onset of the Sooke Chinook sea pen initiative, SVIAC opted not to accept government support for the program and purposefully sought donations and funding from groups not traditionally associated with angling or the Public fishery. This was put in place to avoid our

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program competing with funding sources that already give to existing worthwhile local fish and enhancement related programs. However, we now find ourselves caught in a dilemma. With no government support, a lot of our regular sponsors unable to help and our society not being eligible for any government bail outs, we have to find a way to make it through the next 12 to 24 months. That is until the world gets back to normal and we have defeated the Corona Virus.

It is not all bad news and clearly worth noting here, with the inclusion of our 2020 release of 630,000 smolts, the Sooke sea pen has privately funded the successful rearing and transplanting of **1,875,000 healthy Chinook smolts** in just four years. No less than **360,000** of those almost 2 million juvenile salmon have been **adipose fin-clipped and Coded Wire Tagged** too. Since inception, our program has raised and **spent almost \$300,000** to date. That has all been achieved using private raised funds and P.S.F. grants, plus the amazing help of a group of selfless volunteers. It would be an unthinkable tragedy if the project was ended now due to lack of community support, especially as we see clear evidence of increased local salmon abundance.



Some proof that our Sooke Chinook (Sea Pen) Enhancement Initiative is working well is listed here:

- In 2019 at least 23 Coded Wire Tags from our sea pen fish were submitted, most being caught from the Sooke area and up the West Coast of Vancouver Island;
- In 2020 there was a sizeable increase in adult Chinook returning to the Sooke River – estimates of 1,600 – 2,000 adults, based on river walk counts and observations;
- In late July and August 2020 anglers fishing in Juan de Fuca Strait reported a greater than usual abundance of marked and unmarked Chinook in their catch. Those fish most likely originated from our Sooke project as they matched the size range of the returning year-class; and,
- On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, during the Salish Sea Salmon Challenge one of the contestants was caught off guard in Juan de Fuca Strait off Sooke, when a group of Southern Resident Killer Whales started feeding activity for their favorite food, large Chinook right beside his boat! As the only likely adult Chinook in that area at that time would be of Sooke origin, it is reasonable to assume they came from the sea pen project.

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**The 2021 Chinook smolt transplant marks our FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY** of the Sooke Chinook (Sea Pen) Enhancement Initiative. It is the SVIAC Board of Directors sincere wish to make this a very special success. We anticipate another 630,000 Chinook smolts to be transplanted to our sea pens again this year. **Please, please help us make this year a grand slam home run of an accomplishment.**

In 2016, before our first juvenile Chinook transplant, DFO required SVIAC and the community to prove we were capable of delivering the sea pen project together. We have more than proven that! Also, remember this has all been done successfully without any government money. Yes, without government money, not a penny! And continued success will lead to more Chinook for everyone, including the Southern Resident Killer Whales, First nations and us, the Canadian angling public.

Furthermore, SVIAC has requested DFO approve the number of juvenile Chinook annually transplanted to our sea pens increase to 1,000,000 in 2022. Plus, we have also requested permission to mark (adipose fin-clip) ALL the Chinook smolts we handle. This would assist SVIAC with stock assessment as well as sea pen Chinook catch monitoring and support the SFAB efforts to have DFO implement Marked Selected Fisheries where appropriate.

Yet, in spite of our successes, we have an urgent task that needs to be resolved and we are turning to you, our membership and the angling community, for support. We need to raise money to keep our program alive until the COVID-19 problems are resolved and international tourism gets back to normal. Regrettably, we still owe money to the DFO for part of our 2020 program and need to raise the money for 2021 program as well. Here below are the total amounts required with due dates:

- 2020 SCEI Shortfall ..... \$20,000 ..... DUE ASAP
- 2021 SCEI initial DFO CA payment ..... \$18,500 ..... By March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

*The full 2021 SCEI Sea Pen budget estimate is shown in Table 1 on page: 15*

The outstanding monies are for DFO and the Salmon Enhancement Program budget. Although there were discussions last summer with DFO about payment forgiveness or postponement as a relief due to the enormous and unprecedented upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, that is not a possibility. Any monies owed must not be outstanding beyond March 31, 2021, which is the official 2020 federal government fiscal year end. What's worse, SVIAC has learned that the Sooke Chinook (Sea Pen) Enhancement Initiative could be cut back or even terminated should the monies not be paid on time. **So, our plea to you is urgent and real.**

