

Sport Fishing Advisory Board - MAIN BOARD MEETING

FINAL Summary Minutes

January 23-24, 2010 • Victoria, BC

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Introductions, welcome, approval of agenda

Agenda was approved with several additions

2010 Recreational Fisheries awards

DFO staff reported that BC's Gerry Kristianson and Dave Clough of Lantzville are among five individuals honoured for contributions and support to the public fishery.

Recreational Vision

DFO and SFAB reps reported that the recreational vision has been signed off by all parties, including the federal Fisheries Minister. The document provides an important planning framework (excluding allocation matters, which are addressed through existing allocation policies).

Discussion: Work on the initiative was commended. Next steps include developing an action plan and internal/external communication plans. BC will help develop the action

plan. SFAB members and local committees were urged to consider the Vision in their work

Policy issue: Roundtables

DFO reported that although the Integrated Fishery Management Planning process and committees like the SFAB remain at the heart of fishery planning, the ISDF process is exploring ways to improve communication and bridges across sectors. The Gwaii Haanas NMCA (National Marine Conservation Area) initiative illustrates changes that must be accommodated in the advisory system. DFO efforts in specific watersheds to implement the WSP (Wild Salmon Policy) also highlight the need to coordinate and link various processes. DFO sees these as efforts to enhance communication, not to break down existing processes.

Discussion: Capacity, funding, clarity of mandate and governance issues were raised with regard to a number of processes. SFAB has adopted a policy that it will only support processes where it gets to choose the recreational reps. DFO gives priority to external processes that support DFO's own processes and regulatory mandate. An internal review is expected to offer advice on this and on some of the other issues raised in coming months. The joint management agreement for Gwaii Haanas excludes allocation and DFO has stressed to the partners that its own existing processes must be respected. Allocation policy will remain a matter of ministerial discretion, though the distinction between allocation and planning needs to be made clearer in some cases. Creating broad confidence in various processes and their outcomes will enhance efficiency and address some of the capacity concerns.

Development of new Aquaculture Regime

DFO staff reported that following the BC Supreme Court ruling requiring the federal government to regulate fisheries aspects of aquaculture, DFO was asked to start planning to implement the decision. A one-year extension is being sought to implement the new federal regulatory process, while staff work on three key areas:

- 1) Negotiating an MOU with BC, which will retain responsibility for land tenures and farm locations.
- 2) Drafting new regulations under the Fisheries Act that provide the necessary authority to properly manage aquaculture as a fishery, along with protection of wild fish and habitat. DFO is seeking input on what the regulatory framework should look like.
- 3) The final stage is program design and implementation planning.

DFO will treat aquaculture as a fishery and adapt fishery management techniques accordingly. The vision is to develop a regional focus, instead of managing site by site. A consultation document is available online and comments are invited until February 26.

Discussion: Issues included questions about fines, licensing, costs and staffing (new budget allocation will allow DFO to hire 50 new staff for the region), SFAB's advice to fully implement the Pacific Salmon Forum recommendations, potential impacts on wild fish and how those would be addressed, consultation requirements and the possibility of creating an Aquaculture Working Group to resolve issues.

Regional Committee reports

SFAB reps delivered the following reports:

SFAB Executive:

Executive is empowered to act for the Board between meetings but is happy to include others in communications on specific issues where interest is expressed.

NC report:

Local issues for the 2009 season were summarized, including Skeena sockeye concerns, improved coho returns, halibut access reform, enforcement challenges, local roundtables, slow pace of crab reform and future of the Kitimat hatchery

Discussion: participants discussed concerns about hatchery funding and how to balance First Nations concerns and recreational access.

Motions flagged: NC Motion #2.

Motions approved: MB-NCM02 – 01, MB-NCM02 – 03, MB-NCM02 – 04, MB-NCM02 – 05, MB-NCM02 – 06, MB-NCM02 – 07, MB-NCM02 – 08

Flagged motion MB-NCM02 – 02 approved after further discussion and referred to the SEP WG

SC report:

SC issues include the failure of sockeye runs and the resulting appointing of a federal enquiry, concern about ongoing activities like gravel removal and IPPs that affect habitat, efforts to improve relations with First Nations on the Fraser, hatchery funding, low survival rates, impact of halibut measures, resolving recreational access to prawn and crab, seal control and implications of treaties and legal rulings, including on aquaculture. Clearer accountability is sought re the fate of SFAB motions passed.

