



FRASER VALLEY SALMON SOCIETY 2022 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - DEAN WERK

To All, FVSS members and all fellow anglers,

Very interesting times, both unsettling and challenging. A time of uncertainty for people, fish, fishing opportunities and conservation. We have clearly faced many challenges over the years, but nothing like we have seen in the past two. Big Bar slide, devastating Sockeye /Chinook/Chum returns and Steelhead runs facing extinction and now Covid 19 which has brought the World to its knees. To top it off, devastating forest fires and flooding to round off 2021.

If we use our resources wisely, consider the best scenarios and keep a united front, we will get through this. We will keep wild fish returning to our rivers.

I am very lucky to have such a team of volunteers behind me at the FVSS. I want to recognize their efforts and dedication to great environmental stewardship. We have an incredible spectrum of ages within the FVSS Directorship, which gives this group an opportunity to look at things much differently than other organizations. This age diversity (18 years old to 82 years young) lends lots of knowledge which allows this group to work together on virtually any project or challenge. We are a team and I would like to recognize each of them and I hope all of you will too. Our Executive - Vice

President - **Nick Basok**, Secretary - **Alyssa Cowles**, Past Treasurer - **Chris Gadsden** (recently retired from duties), **Glen Stoner** - current Treasurer, our main Directors - **Terry Bodman**, **Dean Worrall**, **Chuck Grant**, **Chad Hammond**, **Brittany Neels**, **Landon Gill**, **Jacob Bergen** and **Brandon Wootton**.

2022 AGM Prizes

50/50 draw and a guided Sturgeon fishing trip for 2 persons. In order to qualify for the fishing trip you must be a member.

Memberships are available at the door. Other door prizes are for anyone in attendance

Moving on, the challenges we face are many and the work to mitigate them is onerous, but it is worth the efforts. Topping the list is the same as it was in 1984 when the FVSS was founded by 250 concerned Bar fisherman of the Fraser River. Those 250 anglers

met at Evergreen Hall and their goal was to have a demonstration fishery on the banks of the Fraser River. The day was a success and a Chinook was sacrificed as a pawn. This struck a meeting with the Minister of Fisheries who said "How many Chinook is this group looking to harvest in a season?". The spokespersons for the FVSS said 3000 Chinook for a season. The Minister came back and said "Open the fishery" and the rest is history. Roll the clock ahead to 2020, 2021 and now 2022 and we are back at the same place, no fishery on the mainstem Fraser for 3 years (other than Pinks for 11 days in 2021) when plentiful stocks are migrating through. We offer up solutions, volunteer efforts,

2022 FRESHWATER FISHERIES SOCIETY OF BC UPDATE

Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery
Abbotsford BC

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC operates 6 major Hatcheries in BC which are located in or near: Cranbrook, Clearwater, Vanderhoof, Summerland, Duncan, and Abbotsford. Several species including Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout (Coastal, West slope, and Anadromous), Kokanee, Sturgeon, Burbot, and Steelhead are raised at these facilities and released to lakes and streams throughout the province.

The hatchery at Abbotsford is responsible for stocking the majority of the lakes in the lower mainland with rainbow trout, and the rivers with steelhead. Many of the lakes in the urban areas of the Fraser Valley are stocked with catchable rainbow trout, the majority of these urban lakes are shallow and unproductive and do not offer much potential for growth. The lake stocking program was started in mid March this year just before spring break and will continue until the end of May when the water

...Continued Below

Continued... temperatures start getting to warm in our local lakes. The spring is a very busy time at the hatchery, we are stocking local lakes, waiting for the ice to come off interior lakes for egg collections as well as releasing yearling rainbow trout strains, spawning steelhead, and releasing steelhead smolts.

This year's steelhead programs in the lower mainland have been quite successful. We have completed the majority of our brood collections on most systems, and some systems have been spawned and the eggs are hatching in our incubation room at this moment. Brood collection for all our steelhead programs is achieved primarily through volunteer anglers, without these dedicated anglers, steelhead programs in the lower mainland would not survive.

