

NEWS BULLETIN – SPRING 2021



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NOTABLE CALENDAR EVENTS

APRIL 9 – 10, 2021	SFAB Main Board Meeting (Virtual)
APRIL 19 - 20, 2021	1 st Chinook Delivery to Sooke Sea Pens
MAY 10 - 11, 2021	2 nd Chinook Delivery to Sooke Sea Pens
SEPTEMBER 04, 2021	Salish Sea Salmon Challenge

IMPORTANT!

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED RE: CHINOOK RETENTION APRIL-JULY

The final decision on Chinook retention this year (April through end of July) has been delayed. In fact, it was sent to Ottawa and Fisheries Minister Jordan will make a final decision in the very near future. **There is still a very limited time window for action.**

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WE ALL ABSOLUTELY MUST TELL MINISTER JORDAN AND DFO JUST HOW CRITICAL RETAINING A CHINOOK IS FOR OUR FISHERY – SO PLEASE ACT NOW – PLEASE!!!

There TWO ways to do your part ...

(1) The best way is to write a short letter to Minister Jordan directly. Here are the contact details for Fisheries Minister Bernadette Jordan:

By email: min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Or telephone: 1 (613) 992-3474



or

(2) The Public Fishery Alliance has put together an excellent form letter where everything is already laid out for you. You just add your name, email address and postal code then press send and you're done. *This only takes about 30 seconds.* Here is the link to the PFA form letter:

https://publicfisheryalliance.ca/letter2021/?fbclid=IwAR1vQfRz127J6YksAomtKmtTVS6HkRkQ4ix_UzSs3LuuLLUh_foDdGMZLNI

So, its up to you now. The more emails and letter sent the better our chances are. And don't think this doesn't make any difference, because it really does. Please remember



the Environmental NGOs want us off the water, so we have to fight like hell! And don't forget, this isn't about harming any of the struggling Fraser River Chinook stocks. The fisheries, which we support, contained in the SFAB proposal sent to DFO, are designed specifically to avoid those stocks of concern. Its all about retaining abundant Chinook or

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fish of USA hatchery origin. We must have a life line to sustain our South Vancouver Island salmon fishery and these modest opportunities will help us, while the Fraser River Chinook stocks of concern make their recovery.

As we see it at SVIAC, this is an incredibly important moment in time for the future of our fishery. And every voice and every message we can pass on to Fisheries Minister Jordan is critical. **Give it your best and don't wait – Many thanks!!**

SALISH SEA SPRING FISHING DERBY REPORT

Saturday March 27th was the inaugural Salish Sea Spring Fishing Derby. Considering this was a new event for SVIAC, as well as early in the year on the fishing calendar, by all accounts it was a better-than-expected success.

The weather was good, the wind didn't blow too hard, although it was a chilly breeze and the waves were manageable, especially after the tide change. Our derby contestants fished hard, but there weren't a lot of fish weighed in. There was a total of 110 derby entrants. When the scale closed at 4:00PM, surprisingly only 11 fish had been weighed in (9 Chinook and 2 Halibut).

The prize results were as follows:

Largest Legal Salmon - 13.11 lbs (Hatchery Chinook)	Jen Elliot
Largest Legal Halibut - 21.38 lbs	Anna Byatt
Random Draw Prize - Scotty 2106 Downrigger	Devin Milner
Swag Draw Prize 1st - Scotty 2106 Downrigger	Chris Bos <i>re-donated</i>
Swag Draw Prize 2 nd - Mooching Rod & Reel	Len Harvey
Swag Draw prize 3 rd - Halibut Harpoon	Grant Sawyer

The event went well thanks to our gracious host and this year's derby sponsor Cheanuh Marina, whose first-rate staff were so helpful and made sure everything ran smoothly. Even though we were again faced with the challenges of COVID-19, participants and spectators honoured the personal distancing and mask wearing restrictions. With 110 participants the two cash prizes were \$2,200 each. Anna Byatt's 21.38 lb halibut took home one cash prize and, in truth, we were all a little surprised no one weighed in a large halibut. Jen Elliot, with a nice 13.11 lb hatchery Chinook, took home both the biggest

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salmon cash prize (\$2,200) and the Skippers Challenge (\$750) for a total cash haul of \$2,950.00 All-in-all a great day was had by everyone.