Discussion: Additional issues noted included concerns about Cowichan Chinook and the success of pink fisheries

Flagged motions: SC-LFV-2009-03-14-1

Motions passed: MB-SC-LFV-2009-11-12-2, MB-SC-UFV-2009-10-15-1, MB-SC-PAL-02-02-09, MB-SC-NOS-02-02-09, MB-SC-NOS-03-02-09, MB-SC-CRI-01-02-09, MB-SC-SEC-01-02-09, MB-SC-SEC-02-02-09, MB-SC-IOK-01-02-09, MB-SC-01-02-09, MB-SC-02-02-09

Motions MB-SC-IOK-01-02-09 & MB-SC-LFV-2009-11-12-2 referred to SEP WG.

GFSF report:

Issues included efforts to resolve prawn access, with a DFO proposal to raise the commercial fishing abundance cut-off in problem areas, commercial opposition to ongoing crab reform efforts, proposed changes to shellfish regulations, ongoing concerns about serial depletion of rockfish in Area 12, a motion to expand reduced lingcod size limit to other areas, recreational rockfish catch and accuracy of catch estimates, proposed SARA listings for rockfish, update from the Sardine Advisory Board, proposed streamlining of committee representation, and halibut management.

Motions flagged: GFSF-03-01-10

Motions approved: MB-GFSF-01-01-10, MB-GFSF 02-01-10, MB-GFSF 04-01-10, MB-GFSF-05-01-10

Motions amended and approved: MB-GFSF-03-01-10 (“endorse” replaces “accept”).

2010 salmon planning issues

A DFO staff presentation addressed the following:

Coast wide issues: Cohen enquiry, 2010 IHPC activities, implementation of new PST catch reductions, and MSC certification of BC’s sockeye fisheries.

North Coast issues: Preliminary 2010 management issues for Skeena salmon, improved 2009 coho survival, and Area f troll management

South coast issues: Preliminary planning and processes for Fraser sockeye, SC coho and Chinook conservation concerns.

2010 fishery planning: Key issues include providing priority access for First Nations FSC fishing and management actions to protect Fraser Chinook. IFMP planning timeline outlined.

Discussion: Topics included Chinook conservation concerns, questions about improved coho survival and management actions for the NC/CC, including commercial access to coho and in-season reporting.

PSC, NPAFC updates

SAFB reps provided updates on the following:

Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST): DFO has to decide how to spend \$30 million provided to mitigate reduced commercial chinook catch. The Fraser pink and sockeye chapter expires in 2010, but Canada wants a new treaty postponed until the Cohen commission reports.

North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAFC): This initiative enforces fishing bans for salmon in international waters and has reduced illegal high-seas drift netting. It also promotes scientific collaboration between the five partner countries.

A new international initiative, tentatively named the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, will look at regulating all fishing outside the 200-mile territorial limits.

PSC Southern Panel: A forum for resolving/avoiding cross-border fishing conflicts. Canada may have exceeded its Chinook allocation for 2009 but DFO has agreed to a more precautionary approach to avoid this in future.

PSC Northern Panel: One discussion topic was how Alaska could shift its fisheries in case of very low Skeena sockeye returns. Canadian reps have requested discussion of steelhead.

Halibut

SFAB reps reported on the following:

IPHC harvest allocations: Canadian reps have concerns about Canada’s share of halibut allocated under the International Pacific Halibut Commission, which meets next week to negotiate allocations for 2010.

Sub-legal fish: The IPHC counts these in calculating total recreational catch, but not commercial catch. SFAB proposes that all sectors in both countries count these in their catch, or alternately, that DFO not include them in reporting recreational catch.

Allocation policy: DFO has proposed a new process to resolve the problematic recreational/commercial halibut allocation policy. SFAB's Halibut WG will review measures to keep recreational catch within limits for 2010.