The Chilliwack River Hatchery is responsible for the pickup of steelhead brood from the volunteer anglers, spawning and rearing the steelhead to the smolt stage (which takes approximately 1 year in the hatchery). The Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery is responsible for the organization of volunteer anglers and permitting, and release of the smolts. In early May of each year the steelhead smolts are loaded into FFSBC trucks and released into the lower Vedder River where they will make their way to the ocean. The current yearly goal for the Chilliwack River is 125,000 smolts.

The other steelhead programs and their goals that FFSBC is currently responsible for are the Chehalis River (30,000 smolts), ...**Continued Below**

leadership and a common sense approach to the way we fish.

We offered a "test pilot" fishing day for Sept 9th, 2020 and were refused by DFO resource management and 5 anglers were charged for fishing in a closed time. Not one of these anglers was fishing for Salmon and all were "just fishing" some had no hooks on their lines. Unfortunately C & P (Conservation and Protection) division of DFO chose to write tickets and we are now defending these brave anglers in court. Our united efforts and your generosity helped us raise \$50K for a defense fund and the court date for trial is December 2022. We are confident that fair justice will prevail and the anglers will have all the charges dropped. The big picture here is much more important. We are working on having a precedence set that gives all Canadians a right to Selective Public Fishing. We cannot thank our dedicated supporters enough for their financial support to this cause, your dollars and voice matter. If anyone wants to get involved it is never too late to help. Contact us anytime, we are here.

To get you up to date with what we have been doing in the past year, our team is working tirelessly on many concerns to protect fish, habitat and to keep our river corridors clean....to mention only a few.

Gill Road - A team made up of Dr. Marvin Rosenau, Dr. John Werring, Chris Gadsden, Terry Bodman, Ross Aikenhead, Franz Douglas and myself (kinda a quirky group really) have tackled this task and put together a science report and dialogue that will convince the Federal Gov, Province, City of Chilliwack and First Nations (STSA) to make a responsible decision to close the area to abusive behavior of the

armouring layer of the Fraser River. Protecting the habitat is critical in these times of falling Salmon stocks. We are not saying there cannot be recreation here, only that it needs to be addressed and our "wild fish - Salmon and Sturgeon" must be put as first priority. Together this group known as the "gravel stewardship group" has seen a number of successes over the past 15 years.

FRSA (Fraser River Sportfishing Alliance) FVSS has worked as a very unified partner and supporter of this group. Our representatives take part in monthly meetings and the FRSA is heading up efforts in the court case from the demonstration fishery of 2020. Our partnership is important and being aligned is imperative. This group represents nearly 100,000 anglers now.

PFA - (Public Fisheries Alliance) - a great group and leadership here that aligns all anglers of BC, the ocean fishers, the north Skeena Region and the Fraser River (tidal and non tidal). This is something never accomplished before and the team at PFA drives forward with direct lobbying with the Fisheries Minister and her cabinet. Seeking support for marked selective fishing opportunities and for the Federal Gov to mark 100% of all Chinook and Coho Salmon. All users have more benefit and opportunity with marked fish and because taxpayers pay for these fish to be reared, it is only fair we get an equitable share. I attend as many of these meetings as possible. MP - Bob Zimmer and MP - Ed Fast are leading the way with a letter signed by 25 MP asking the Minister to support selective fishing on in BC waters. This is a growing group and I urge all to sign up and get behind this movement of good people doing good things for all fishers.

LFCT (Lower Fraser Collaborative Table) a group formed over 2.5 years ago with representation of First Nations (LFFA - Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance 25 bands from the ocean to Boston Bar), Commercial Fishers (Area E) and Public Fishery Sportfishing Groups. Lots of progress has been made with this group creating commonalities of the

issues facing our Wild Salmon and Sturgeon for the future and how we can move forward in a respectful and collective way to bring more fish to the Fraser River for all sectors. The TOR (Terms of reference) has been signed off by all members and groups and we are now moving forward with the action committee creating common goal projects like Pinniped predation, Allocation and steps forward to a respectful approach to selective fishing for all.

