



Flylines

FALL 2017

October 1, 2017



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT, JESSE BLAKE

The 2017 AGM was held at Sunrise Ridge Resort, in Parksville, on May 6, 2017. A summary of the AGM appears on our website at bcfff.bc.ca/news.php. The new Board of Directors was chosen, mostly by acclamation. Jesse Blake “stepped up to the plate” and agreed to be the new President. Thanks Jesse, and congratulations. The photo above was submitted by Jesse and you can see he believes in supporting future fly fishermen! Jesse lives in Tofino and is a member of the Long Beach Flyfishers. Greg Gordon has agreed to be Secretary, replacing Peter Caverhill who has held the position for many years. Thanks Peter, you’ve done an excellent job.

A list of the Board of Directors follows on the “Contacts” page.

CONTACTS

Board of Directors

Jesse Blake	President
Phil Rogers	Vice-president 1
Myles Armstead	Vice-president 2
Greg Gordon	Secretary
Brandon Charlesworth	Treasurer
Ken Burgess	Membership/Gilly Fund
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Lloyd Erickson	Newsletter
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Cariboo Chilcotin Fly Fishers
Comox Valley Fly Fishers
Cowichan Fly Fishers
Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Assn
Island Waters Fly Fishers
Kalamalka Fly Fishers
Kamloops Fly Fishers
Long Beach Fly Fishers
Loons Fly Fishing Club
Mid Island Castaways
Osprey Fly Fishers
Penticton Fly Fishers
Totem Fly Fishers
West Coast Fly Fishers
Rocky Mountain Anglers

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Membership: Open to all persons, and members of associated clubs. Direct memberships are \$20 payable to the Membership director.

CONSERVATION

Bass in the Kettle River

PENTICTON NEWS September 16, 2017

Concerns are being raised after a new - and unwanted - species of fish might have found itself a home in the Kettle River. Provincial biologists are trying to confirm if reports of bass being caught in the Kettle River are true.

Fish and Wildlife Branch Senior Fisheries Biologist Tara White says her office has received a handful of reports of bass caught in the Kettle River since the fishery reopened at the end of August. "To date we have confirmed the presence of largemouth in the Kettle River, downstream of Grand Forks near Gilpin. We have received a couple of reports of small mouth bass, however, they are unconfirmed and may have been incorrectly identified," White said in an email today, Sept. 15.

White says the ministry is trying to confirm the species being caught are, indeed, bass. Once that is done, they will be in a better position to determine what, if anything, can be done to mitigate the issue.

White says if the species turns out to be largemouth bass, it won't be as significant a concern as if they are smallmouth bass.

"Largemouth bass do not overwinter well in river environments. Smallmouth bass, however, can survive the winter and will thrive in a warm water system such as the Kettle River, which reaches 25 degrees Celsius in summer. The concern is that bass are considered an invasive species and will take over the habitat, negatively impacting the rainbow trout fishery. They eat almost everything and anything, including rainbow trout, eggs and fry," White said.

Smallmouth bass have been reported in the Kettle River but officials aren't sure the reports are accurate. They have specific instructions for what to do if you think you caught one.

Anglers fishing the Kettle River who think they've caught a bass are asked to record the location, with GPS coordinates and the closest road name if possible, photograph the fish, place it in a ziplock bag and freeze it. Contact the Region 8 Fish and Wildlife Branch in Penticton and fisheries staff will pick it up for identification, White says.

How the species ended up in the Kettle is not yet known. White says the matter is under investigation, with nothing confirmed at this point. The fish is not native to the Kettle River.

Introducing fish into public water bodies is illegal in Canada without government authorization, with penalties of up to \$100,000 for first time offenders and a prison term of up to 12 months for a second offence.

B.C. Hydro dismantling river diversion on Island, coho expected this fall

Times Colonist September 6, 2017



The course of the Salmon River was temporarily diverted to allow the removal of the timber crib diversion dam. Photograph by Emily Oliphant

Crews employed via a joint effort by B.C. Hydro and area First Nations are restoring and reshaping a portion of the Salmon River after the course was temporarily diverted in August to facilitate the removal of a timber crib diversion dam. The Salmon River Diversion Project was constructed between Campbell River and Sayward in the late 1950s to divert water from the river along a three-kilometre canal system into Brewster Lake and the Lower Campbell Reservoir to generate power.

The facility has deteriorated despite numerous repairs. B.C. Hydro decided it would make more sense to remove the diversion rather than replace it. The corporation gave this explanation for why it decided to dismantle the Salmon River diversion: "B.C. Hydro determined that the benefits of reinvesting to rehabilitate the diversion did not weigh favourably in comparison to the ceasing of operations when considering the costs and benefits inclusive of ecological impacts and social benefits."