Discussion: It is proposed that the Province and First Nations be involved in the proposed process to review domestic halibut allocation policy.

Fraser White Sturgeon Conservation Surcharge (Tidal)

Representatives from the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society gave a presentation supporting the proposed surcharge. Conservation concerns led the province to introduce measures including an angling surcharge in non-tidal waters to avoid a formal endangered listing. Revenues fund assessment, monitoring and habitat work by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. FRSCS is seeking SFAB support for the province's proposal to extend the licence surcharge to tidal waters.

Discussion: Issues include concerns about DFO and the province allowing commercial gravel extraction that threatens sturgeon populations, the amount of the proposed surcharge. DFO staff said the proposal meets DFO goals re collecting catch and stock information to avert a SARA listing.

Gwaii Haanas NMCA reserve

DFO and Parks Canada staff explained the background, the development process underway and the draft interim management plan for the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA). NC SFAB reps have proposed developing a position paper through an SFAB WG. DFO is looking at how best to link the NMCA process with its own fishery planning processes. DFO has stressed the need to consult with fishing sectors on matters that affect them and to exclude decisions from the NMCA mandate that deal with fishing access or allocation.

Discussion: Topics included how to develop the proposed SFAB brief.

Day 2

Discussion: Gravel removal

SFAB Chair met with DFO recently to discuss the SFAB concerns, as expressed in several board motions. The Chair reported on DFO's response, which is that BC has identified gravel removal as a matter of public safety, so the Department is constrained in its ability to protect habitat. Staff are trying to develop an appropriate dialogue.

Discussion: Issues noted included science assessments that found gravel removal was unsupported by public safety concerns, what was the appropriate forum for SFAB members to discuss these concerns, a request for more information on the approval process. Motion **MB-01-01-10** was passed that gravel concerns be discussed at the next SC meeting, with subsequent action by the Main Board as proposed by the SC.

SFAB position on roundtables

Chair invited discussion on SFAB's position on roundtables.

Discussion: Concerns included time and resourcing demands, lack of coordination and the need for clearer mandates. Motion **MB-02-01-10** was passed asking the Executive to bring forward the concerns to staff and to the Minister.

SFAB process to handle aquaculture

Chair invited advice on a possible new working group to handle aquaculture issues.

Motion **MB-03-01-10** was passed that SFAB form an interim aquaculture committee, headed by Jeremy Maynard.

Gwaii Haanas NMCA paper

Chair sought advice on whether further action was required.

Discussion: Agreed that the NC Chair would liaise with the SC Chair and interested members to draft an SFAB position paper on the Gwaii Haanas NMCA

WG reports

SFAB reps reported on the following:

SEP WG:

A November meeting dealt with draft pink net pen guidelines, Sydney Anglers project, the committee's role in production planning, funding, how to set SFAB priorities for production increases, and the ongoing SEP reform process.

Discussion: Topics included the SEP evaluation report, process for discussing and communicating local concerns and priorities for production planning, cost of risk assessments, SEHAB concerns about the proposed guidelines and commercial concerns about SEP.

Catch Monitoring WG:

Past efforts to improve catch monitoring were outlined and recent efforts by DFO staff and committee members to improve catch monitoring were noted and commended.

After 35 years, Committee Chair Bill Otway announced he was stepping down from participation in the Main Board and its committees. Members responded with a standing ovation and commendations for Otway's extensive contributions.

Discussion: Chair noted a committee would explore suggestions that Canada start mass-marking of all hatchery fish, as the US does.

Sturgeon motion

After further discussion, with arguments on both sides, members approved **MB-SC-LFV-2009-03-14-1** rejecting a Sturgeon Conservation Licence for tidal waters, with a recorded vote of 16 for; 8 against.

Recreational Fishing Guide

DFO published a Fishing Notice summarizing changes to the guide. HST will be charged on licences starting in July, although it's not reflected on the 2010 licences. DFO welcomed ongoing suggestions for future revisions.

