

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 26th September 2001 in the Ridgeview Motel Hospitality Room

Present:

Paul Smith- R.A.M.S.; Chris Erikson DFO/Conuma Hatchery; Maureen Plecas, G.R. Smolt Co. Ltd.; Dick Dennison, G.R. Resident; Trudy Annand, G. R. Resident/Nootka Resource Board.

1.0 Paul called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 The agenda was approved by consensus

4.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

Chris stated that the seapens were located in Tahsis harbour not Jewitt Cove. Sentence reading "Consensus was reached to discontinue this discussion on the record" was changed to read, "Consensus was reached to discontinue this discussion."

5.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Dick asked if the DFO office was set up in town yet. Paul replied that as of October 1st the office would be officially open. The office is the old building inspectors office in the Village Office complex. The enforcement officers are Ed Thorburn and Mike Murphy. Dick asked if anything had been resolved over the Muchalaht Weir. Paul stated that anyone with concerns or questions should attend the next G.R. Rod and Gun Club meeting on October 11/01 as Frank Crabbe, Wilf Luedke, and Doug Swift have stated they will be there to answer all questions. Paul gave an update on the progress of the Hutchinson Creek and Oktwanch River Side Channel Projects.

6.0 Minutes of previous meeting approved by consensus

7.0 Correspondence

Letter from Roger Dunlop about the status of the Gold River Chinook Assessment Project and concerns over the dismal Chinook escapements to the Burman and Gold Rivers and their possible implications for next years recreational fishery in Nootka Sound.

8.0 New Business

Paul talked about a proposal from the G.R. Rod and Gun Club to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund for a Riparian Restoration Project for Hutchinson Creek. Chris stated that we should begin to set up a program to enhance the Pink and Sockeye in rivers and streams that historically supported strong runs in the past. Trudy asked how the Chinook escapement numbers were on the Conuma River this year. Chris replied the numbers are excellent with lots of three year olds and jacks, which will bode well for next years return to the Conuma River. Chris went on to say that the percentage of returning jacks has been up considerably in the last two years, which is a good sign for future stocks. Paul discussed the Stream Keepers training course on October 20 & 21 being taught by Dave Clough. Chris asked about the Canton/Conuma assessment dates. Paul talked about the test pits being dug at Canton Creek

and Conuma River off channel to determine the extent of the water table in preparation for the side channel assessments on October 27 & 28/01. The assessment for Canton Creek will be done by the G.R. Stream Keepers and supervised by Mainstream Biological Consulting biologist Monica Stewardson. The assessment of the off channel project that will eventually tie into the Conuma Hatchery water supply will be done by the Stream Keepers and Hatchery staff. Paul gave an update on the success of the BC Rivers Day event in our community on September 30/01. Maureen asked about the status of Rams and the Stewardship Coordinator position for Nootka/Kyuquot. Paul replied that Rams would stay a float until March/02 when the West Coast Aquatic Management Board will be officially in place. The Stewardship Coordinator position has been approved until March/02 at which time it will be evaluated once again for the final year of the Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program. Maureen asked when the next Rams meeting would take place. Paul replied that the AGM was just held on September 21/01 and he isn't sure when the next regular meeting will be held.

9.0 Action Items

1. Paul will bring data on substantial historical Pink/Sockeye escapements in Nootka Sound to next meeting to help devise an enhancement plan.
2. Paul will ask Roger Dunlop to attend the next meeting to update members on the fertilization workshop he attend last spring in the US.

10.0 Presentations

There were no presentations.

11.0 Open Discussion

There was some discussion around the importance of fish carcasses to the health of ecosystems. Some discussion followed about the next meeting falling on Halloween and it was decided to hold the next meeting on Tuesday October 30/01 same time, same place.

12.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm. Next meeting is on Tuesday, October 30/01 same time, same place.