*..... continued on Page 16*



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**TABLE 1: - SOOKE CHINOOK (SEA PEN) ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE**

Estimated Budget for Year Five (2021) – in Canadian Dollars

|  | ITEM TYPE   | DESCRIPTION   | EXPENSE             | VOL           |
|--|---|---|---------------------|---------------|
| 1  | Brood Stock Collection                            | Extra effort for additional 550,000 eggs, volunteer support of 4 x 8h                           | 1,000               | 480           |
| 2  | Fish Food   | Sufficient fish food for rearing in hatchery and sea pen  | 13,000              |               |
| 3  | Fin Clipping and Code Wire Tagging                | 100,000 @ \$0.30 each   | 30,000              |               |
| 4  | Fish Transport, labour, pump rental and oxygen    | Delivery of 650,000 pre-smolts from Nitinat Hatchery to Sooke, = ~ 8 tanker truck trips         | 10,000              |               |
| 5  | DFO Staff Employment Costs                        | DFO extra labour at hatchery during rearing   | 12,500              |               |
| 6  | Preventative Treatment                            | Vibrio Virus Medication Application   | 6,000               |               |
| 6  | Netting Repair                                    | The Net Loft - net repair of existing nets  | 1,000               |               |
| 7  | Sea Pen – Move + Assembly/Disassembly             | Transport to marina dock, plus maintenance and repair, 8 volunteers for 3 x 4h each             | 2,000               | 1,440         |
| 8  | Extra Sea Pen Insurance Cost                      | Liability insurance for duration of sea pen operation   | 1,700               |               |
| 9  | Promotion and Events                              | Project promotion: banner, signage, sponsor cheques and public/education/media event            | 1,200               |               |
| 10   | Pen Project – Aquaculture & Volunteer Management  | Project transplant oversight, volunteer management = approx. 120 hrs expense                    | 3,000               |               |
| 11   | Daily Monitoring and Cleaning                     | Daily cleaning, fish feeding, record keeping 28d x 2 volunteers x 2h                            |                     | 1,680         |
| 12   | Overall project coordination and approval process | Volunteer efforts for the approval/fundraising/liaison/reporting and outreach 150hrs at \$50/hr |                     | 7,500         |
| <b>SUB TOTALS</b>                                  |   |   | <b>81,400</b>       | <b>11,100</b> |
| <b>2021 SCEI (SEA PEN) ESTIMATED - GRAND TOTAL</b> |   |   | <b>\$ 92,500.00</b> |               |

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The SVIAC Board of Directors has been actively seeking funds. We have been working behind the scenes to resolve this financial challenge we face already. Before Christmas, SVIAC submitted an application for a special lottery license to run a large raffle that could have raised \$70,000 to \$80,000. Sadly, the BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch turned our application down. Thankfully, we have been able to secure a PSF grant and several donations, but still we are facing the shortfall listed above.

**Please help us ...** Would you be selfless enough to pay \$40.00 for a SVIAC membership? Every little helps. Can you make a donation to help our cause? Please step up to the plate and help us out. These generous friends of SVIAC listed here have supported us already. *Fred Welter, Scott Plastics Ltd., Amalgamated Conservation Society, Sandy Jadresko and the Victoria Golden Rods and Reels.* And if you can't, do you know someone who might make a donation to support us in our hour of need?



By all accounts many car, boat and RV sales companies had a good run of sales in 2020. The Corona Virus travel restrictions kept British Columbians and Albertans in this part of the world. Many of them opted for the safety and enjoyment of boating, camping, eco-tourism and other BC-based recreation. We understand some local businesses have been doing well despite the COVID-19 pandemic. One very generous local business man has pledged a \$5,000 donation to SVIAC and asked us to put out a challenge to others – for them to make a donation too!

We must find a way to keep this project going until our regular sponsors can come back on stream. **If you can help in any way at all, your SVIAC Team would be truly grateful!**

### HOW TO SUPPORT SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND ANGLERS COALITION

**Membership** fees are \$40 dollars annually and can be purchased online at <https://www.anglerscoalition.com> or by phone at (778) 426-4141 or in person at SVIAC, Unit 3-774 Bay Street, Victoria V8T 5E4 or by snail mail to the same address – cash, debit and credit cards accepted.