ISDF process

SFAB rep reported on recent meetings of the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum, where there was extensive discussion of catch monitoring standard. It was also explicitly recognized that the committee's mandate excludes allocation.

Historical SFAB documents

A member reported a donation of historical SFAB documents, which will be reviewed and compiled for presentation to the Board. The announcement raised questions about the need for a formal process to archive SFAB documents.

Discussion: Member organization reports

Members comments were invited on organization reports.

SFI report: Questions concerned the angler guide training program.

BC Lodging and Campground Association: Members commended useful information on economic impacts and noted concerns about the erosion of infrastructure to serve small boats

BC Federation of Drift Fishers: Association commended for its helpful role following the Chehalis incident.

BC Marine Operators' Association: Biodiesel requirements and the loss of seasonal moorage were two concerns highlighted.

BC Wildlife Federation: Regional reps highlighted efforts to improve dialogue with First Nations and efforts to establish a volunteer steelhead hatchery in Region 3.

Washington state update

US observer noted that Washington State is dealing with many similar issues, including endangered species listings, which would have significant impacts on angling.

IPPs

SFAB rep reported on a recent DFO habitat staff presentation in Campbell River. Fishery related concerns include aesthetics, inadequate regulatory and planning processes, how fisheries are considered in the Section 35 Environmental Assessment process, erosion and sedimentation impacts from poorly-controlled construction (i.e. impacts that would be prohibited under Forestry regulations), limited resources for monitoring and enforcement, a reactive compliance framework that only permits charges under the Fisheries Act after the fact, projects that divert large volumes for river sections that include spawning habitat and failure to maintain stream flows.

Discussion: Given the questions around projects in Bute, Toba and Knight Inlets, it was agreed that SFAB invite DFO and the province to present and discuss IPPs for the next

Main Board meeting. The SC Board can also discuss concerns and bring forward positions.

Closing comments

DFO will circulate the final Vision document and post it on Web. Chinook Coho WG will meet in February to discuss spring chinook.

Adjourned: 12:25 pm

Appendix 1: Summary of Motions and Action Items

GFSF WG Action items

- Staff (Devona Adams) to arrange for an update at the next meeting on the status of all shellfish regulatory proposals.
- Tamee Mawani to ask Lynne Yamanaka to speak to the questions about serial depletion in Area 12 and on the RCA strategy at the next meeting. DFO to provide a breakdown of commercial rockfish catch by PFMA.
- Staff (Devona Adams) to arrange for an update at the next meeting on the status of all regulatory proposals.
- Agreed that Murphy continue as Halibut Committee chair until its next meeting in February, at which time the chairmanship will be resolved.
- Adams to provide a draft list of committee members for comment at the Main Board, after which the lists will be subsequently finalized.
- Volunteers to advise SFAB Executive/DFO if they are interested in representing SFAB as member and alternate to the new Integrated Groundfish process. Paish volunteered to serve as an alternate.
- DFO (Adams) to advise on membership limits for the Halibut Committee, following which current membership will be reviewed if necessary.

MB Action Items

- Adams will distribute information on the Vision committee.
- DFO to distribute a revised copy of the aquaculture presentation, with corrections.
- Two SC SEP motions (**MB-SC-IOK-01-02-09** and **MB-SC-LFV-2009-11-12-2**) referred to the SEP Working Group. (Along with NC motion 02-02 – re funding for kitimat)
- All members to check and confirm their contact information on the draft master list. Original signed LOIs (Letters of Invitation) must be submitted with all travel claims.
- MB Chair to extend invitation to the province to attend to discuss gravel removal.
- Brookman, Gale, Maynard, Protheroe, Harling and Bird expressed interest in participating in an Aquaculture working group, with Maynard volunteering as

chair. It was proposed that the interim aquaculture committee liaise with DFO staff on development of aquaculture regulations and provide advice to the SFAB as appropriate.