The restored Salmon River riverbed is expected to be ready for the coho run this fall. Cost of the work is estimated at \$14.2 million.

B.C. Hydro is also in the area building a massive replacement for the John Hart generating station. That project has a price tag of \$1.1 billion and is expected to be completed in 2018-2019. It replaces a power-generating facility that started operating in 1947.

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The following clip can be seen in full on the bcff.bc.ca website, or at the URL below.

WILD PACIFIC SALMON: A THREATENED LEGACY

A Natural Blueprint for Change

By Jim Lichatowich, Rick Williams, Bill Bakke, Jim Myron, David Bella, Bill McMillan, Jack Stanford and David Montgomery

The extirpation of wild Pacific salmon in forty percent of their historical range and the extensive listing of Pacific salmon under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) are a strong signal that the current salmon management paradigm is failing.

Salmon are a part of nature's trust, which creates a special obligation for the governmental agencies charged with their management. They must act as trustees of the wild salmon and protect them consistent with the longstanding public trust doctrine. Their obligation is to maintain the wild salmon legacy in good health for citizen beneficiaries of present and future generations. Salmon managers have abrogated that responsibility and have instead converted salmon management to the production of commodities for the benefit of sport and commercial fisheries. The salmon commodity is produced in large industrial operations (hatcheries) which has undermined the public trust responsibilities as well as the ecological underpinnings of wild salmon's sustaining ecosystems. It created the impoverishment of wild salmon that exists today.

In this report, we argue that the impoverished state of wild salmon is the result of management paradigm that focuses on the production of commoditized salmon in an industrial production system (hatcheries). This approach favored the exchange of habitat for hatcheries and the regulation of harvest that failed to ensure that enough wild salmon escaped to their natural spawning areas. This management regime has persisted for more than a century and it is consistent with fundamental beliefs and assumptions about how salmon watersheds function and how the species and services those watersheds support should be used. Those beliefs and assumptions have proven to be seriously flawed.

This document can be seen in full at:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e58ccd73f3f3c9c89c3830311/files/49f8fad1-53aa-44ec-af5c-b3a78137ddf1/Licatowich_et_al_2017_1_Printing_Pacific_salmon_legacy_after_printing_7_24_2017.pdf

Update on Zebra Mussels



http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/water-advocates-say-feds-need-to-do-more-to-prevent-invasive-mussels-from-moving-into-b-c-1.4249668?utm_source=Watershed+Watch+Email+List&utm_campaign=777c351885-Salmon_News_Aug18_2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_405944b1b5-777c351885-237219321&mc_cid=777c351885&mc_eid=5dcccdbdcd

So far this summer, B.C. conservation officers have flagged 1,100 boats coming into the province as high risk for carrying invasive mussels.

And that has Tracy Gray, chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, worried. Gray and other water advocates are asking the federal minister of Oceans and Fisheries to step in to help keep B.C. waters free of the aggressive quagga and zebra mussels, which once established, can choke out native species, take over beaches and shorelines and clog water pipes.

"It's very concerning that there are mussel infested boats making their way all across Canada from Ontario, places like New York or Texas," said Gray. She says further education about boat cleaning, and even more inspection stations are needed to keep B.C. waters mussel free.

Also see:

- [_____ 'The lake is being invaded.' Zebra mussels wash up on the shores of Lake Winnipeg](#)

ACCESS

Anglers make tough catch by landing a trip to Vancouver Island watershed

From The Vancouver Sun June 25, 2017

Forwarded from Carmen Sauve and Rich Ronyecz

Fourteen months, 245 emails, 152 phone calls, three Capital Regional District meetings, eight club meetings, \$1,000 in deposits and \$500 in direct expenses.

All for seven petite rainbow trout.

The West Coast Fly Fishers Association completed a bureaucratic obstacle course to become the first recreational group to gain access to the Leech River watershed last weekend. "It's a gate by a different name," fly fisher Kym Hill said. "But we're diehards."

The CRD purchased 9,600 hectares in the Leech River watershed in 2007 and 2010 as a future water supply area for Greater Victoria. It won't be needed for at least 25 years, but public access has been increasingly restricted since 2012 in an effort to prevent forest fires and contamination.

After multiple staff reports and debates, CRD directors in 2016 struck a balance between environmental security and recreation: There is a general prohibition, but individuals and groups can apply for special-use permits, to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. First Nations are also allowed cultural use of the lands, in accordance with an access agreement.