**Donations** can be made in the same manner as above.

**Please give serious consideration to becoming a SVIAC member or making a donation to our amazing and successful Chinook sea pen project.**

## NEWS BULLETIN – NEW YEAR 2021

So, as you can see, your SVIAC Team has a steep hill to climb regarding financing our Sooke Chinook (Sea Pen) Enhancement Initiative in 2021, with some \$40,000 needed by the end of March to ensure our successful program continues without change. We also have to raise much more than that for the full year. ***So please give serious consideration to helping us raise the funds we urgently need.***

Details about Memberships and Donations Available at: <https://www.anglerscoalition.com>



### 2021 VICTORIA BOAT AND FISHING SHOW – (CANCELLED)

Some disappointing news, the Victoria Boat and Fishing Show scheduled for February 2021 has been cancelled. Can West Shows, the organizing company, sent out a press release advising that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions, they have cancelled their show scheduled for 2021 at Pearkes Recreation Centre. However, 2022 show dates have been published, which are Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Assuming the Corona Virus is no longer a threat to our health and all the restrictions related to the pandemic have gone away by that time, the 2022 show will take place. May the vaccine be with you!

This unfortunate news, while perfectly understandable, does disappoint the SVIAC Team. We always enjoy the opportunity to meet with the thousands of show attendees and shake hands with our members when they stopped by our booth. It has been an important date on the annual calendar of events for us. The Victoria Boat and Fishing Show also gave us a chance to catch up with other exhibitors to understand how they are doing and what they see as happening during the upcoming boating and fishing seasons. Raffle and fishing event tickets as well as memberships were all made available for sale at our booth, so SVIAC will not have those sales options at the start of the new year either.



Additionally, the Vancouver Boat Show, which was originally scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, has been cancelled. Their website ... <https://www.vancouverboatshow.ca> states “stay tuned for more updates” and the announcement of the 2022 dates. Another popular Canadian show with the fishing and boating community is the BC Sportsmen’s Show. Usually held at Tradex in Abbotsford, for 2021 the organizers appear to have adopted a virtual format. It appears this is now an online marketing event, which runs from February 15<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Judging by



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their website ... <http://www.bcsportsmenshow.ca/DIGITAL-MARKETING-PLATFORM> exhibitors can sign up and buy various different product exposures and virtual exhibitor options.

It has also come to our attention that the Seattle Boat Show has been cancelled, well partially. Going to the show in-person is not happening in 2021, however the organizers are going virtual with an online “show” from January 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Those interested can register online for \$5.00 USD and participate in their four days of online show, seminars and demos. More information is available at <https://www.seattleboatshow.com>

So SVIAC members and local anglers who enjoy wandering the busy aisles of our areas boat and fishing shows at the beginning of the year are forced to change their habitats in 2021 due to the pandemic. Drooling over the newest shiny battlewagons on offer or purchasing those “must have” latest tackle items on *show special* will have to wait another year. But please think of the local vendors and exhibitors who need the business and may well be struggling to stay afloat during these very difficult times. From the SVIAC perspective, we seriously hope you take time to renew your membership, buy a derby ticket to the new 2021 SVIAC Salish Sea Spring Fishing Derby (Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>) and visit the SVIAC website to check out all the latest news ... <https://www.anglerscoalition.com>



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### SAVING OUR SALMON FISHERIES – THE GREAT FIGHT AHEAD

Chinook and Coho salmon are, without question, the most important species to BC's Public salt water fisheries. Angler questionnaires, fishing effort statistics and our current Salmon Allocation Policy all confirm that. In Southern British Columbia, the Public Salmon fishery has experienced dramatic changes in the past 25 years.

Back in the mid 1990s, the collapse of Interior Fraser Coho was the defining issue of the time. DFO's solution was little more than to restrict Canadians from catching and keeping wild Coho in most of Southern BC for many months of the year.

Two decades ago, the persistent low abundance of certain Mid and Upper Fraser River stream-type Chinook became the principal challenge driving salmon fisheries management. For more than 12 years now, increasingly restrictive regulations have been placed upon the commercial and Public fisheries by DFO. Year after year there has been a steady drip, drip, drip of new more constricting time and area closures and/or slot size limits, chipping away at reasonable and sustainable opportunity to retain a Chinook.