- Urs Thomas and John McCulloch will liaise with Kingwell and others to gather perspectives to draft an SFAB position paper on the Gwaii Haanas NMCA
- Staff welcomes further comments on the revised Fishing Guide (Comments to Deb Sneddon).
- DFO to clarify legality of Page 4 reference to unlawful actions (Bullet 7) in the Angling Guide.
- Invite DFO and the province to present and discuss IPPs for the next Main Board meeting. The SC Board can also discuss concerns and bring forward positions
- Adams will circulate the final version of Visions document and also post it on the DFO recreational fishing website.
- Chinook Coho WG meeting in February is about spring chinook, including stocks going into the Fraser, so Victoria, LGS and Fraser river interests should be alerted.
- DFO to investigate teleconference facilities that allow participants to view Power Points.

Motions approved by SFAB Main Board

MOTION: TO adopt the NC report and all motions except #2.

MB-NCM02 – 01: That DFO take the necessary steps to provide recreational by-valve fishing opportunities in Area 6.

MB-NCM02 – 03: That whereas there are an unknown number of licensed trawlers that have been observed operating within Queens Sound; which is Southwest of Bella Bella nearby well known Sport Fishing and Food Fishing areas as well as recently set aside Rockfish Refugia which the Bella Coola SFAB was involved in developing; and whereas there are allegedly more than 60 trawlers licensed to operate in BC Waters; be it resolved that the SFAB seek clarification from DFO as how they can justify what appears to be an irresponsible and wasteful use of our marine resources; particularly at a time when the health of those resources is a very serious concern for the SFAB and indeed most British Columbians.

MB-NCM02 – 04: That the date for retention of Coho salmon on the mainstem of the Skeena (upstream of Terrace), and the mainstem of the Bulkley be extended to the 15th of October, from the present September 30th closure date.

MB-NCM02 – 05: That due to a high number of recreational fisher's lack of understanding for the proper release of salmon and other finfish, that causes harm and mortalities in said fish; therefore, be it resolved at the Dec 1, 2009 CC Tidal SFAC meeting that the Committee request DFO implement a program for sport fishers on the proper handling and release of salmon and other finfish.

MB-NCM02 – 06: That the current allocation of 88/12 does not satisfy the needs of the public halibut harvesting sector. The Fisheries Minister's commitment was to avoid in season public closures, limit reductions, and to create a transfer

mechanism capable of supplying a consistent expectation of catch. These commitments have failed.

To ensure consistent expectations and opportunity to individual public anglers and the businesses that support them; the CC Tidal SFAC recommends the allocation of 88/12 be rescinded.

MB-NCM02 – 07: That the North Coast SFAC recommend that the SFAB develop a position paper in regard to the establishment of Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve.

MB-NCM02 – 08: That the North Coast SFAC supports and approves of the motion brought forward by Gerry Kristiansen at the South Coast SFAC meeting November 29, 2009 that when Fisheries and Oceans Canada presents the Canadian Halibut Harvest data to the IPHC that it not include any numbers or records of fish that are not large enough to qualify for commercial harvest. The fish were not included in the TAC number so should not be included in the harvest numbers.

Moved: Urs Thomas; Seconded: Hugh Kingwell; passed.

MOTION MB-NCM02 – 02: That given the great regional value of the Kitimat Hatchery and the impending closure of the local Pulp mill, which augments the production of hatchery fish by supplying heated water. We feel it is essential to the regional economy and the Sport fishing interests to upgrade and expand the facility to its full potential (currently at 50% production capacity). Kitimat stands to lose more economic benefits, currently estimated at 3 million dollars per year, if the hatchery is not supported. We ask DFO to increase funding provided to the Hatchery and explore opportunities, including infrastructure/stimulus dollars to help build upon this valuable resource for all British Columbians.

Moved: Tracey Hittel; Seconded; George Cuthbert; passed.

MOTION: To refer **MOTION MB-NCM02 – 02** (Funding for Kitimat Hatchery) to the SFAB's SEP WG

Moved: Wayne Harling; Seconded: John McCulloch; passed.

MOTION: To adopt the SC report and all SC motions except sturgeon motion:

MB-SC-LFV-2009-11-12-2: The LFV SFAC moves that the Department reinstate the hatchery coho program on Kanaka Creek with the intent of maintaining a hatchery marked coho retention fishery.