"Our No. 1 concern is always wildfire," said Annette Constabel, senior manager for watershed protection.

Each group will present different risks. In this case, the CRD was most concerned about pathogens, invasive plants and animals. "We know in Shawnigan Lake, there's milfoil and many of the recreational areas have those invasive species," Constabel said. "We want to prevent those from spreading into the watershed area. That was our biggest concern, so we put measures in to make that a lower risk."

The West Coast Fly Fishers were the guinea pigs.

Other pre-trip preparations included getting permission from forestry company Timber West to drive four to five kilometres on a logging road to reach the public lands, ensuring members had first-aid training, and negotiating an insurance agreement to satisfy both Timber West and the CRD.

Nine club members met at 5:15 a.m. last Sunday to hit Jarvis, Weeks and Worley lakes, to which they had been granted one-day access. They drove in freshly cleaned trucks (in case of cross-contamination); it being a rainy day, the trucks were coated in mud by the time they arrived. En route, they passed through the Timber West gate, which they had paid \$100 in fees to gain access to (a special discount from the typical \$500, because of the small club size). One member had driven up to Nanaimo to get the key. No need: The gate had been busted open long ago and was riddled with bullet holes, they found. "These are some of the fun things we get to discover," said Timber West spokeswoman Monica Bailey. The company manages entry to its properties for safety reasons — there's active logging in some areas — and to limit vandalism, trespassing and illegal

dumping. It recently removed 19,000 tonnes of garbage from its property near Strathcona Provincial Park, she said.

But it often learns of vandalism in underused areas from those like the anglers, who report it.

Upon arrival on CRD lands, the group pulled the trucks into a gravel yard for the final preparations. CRD staff sprayed each boat with a decontamination spray made up of a virucide, bactericide and fungicide. They also distributed three sets of spill kits, shovels, VHF radios and fire-prevention kits (which proved unnecessary on the soggy day). Because the boats could not be disinfected again, the fishers had to gamble on which of three lakes they visited.

One chose Weeks Lake, while the remainder bet on Jarvis.

The lands weren't always closed to the public, and it's the memory of fishing in Jarvis Lake that drove Hill to persist in her goal of access.

Her journal — filled with records of every lake she's fished and what she caught — notes that Jarvis, in 1989, had especially good fishing at dusk. It was so good, she went back again the next day — a rare thing for Hill, who prided herself on trying as many new fishing spots as possible, often squeezed into the same day.

"I think a big thing was the happy memories of what was up there before and the wish to revisit those (that drove us)," she said.

Wrong choice.

This time, there seemed to be little life in the lake. Only a handful of fish showed up on monitors and none was caught. There were no frogs singing and few birds passing through.

"It was sad," Hill said. "[We were] trying to regain something that we thought had been preserved and maybe even improved by having no people up there. Well, that wasn't the case."

Luckily, the fishing was better on Weeks, as the lone fisher there reported over VHF radio.

The group flocked to Weeks and took turns in casting from shore and sharing the two boats that hadn't touched Jarvis Lake.

The fishing was good. They took home seven rainbow trout and let plenty more go.

So, how did the guinea pigs do?

"It sounds like it was a success," Constabel said. "They were a good group and it sounds like the decontamination procedures didn't take too long and could be done on site there at the Weeks Lake gravel pit. They were able to meet all the requirements."

The information about ecological changes in Jarvis Lake is also helpful to the CRD, she said.

"That's new information for us. We certainly know people have had fish in the past there and it was stocked at one point, so that will be interesting for us to follow."

Overall, Hill said, she loved the experience.

"But I see it as an opportunity to get (Jarvis Lake) back to where it was before. It should be returned to its former glory," she said. "It's another pile of hoops to jump through, but it's been a good cause."

Would they do it again?

"Oh, I have a feeling, yes."

<http://vancouver.sun.com/storyline/anglers-make-tough-catch-by-landing-a-trip-to-vancouver-island-watershed>

Escaped Atlantic salmon reported 250 km north of collapsed fish farm

CBC News Sept 13, 2017



Escaped farmed Atlantic salmon have swum as far as 250 kilometres north of Washington state's San Juan Islands, where they broke free from a ruptured pen last month containing an estimated 305,000 fish.

Escaped farmed Atlantic salmon may have swum as far as 250 kilometres north of Washington state's San Juan Islands, where they broke free from a ruptured pen last month containing an estimated 305,000 fish.