FVIDA (Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance) we are a driving force with this group focusing on cleanups around our community and working together to curb this activity to have more clean areas for people to recreate. Keeping our rivers clean is paramount in healthy rearing and migration for our fish. Along with this we are also active in all Vedder River cleanups and the FVSS still cleans up our section of river along with the area on Ballam Road on the Fraser River. We were heart broken to see the mass cleanups being cancelled this year due to Covid 19 but we will resume smaller group cleanups this year and for the future. We urge everyone to pick up a little garbage (with proper safety in mind) each time they visit the outdoors. Collectively we can make a difference.

Looking forward to 2022, it is **our hope that** we can all make efforts to change, to band together, to be united with one common goal.

Wild Salmon needs to be the focus and we need to all help where we can. Saving this Canadian Tradition for present and future generations is top of the priority to me. Do your part, belong to organizations (any or all) that truly represent you the best and lend your opinions and help whenever possible.

Lastly to wrap this up, it is the FVSS that continues to work hard. **Thanks again to all our members, past and present, for donations, contributions and most importantly, believing in all of us at the FVSS.**

If anyone would like to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns, I will always make myself available via email or by phone. My personal number is 604.991.3474 and my email is info@greatriverfishing.com Wishing each and everyone of you a positive, safe and healthy 2022 fishing season and plentiful Wild Salmon runs for the future.

Yours in Conservation,
Dean Werk / President

Continued... South Alouette River (25,000 smolts), Little Campbell River (10,000 smolts), and Stave River (30,000 smolts).

The addition of a Recycle Aquaculture System at the Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery is currently underway and nearing completion. This highly advanced system will operate on 97% water reuse and will be used to produce the Fraser Valley catchable rainbow trout for stocking into the lower mainland lakes.

If you have any questions regarding the programs of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, or the Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery please contact us by email at gofishbc.com or phone the hatchery at 604-504-4709.

Good luck and keep'em Sharp in 2022!!!

- Dean Worrall

2021 POST SALMON OUTLOOK – NICK BASOK

Covid , travel restrictions on non essential travel, fishing and hunting deemed non essential activities, and things just seem to have kept piling up on outdoor activities including recreational anglers. We were hoping all of this would come to end but as it turned out that really did not happen. I am going to give a brief summary of what the salmon fishery locally was like for the 2021 season.

Due to the Big Bar slide above Lytton on the Fraser mainstem, virtually all salmon runs headed that way were protected and there was no recreational fisheries for these fish allowed. These fish are protected to ensure their existence down the road.

Later timing chinook (Aug-Sept) which is mostly comprised of the South Thompson (Shushwap chinook) did again have very substantial numbers. The problem with these fish is that they travel through our area (Chilliwack) when the South Thompson coho closure starts and also the interior steelhead protection closure begins. The Fraser Valley Salmon Society through the Fraser River SportFishing Alliance and Public Fishing Alliance had applied for a selective test fishery for the late run Shushwap chinook but we were being button holed with the stocks of concern migrating at the same time so we also did not get to fish for this ABUNDANT stock.

We were fortunate enough with a lot of palavering with DFO and First Nations to have the chinook jack fishery in August on the mainstem Thompson River. This again was a very successful opportunity like last year when recreational anglers shared the fishery with First Nations fishers. The planned recreational fishery for red chinook in the Chilliwack /Vedder river in July thru August and also in the Chehalis river went quite well with a substantial run of these fish. There was also a decent hatchery coho and fall run chinook fishery on the Chilliwack /Vedder river . The Harrison and Chehalis river also had a good fishery on hatchery coho this fall.