MB-SC-UFV-2009-10-15-1: That the Department adopt and utilize the 1.49% mortality rate; the combined mortality for years 1 and 2 is 1.49%, for recreationally caught and released sockeye fisheries in the Fraser River.

MB-SC-PAL-02-02-09: Whereas, the Salmon Allocation Policy provides "Priority Access" to the recreational fishery after conservation and FSC, and Whereas there has been no apparent "priority access" in the Alberni Inlet recreational Chinook fishery over the past 4 years,

Be it resolved that the definition of "Priority Access" be defined and explained, especially to the Area 23 management regime.

MB-SC-NOS-02-02-09: Whereas: DFO 2 years ago invoked a size restriction on recreational fishing of Chinook over 77 cm. Chinook in Areas 25, 125 and 26, 126 based on science that indicated a low stock abundance; and

Whereas: DFO indicated that based on science this would be a 2 year restriction as the stock of concern – 3, 4 and 5-year-olds would have passed through the area;

We therefore move that IF the science data shows that the abundance of the stocks of concern have recovered that the size restriction on retention be lifted and the regulations return to the one over one under 77cm inside the Chinook Corridor for the 2010 season.

MB-SC-NOS-03-02-09: For Area 25, 125 and Area 26, 126 reduce lingcod size limit to 60 cm.

MB-SC-CRI-01-02-09: Whereas the CRSFAC supports in principle that commercial fleets should be able to harvest their full TAC and in a manner that is economically viable; however, the CRSFAC believes that fishing plans must be developed in an integrated fashion so as to ensure that the interests of all sectors are considered; and whereas this has not been done for the proposed ITQ sockeye fishery for the Area B seine, which has the potential to have significant negative impacts on the recreational opportunity and experience in lower Johnstone Strait and Discovery Passage.

The CRSFAC moves that DFO proceed with the Departments suggested option of a 5 day/week opening for the Area B ITQ fishery with Friday and Saturdays closed; and in addition the CRSFAC moves that the area from Bear Bight in lower Johnstone Strait to Seymour Narrows be closed to the Area B ITQ fishery on Thursdays and Sundays.

Furthermore; the CRSFAC has concerns that a prolonged fishery may have implications for the incidental mortality on coho and requests a detailed accounting of coho bycatch and estimated mortality, especially as it compares to a traditional “derby” style fishery.

After follow-up discussions the CRSFAC amended its position:

Based on additional information, and discussions with both DFO and representatives of the Area B seine, the CRSFAC is revising its position on the 2009 Area B ITQ fishery for sockeye in Johnstone Strait. The CRSFAC acknowledges that commercial fisheries are entitled to catch their full TAC and does not wish to interfere with their ability to do so. The CRSFAC recognizes that the time and area restrictions for the Area B ITQ fishery for sockeye, proposed in their motion of June 12, may be too prescriptive to allow for Area B to successfully achieve their TAC, and in addition Area B representatives have explained that effort in the area of concern, Bear Bight to Seymour Narrows, will most likely only be significant during the second week of the opening; therefore the CRSFAC withdraws the time and area provisions in the June 12 motion. However, as meaningful recreational opportunity within Area 13 could be materially affected by the change from a short duration derby style seine fishery to a longer term demonstration/ITQ fishery, the CRSFAC expects to be consulted early in the planning process as ITQ and other “demonstration” fisheries evolve, because there needs to be an explicit recognition of potential impacts of such change, particularly on the recreational fishery; an agreed upon criteria to measure these impacts; and a clear strategy to mitigate these impacts

MB-SC-SEC-01-02-09: Whereas, the Chapman Creek Hatchery near Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast releases 50,000 Coho smolts each year into Chapman Creek for a terminal fishery; and

Whereas, funding has been reduced or discontinued for mass marking of Coho and there are no Coho stocks of concern inside a line drawn from Sergeants Bay to the SIB Stalishan Condominiums after September 15th;

Therefore, the regulations be altered to allow two marked or two unmarked Coho to be caught in the part of Area 29-1 that is in front of Chapman Creek in the above mentioned line after September 15th. This motion is to replace the existing Coho restriction in this area of two marked Coho.