The non-native species of salmon have been reported as far north as Tofino on the west side of Vancouver Island and Campbell River on the island's east side, according to Byron Andres, head of the federal Atlantic Salmon Watch program. "Quite a distance. I'm not sure whether we should be surprised by that but they have travelled further than I initially anticipated," Andres told Gregor Craigie, host of [On the Island](#).

The Atlantic Salmon Watch program has been monitoring B.C. waters since 1991 and in that time has rarely logged confirmed sightings.

Between 2011 and 2017, there were only [three confirmed reports](#) of Atlantic salmon in B.C., with some appearing as far north as Hecate Strait and the Kitimat River. There had been zero reports in the three years leading up to the escape. Since the spill on Aug. 19, Fisheries and Oceans has fielded about 40 reports of Atlantic salmon in B.C. waters.

Meanwhile, Indigenous fisherman with the [Lummi Nation](#) in Washington State claim to have caught more than [43,500 of the fish](#), which are classified as an invasive species in the U.S.

Anyone who captures an Atlantic salmon is asked to call the Atlantic Salmon Watch program at 1-800-811-6010 and retain the head and stomach contents of the fish for analysis. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

While none of the recent 40 reports have been confirmed, Andres said the department is relying on the public to help track the movement of the fish while it prioritizes recovery efforts.

Fishers are asked to keep the carcass or head of any Atlantic salmon they catch and to give the parts to officials.

"If they could preserve the head and the gut content so that I can recover that from them, we have some analysis we'd like to do with that tissue," Andres said.

The stomach contents of the fish will be analyzed to determine how effectively Atlantic salmon have been able to feed in the wild while the heads will be used for identification purposes.

In search of the otolith

Specifically, scientists are looking for otolith bones, inner-ear bones that retain a unique signature specific to the farm they originate from and help trace farmed fish back to their source.

Otolith bones grow in layers over the duration of a fish's life. When a fish is in the hatchery, water temperature is controlled to affect how the bone grows which creates a "thermal imprint" on the otolith.

"They increase and decrease the temperature of the water so that the otolith is laid down in a very distinctive pattern like tree rings," he said. "It could be done with DNA as well but the otolith is much cheaper."

The incident ignited debate surrounding controversial farming of Atlantic salmon in B.C. and prompted Indigenous groups to [occupy two B.C. fish farms](#).

The B.C. Salmon Farmers Association said escapes are rare north of the U.S. border because farms here are built to a higher standard than in the U.S.

The company the salmon escaped from blamed high tides, currents and the coinciding solar eclipse for the collapse of the pen.

But the site near Cypress Island was experiencing structural problems about a month before the collapse and was slated for upgrades, according to Cooke Aquaculture.

Additional comments can be found at:

http://www.cascadiaweekly.com/cw/currents/marine_feedlots_and_the_tide_against_wild_fish

Quotable Quote

"If you're too busy to go fishing, you're too busy"

From September 2017 Reader's digest. Also see article p.82 "Reflections From the River."

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE REID



George Edward Reid December 20, 1939 – July 27, 2017

A friend to all fishes and a friend to all men, George has moved on to that great fishpond in the sky. He passed away in the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital following a stroke.

Most of us will remember George as the manager of the fish side of the BC Fish and Wildlife Branch. In 1971, George moved to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, surely a fish mecca for someone whose career was a fisheries biologist and who had a passion for fishing! And from a sportsman's point of view it was great having a fisheries manager who appreciated the needs of both his fellow fly fishermen and the habitat and management needs of fish all around Vancouver Island. George, ever playing Santa at Xmas, was very likable and was well liked by his many colleagues and friends.

Outside of work George was an active member of the community serving on numerous boards, including the John Howard Society and the United Way of Nanaimo.

George retired in 2004. He was an early riser and most often could be found at the pool at Beban Park. If not there he was possibly off fishing somewhere like the Saint Mary River in the Kootenays.

George leaves behind a daughter, Michelle and son Morgan and numerous family members. He will be remembered and greatly missed by his many friends.

Keep your hooks sharp George and may there always be a fish to rise to your fly.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Many fly patterns, maybe most patterns, will catch more than one specie of fish. That is particularly true of patterns for pink salmon and coho. One of my very favourite patterns that bites both ways I call the “Double Trouble” but you will likely recognize it as the “blue over green”.



As you can see the Double Trouble is a very simple pattern to tie. I like its appearance when tied with polar bear hair, but calf tail or deer hair work too. A little silver crystal flash in the wing probably makes it more attractive to coho. I find a size 6 is good for pinks, and size 2 hook for coho are all I need.

For more variety tie this fly in the Clouser minnow style. That can really help it sink to fishy depths.