In addition, BC's angling community has also experienced an assault on access to historical salmon fishing grounds. Large areas of the marine waters of Southern BC are closed or restricted to fishing either all year or for key parts of the year. Rockfish Conservation areas, Marine Protected Areas, Glass Sponge Reef Protection Areas and the latest Southern Resident Killer Whale "refuge" areas all deny some form of access to the salmon resource. Anglers need a PHD in law to decipher the complex regulations.

Worse still, for the past two-years, the Fisheries Minister has opted to manage the Public fishery to non-retention of ALL Chinook in Southern BC from April to July. This is now crucifying our important salt water salmon fishery.

Astonishingly, this decades-long draconian fisheries management approach has essentially been DFO's **only** management tool to recover Chinook and Coho stocks. Fraser River Chinook stocks

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of concern are not rebounding and today the Public salmon fishery, remaining locked on this downward trajectory, is perilously close to failing permanently.

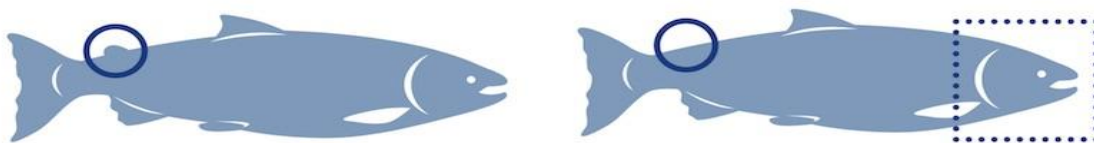
So, why does government persist with this approach? One can assume, because its cheap to implement and politicians, when questioned, can brag to the outside world *look what we are doing to save the fish*. So far, as a recovery strategy, this approach has been a tragic failure. These fish are still declining and important fisheries are on the brink of collapse.

Instead of taking the bold and necessary step of implementing a comprehensive properly funded recovery plan that includes habitat restoration and enhancement as well as fishery management, the powers that be opt to kick the can down the road. Our salmon resource and our fishery are in peril, yet no one in government is held to account for this mess.

Through all of this change, our sector is desperately trying to maintain a smidgen of reasonable access to the important Chinook salmon resource for the Canadian public. Our widely respected Sport Fishing Advisory Board has presented viable science-based fishery proposals that would have no measurable effect on the sensitive wild salmon stocks, yet their requests have been overlooked. It would appear science is no longer the guide for fishery management as DFO and the Federal Government aren't listening.

### **Adipose fin missing? It's A Hatchery Fish**

- Check for closures before retaining
- Remove head & submit to a Salmon Head Recovery Depot



If you are a person who loves salmon fishing and believes what DFO is doing is just wrong, you are rightfully furious and boiling inside, yet equally you feel helpless to stop this horrid tragedy from continuing. And you are not alone, there are thousands and thousands of us out there. Yet alone, isolated, disillusioned, perhaps even divided amongst ourselves, it is very clear, we are up the creek without a paddle.

It is not just individual anglers who are deeply frustrated by this mess either. Imagine you are the new owner of a tackle store, like Island Outfitters in Victoria, and need to make it through the COVID-19 pandemic, while DFO seems hell bent on doing nothing to assist the angling community from a fisheries perspective, when they can. Your livelihood is on the line. Then think



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about the fishing charter owner/operators. COVID-19 is killing their international and cross-border trade and they have no idea if their prospective clients can keep a salmon after April 1st. That's two months away and scandalous to have to face such uncertainty. It's a big smelly hot mess. Yet, it is so easily fixable, that's the real tragedy.

Bluntly speaking, if we ALL don't stand up right now and push back hard, your kids and grandkids will only have pictures of Chinook and stories of the good ol'days, but no fishing at all!

We only want to retain the identifiable adipose fin-clipped hatchery Chinook of USA origin when vulnerable wild stocks may be part of the mix. Its that simple for Victoria, Sidney and Sooke. And we want to catch and keep a Chinook in areas where there are no stocks of concern present (*the SFAB has shown us where, based on DFO's own science*) for specific areas of Southern Georgia Strait.