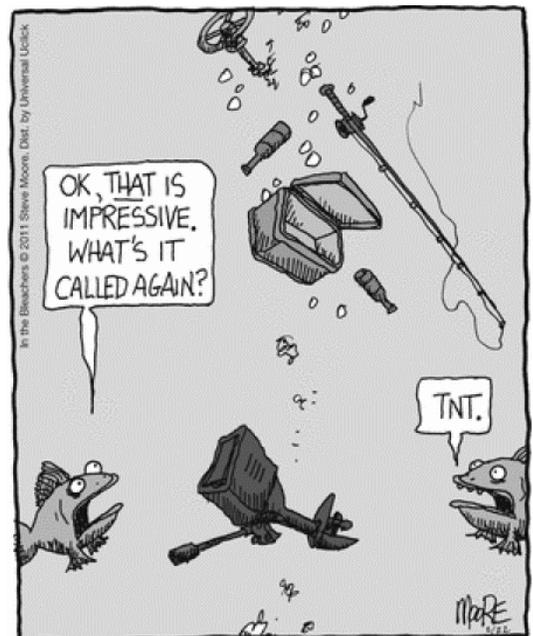
The chum fishery on the Fraser and tributaries really never got out of the gate with numbers not reaching spawning escapement goals. It was opened briefly in the Harrison then reduced to catch and release and then to no fishing for chums. This was also a pink year and the same applied for this species as with the chum salmon- a brief opening and then shutdown again due to low numbers.

The way to look at the recreational opportunities we still have is to get out and enjoy them and support any rebuilding plans in place as they are the only way we will save our fisheries for us and future generations. Good luck and tight lines !

Fraser Valley Salmon Society AGM

Thursday, April 21, 2022 at Evergreen Hall, 9291 Corbould St., Chilliwack

- 6:00 PM Open Doors (Light refreshments available)
- 6:35 PM Call to Order & Opening Remarks
- 6:40 PM Presidents Report
- 6:50 PM Acceptance of Minutes of AGM 2019
- 6:55 PM Treasurers Report
- 7:00 PM The Heart Of The Fraser – Video Presentation
- 7:40 PM Questions & Answers - Dr. Ken Ashley & Dr. Marvin Rosenau
- 7:50 PM Coffee Break
- 8:10 PM FVSS Updates & Newsletter Info
- 8:15 PM Nomination and Elections – Terry Bodman
- 8:30 PM Door Prizes and Draws
- 8:45 PM Adjournment of FVSS 2022 AGM



FRASER VALLEY SALMON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:

Address:

Telephone:.....

Email:.....

I would like to extend my membership by: (please check 1 box only)

- 1 year \$10.00
- 2 years \$20.00
- Lifetime \$100.00

Donation Any amount (No tax receipt available as we do lobby.)

Please find enclosed \$.....Signature

Please mail to: Fraser Valley Salmon Society, 9839 Candow Street, Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 4K5

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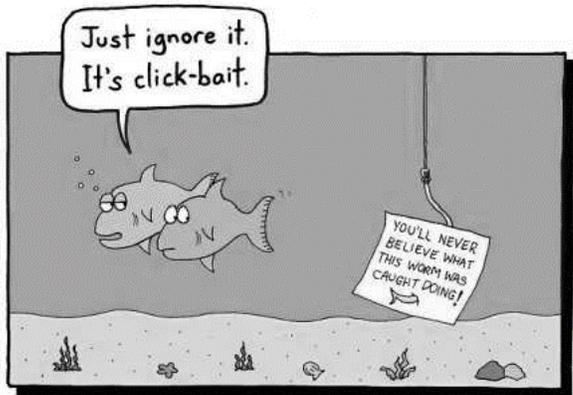
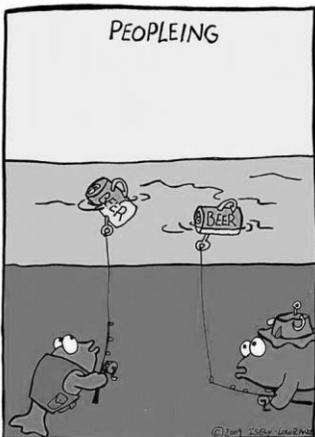
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"My first 15 wives claimed I loved fishing more than them. Isn't that silly? By the way, happy anniversary."