We are very happy to report the Salish Sea Spring Fishing Derby made \$2,480 net profit

THE WINNERS



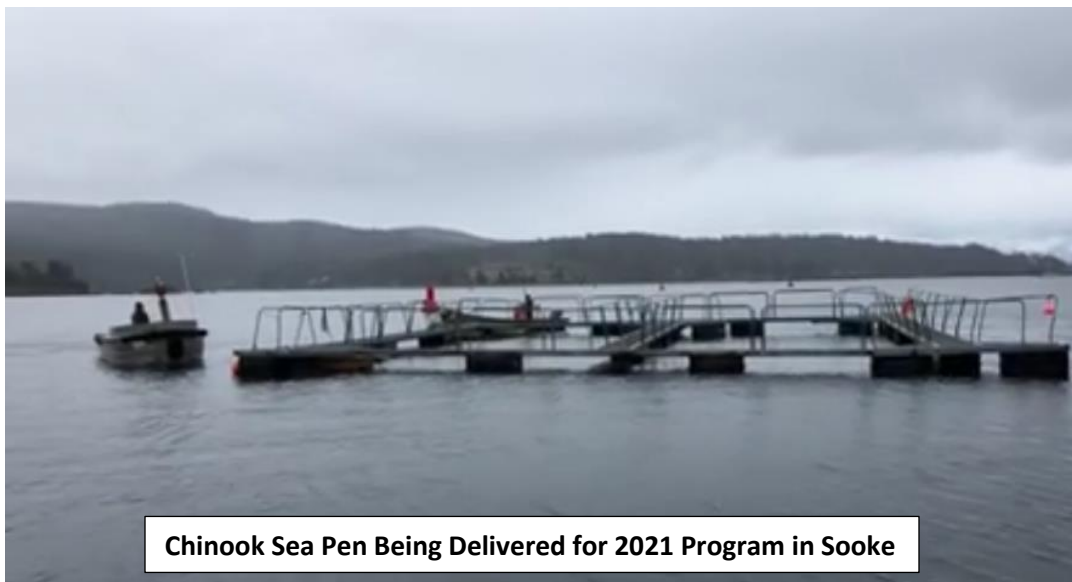
The SVIAC Board of Directors would like to sincerely thank our gracious hosts and event sponsors at Cheanuh Marina (Cheryl, Grant, Tyhia and Katelyn), our very generous prize

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supporters (Scotty, Island Outfitters and Tom Cole), our ticket sales outlets (Cheanuh Marina, Island Outfitters, Trotac Marine and Gizmos Victoria) and, of course, the derby crew. Without these great people and excellent local companies, this event would not be possible. But finally, and most important of all, we must thank all those who entered the derby and purchased tickets. **You are the best!!**

2021 SOOKE CHINOOK ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

Well, it's that exciting time of year when the Sooke Chinook Enhancement Initiative sea pen project becomes active again. Yes, we are only days away from our first of two batches of fish being delivered. The pens were just moved back into place at the Sooke Harbour Resort and Marina the other day; many thanks to the lads from Jenkins Marine for helping us. Glen Varney and his trusty crew of volunteers will be getting the system set up and ready to receive the first batch of 325,000 little fish. We are told the Chinook smolts are approximately 3.5 grams each.



Apparently, the fish are doing well and, as per the Nitnat Hatchery, they have been given their compulsory Vibrio Virus treatment. As usual, thousands have been adipose fin-clipped and fitted with a coded wire tag. The Nitnat Hatchery crew will bring the fish by truck from the hatchery to Sooke (about 3.5-hour drive time). Once in the pen, Glen and his team will make sure the hungry little smolts are well fed and kept safe for several weeks before their release.

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This year, 2021, is a watershed moment for our project. It marks the fifth anniversary of SVIAC putting the first batch of fish in the water (2017 – 210,000). Many said it couldn't be done. Many scoffed that we would never get permission from DFO. And yes, at times, we were skeptical too. But it is fantastic to report to you here in the SVIAC news bulletin that WE (that's all of us) have successfully coordinated this very important community-based program from the very start. And proudly we can boast, that after the second batch of healthy Chinook smolts are released this year we will have processed 2,525,000 juvenile salmon. Don't forget, that accomplishment is with NO GOVERNMENT MONEY, not a penny. To date, we've raised over \$300,000 to make the Sooke Chinook



Enhancement Initiative reality. Although it certainly hasn't been easy, we have privately funded this from day one and will continue to do so.

But during COVID-19 our fundraising model has been wrecked. Our whale watching sponsors' businesses are all struggling to survive the international travel restrictions, so we have to look elsewhere. It is very difficult, but SVIAC is making progress little by little. We have managed to clear up all the outstanding costs from 2020, which is a great piece of news. We owe a huge thank you to our dear friends at the Pacific Salmon Foundation for their support too. Now our focus turns to this year 2021 and our 650,000 healthy Chinook smolts. We must find the funds to pay for this before the summer is over.

So, it is with great excitement we deliver this project in anniversary year five, yet with anxiety that funds need to be found to keep this worthy project on track.

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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. Equally, we must find funds to continue our Sooke Chinook Enhancement Initiative and keep releasing hundreds of thousands of salmon each year. 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.***

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 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 - Roy Yeske - Earl Kreutzer
Frederike Verspoor - Island Outfitters - Jenkins Marine -
Dennis Zozula - Dennis C. Reid - Bruce Paddon**

And Special Thanks to Frank Hudson

FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONALLY GENEROUS SUPPORT!