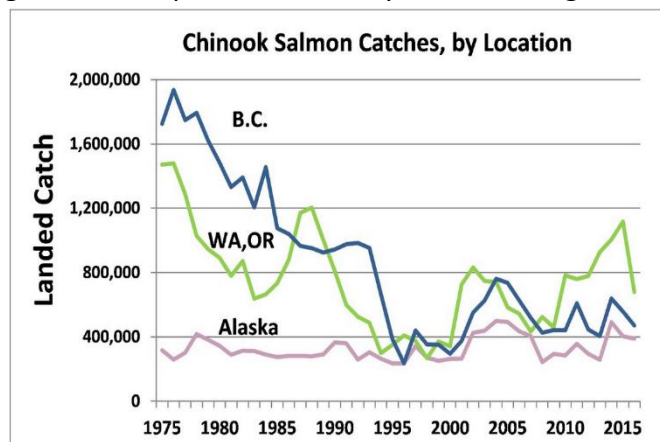


Figure 17. Total landed catch of Chinook Salmon in three regions by catch year, regardless of geographic origin of the fish. These catches include all catches from commercial, sport, and Tribal/First Nations fisheries within marine and freshwater Pacific Salmon Treaty boundaries. Data for this figure are derived from PSC-CTC (2017b).

### So What Can We Do?

Put up a powerful coordinated and principled fight<sup>1</sup> for fair and reasonable access right now. If we don't our precious salmon fishery will be gone!

At SVIAC, we believe there are a number of ways to seriously ratchet up our fight<sup>2</sup>. These, in addition to the existing advocacy efforts of the SFAB, the SFI, the BCWF and the BCFDF, include:

- uniting all the fishing organizations into one powerful voice in the public and social media domain - *this is crucial*;
- coordinate our sector's message with all organizations to speak with a well-researched and prioritized list of requests – *SVIAC is already working with the Public Fishery Alliance on this right now*;
- organize a coast-wide campaign and assemble a steering committee to manage that campaign – *delivering an organized and well-planned campaign is key*;

<sup>1</sup> and

<sup>2</sup> Please Note: the word "fight" is used as a metaphor for campaign and is NOT used to imply violence of any kind

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- build a war chest of resources both financial and volunteer expertise – *needed more than ever before;*
- make our case in public – explain our dilemma in simple language, so the public understand – *there are still salmon in abundance, hatchery salmon and we want access to them. We don't want to keep vulnerable wild salmon, let them recover!*
- proactively speaking out in the public domain about all the good things that anglers do for conservation and guardianship of the salmon resource – *there are many;* and,
- make a compelling case in public for marking (adipose fin-clipping) ALL of Canada's hatchery Chinook and Coho and implementing Selective Fisheries for identifiable hatchery Chinook and Coho where wild salmon stocks require conservation – *this is critical to the future of our salmon fishery.*

We have an incredible opportunity to make positive change, which is emerging as we speak. Prime Minister Trudeau may be forced to face a federal election in the near future. What better time than now to build a powerful campaign for our wild salmon, our salmon fishing interests, adopting marked selective fisheries and the Canadian public's access to the Pacific salmon resource.

Some might say, it won't work. But, for those who remember, it was only a decade ago that the halibut allocation to the Public fishery was the big issue on the table. Our sector had to put up a fight then too. That



campaign was also during an election cycle and the then BC Sport Fishing Coalition (an ad hoc group of many of BC's angling NGOs) came together and got Prime Minister Harper's attention, resulting in a positive change to our fishery. SVIAC president Chris Bos was part of that successful campaign back then too. So, you see, it does work. **Let's do it again! And you can count on Team SVIAC participating!**



We are strong advocates for your salmon fishery around South Vancouver Island and are intensifying our efforts as the spring Chinook fishing season rapidly approaches. We will do everything possible to see our fishery improve and push hard to stop any further erosion. **It is a critical moment right now.**

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***We urgently need your help. More than ever before.*** This is a fight for our salmon fisheries we cannot afford to lose. We must get our hatchery Chinook retention opportunities back and open up Chinook fishing where there are no wild stocks of concern. The stronger we are and the bigger our voice, the more effective we will be. Please support us in any way you can. Buy a SVIAC membership, enter in our raffles, buy tickets to our fishing events and donate to the cause. ***We are counting on you.***

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**PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO BECOMING A SVIAC MEMBER OR MAKING A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR FIGHT FOR YOUR SALMON FISHERY AND OUR AMAZING AND SUCCESSFUL CHINOOK SEA PEN PROJECT.**

### SINCERE THANKS TO OUR MOST RECENT SPONSORS

**- Fred Welter - Scott Plastics - Pacific Salmon Foundation - Sandy Jadresko -  
-The Amalgamated Conservation Society – Victoria Golden Rods and Reels –**

**FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONALLY GENEROUS SUPPORT!**