MB-SC-SEC-02-02-09: Whereas, the Sechelt First Nations releases 200,000 Coho smolts each year into Porpoise Bay at their McLean Bay site for a terminal fishery; and

Whereas funding has been reduced or discontinued for mass marking of Coho and there are no Coho stocks of concern inside a line drawn from Four Mile Point to Carlson Point;

Therefore, we request the Coho retention limit in this area be changed from 4 hatchery marked Coho per day to 4 Coho per day (either marked or not), from June 1 to December 31.

MB-SC-IOK-01-02-09: Whereas the use of production hatchery facilities does not seem to fit within the direction of the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Wild Salmon Policy; and Whereas currently the production hatcheries on the Columbia River system are currently producing strong returns of Salmon and Steelhead; Therefore, the MFTO local committee strongly supports production hatcheries for the purposes of rebuilding stocks to maintain a reasonable recreational fishery as well as supporting other fisheries.

MB-SC-01-02-09: Whereas the 2009 commercial prawn harvest was reported to be at an all-time high level; and

Whereas winter closures for recreational prawning have been proposed for Areas 15, 16, 17, 19 and 23 for Jan. 1 to March 31, 2010;

Therefore, be it resolves that MOTION MB-SC-04-02-08, requesting a higher commercial index for any area subjected to a recreational prawn fishing closure, be reaffirmed; and

Be it further resolved: if the October spawner index survey results require a winter closure of the public fishery in any PFMA or sub-area, the monthly index level at which the commercial fishery is closed in that area be increased by a substantial percentage (20 – 25%) for the next commercial season; and

Be it further resolved: if, in subsequent years, the October survey results still require a winter closure in any PFMA or sub-area, the index level in that area/sub-area at which the commercial sector is closed be increased again for the following season by a similar percentage until the October survey allows the public fishery to remain open year-round.

MB-SC-02-02-09: That in reporting 2009 recreational halibut harvest to the IPHC, DFO not include fish smaller than the commercial size limit, thereby ensuring that fish harvested by all sectors are treated the same and that Canada is not foregoing possible harvest because it is including in its catch report fish that have not yet accrued to the harvestable biomass.

Moved: Hugh Kingwell; Seconded: Ed George; passed

MOTION: To approve the GFSF report and motions, except 03-01-10

MB-GFSF-01-01-10: Whereas a) the concern about rockfish by-catch in the directed recreational lingcod fishery exists in all SC areas and; b) the reduction of the recreational lingcod minimum size limit in the SOG appears, on the basis of 2 seasons, to be successful in resulting in a reduction of rockfish by-catch there an c) because there has been no significant increase in the SOG lingcod harvest as a

result of the size limit reduction there and d) because the lingcod stock on WCVI is thought to be at a healthy level of abundance and supports a commercial fishery for them; therefore be it resolved that the recreational minimum size limit for lingcod be harmonized at 60 cm for all SC areas (i.e. 11 – 29, 121-127) starting April 1, 2010.

MB-GFSF 02-01-10: Whereas the recreational fishery for lingcod in Georgia Strait is managed to a catch ceiling; and whereas the Georgia Strait creel survey is the assessment mechanism for estimated lingcod catch; and whereas the Georgia Strait creel survey was developed as a mechanism for estimating the catch of salmonids, be it resolved that the DFO/SFAB Catch Monitoring WG be tasked with assessing the validity of the Georgia Strait creel survey as a mechanism for estimating lingcod catch and further that appropriate confidence levels be developed for the estimates of catch so determined.

MB-GFSF 04-01-10: That the GFSF WG recommend the SFAB MB support the position of the acting Halibut WG Chair regarding “small fish” under 81.5 cm, which is:

Canada insist on the reporting of all removals in both countries and require that these removals be accounted for in determining each country’s TAC, until Jan 29, when the TAC for each are will be determined.

If it turns out that that the US does not have to account for small fish in all fisheries, then Canada will change its position and insist that a major portion of our small fish recreational catch not be reported and not be counted as part of our harvest.

MB-GFSF-05-01-10: That the SFAB review membership of the GFSF WG and its committees in a timely manner

Moved: Chuck Ashcroft; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed.

MOTION: To amend Motion GFSF-03-01-10, replacing “endorse” with “accept.”

Moved: Wayne Harling; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed.

MB-GFSF 03-01-10: Notwithstanding concern that the measure may prove to be insufficient in some areas, that the GFSF WG recommend that the MB accept the Department’s proposal in the draft IFMP to move to 125% of the spawner index the point at which the commercial fishery will be closed in areas where a winter closure of the public fishery took place the previous year.

Moved: Wayne Harling; Seconded: Jeremy Maynard; passed

MB-01-01-10: That concerns about gravel removal be discussed at the next SC meeting, with subsequent action by the Main Board if proposed by the SC.

Moved: Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Rod Clapton; passed (Kwak opposed).

MB-02-01-10: That SFAB Executive have dialogue in the short term with Corey Jackson on his roundtable review and if appropriate have him make a presentation and further that the Chair write to the Minister regarding the Board’s concerns about the proliferation and apparent lack of regional over-arching direction of roundtables.

Moved: Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Tom Protheroe; passed.

MB-03-01-10: That SFAB form an interim aquaculture committee, headed by Jeremy Maynard.

Moved: Jeremy Maynard; Seconded: Rupert Gale; passed

FINAL Minutes: SFAB Main Board Meeting: Jan. 23-24, 2010 – Victoria, BC

MB-SC-LFV-2009-03-14-1: That SFAB not support the proposal for a Sturgeon Conservation License for the tidal waters of the Fraser River.

Moved: Ed George; Seconded: Bill Otway; passed with 16 for; 8 against.

MOTION: That the vote on the sturgeon motion be recorded

Moved: Chuck Ashcroft; Seconded: Graeme Bull; passed.

Other motions defeated/referred:

- GFSF WG defeated Powell River Halibut Motion #1, referred by the SC Board
 - (Rationale to be provided to local committee: Lack of clarity in the motion itself, plus the suggested intent is already SFAB policy.)
- Powell River Halibut Motions #2 and 3 referred to the Halibut Committee
- Three SEP motions approved by the Main Board referred to the SEP Committee

Appendix 2: Attendance List

SFAB	DFO
Gerry Kristianson, SFAB Chair	Devona Adams
Urs Thomas, NC Chair	Bill Shaw
Hugh Kingwell, SC Chair	Kent Spencer
Chuck Ashcroft, GFSF WG Chair	Mark Regan
Bill Otway, Member Emeritus	Sue Farlinger
Doug Daugert, NC	Andrew Thomson
Tom Protheroe, NC	David Einarson
Tracey Hittel, NC	Les Jantz
Ken Corbould, NC	Greg Thomas
George Cuthbert, NC, SFI	Debra Sneddon
John McCulloch, Northern Panel	Linda Stevens
Terri O'Neill, NFWFCA, Reg 6	Sue Rocque, DFO Ottawa
Frank Kwak, SC	Julia Barrow, DFO Ottawa
Chris Bos, SC	Marilyn Joyce
Bob Gallagher, SC	Jeff Grout
Ted Brookman, SC	Joe Knight
Graeme Bull, SC	
Rupert Gale, SC	
Paul Rickard, PSC	Province of BC
Jeremy Maynard, SFAB Exec, Southern Panel	Bob Williams, BC Ministry of Environment
Tom Bird, Fraser Panel	Wayne Saito, BC Ministry of Environment
Sandy MacDonald, Kamloops SFAC	Guests/observers/Presenters
Tom Cole, Victoria SFAC	Polly Fischer, Washington State
Ed George, BCWF	Nick Irvine, Parks Canada
Wayne Harling, BCWF	Sara Sugiyama, Sturgeon Society
John Cartwright, BCWF	Karl English, Sturgeon Society
Rod Clapton, BCFDF	Tom Darin, Observer
Martin Paish, BCMOA	Gord Martin, owner, charter company
Richard Taggart, BCMOA	
Terry Schultz, SFI	Dawn Steele, Note taker