



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

**Present:** Julian Anderson, Dorothy Chambers, Yogi Carolsfeld, Mick Collins, Ben Chow, Craig Elder, Meaghan, Jack Meredith, Jacques Sirois, George and Vicki Blogg, Phil Lancaster (GTCA), Brad Proctor, Brian Koval, Don Munroe, Morley Eldridge, Sara Stallard, John Mullane, Kitty Lloyd

**Guests:** Brad Cinnamon (works with Morley), Joe Boyd (pres. VCKC)

DECISIONS			
1	GWI will request an updated mitigation plan for the McKenzie Interchange Project from MoTI		
Next Meeting:            May 16, 2018			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	GWI Annual Report: Write a couple of sentences re Elk/Beaver Lake updates and amend McKenzie interchange language, resend to group	Kitty	ASAP (done)
2	Write email to MoTI contacts requesting updated mitigation plan for McKenzie Interchange	Kitty	ASAP
3	Follow up re View Royal councillor to join GWI	Kitty	May meeting
4	Send a link to iHerring app and forage fish ID card to Kitty	Meaghan	ASAP (done)
5	Contact colleague in Washington who has knowledge of lighting effects on marine life	Yogi	ASAP
6	Send YouTube link to Canada 150 trip across Canada	Don	ASAP (done)
7	Send any further comments about updated Terms of Reference to Kitty	All	ASAP

### Review of action items:

- Mitigation Plan for McKenzie Interchange Project that was sent was a draft, Julian sent in some comments about it, MOTI said they've posted a final draft although it doesn't have the changes expected.

**Decision:** GWI will write a letter requesting a letter the final draft

**ACTION:** Kitty write an email to Mike Dinney and Janelle Irwin, requesting clarification about whether the posted draft is the final version. During construction, more has been destroyed than was planned for.

- MoTI committed to working closely with community to work out mitigation plans. When can we expect community meeting to discuss this? Julian will send Kitty a copy of the email that promises community consultation.

**ACTION** – Kitty to write an email, Julian to send link to draft report

View Royal representative on the GWI:

- Kitty sent email to planner Jeff Chow and Parks Manager Dave Podmoroff asking about representation on GWI, heard nothing back from either
- Dorothy spoke with Damian Kowalewich (new VR councillor) – asking him or John Rogers to join the GWI

**ACTION:** Kitty to follow up

Herring event: will be on the Saanich peninsula, in partnership with WWF and Friends of Shoal Harbour, this will be a NatureHood event

**Presentation – Urban Herring:** Meaghan McDonald, RRU co-op student with WWF and WFT

- working along the Gorge, running the herring monitoring program, doing creel surveys of fishermen, taking fin and gut samples, no spawning events observed in a long time
- maybe herring are coming in to feed but not spawn
- Yogi found some possible herring larvae, doing some more plankton tows, thinks they may have missed the first spawning
- Spawning has happened already at Comox, Denman Is, French Beach,
- Jacques: in False Creek herring have spawned

Yogi:

- Herring have been coming into the Gorge for 1000s of year, important to First Nations
- In past, unlike many other coastal groups, indigenous people here ate the whole fish, use of this fish is different here than FN further north
- Salted herring was used by settlers till early 1900s, after that mostly sports fishing
- 1980s was the last recorded spawn (maybe some small level of activity)
- Royal Bay, Esquimalt Harbour there have been isolated small spawns, but not regularly
- 1999, 2000 – contributed to a study of DNA diversity on the coast, most of the coastal herring are not distinguishable by DNA, differences are in where and when they spawn, must be “leakage” between spawning populations
- Winter Hbr, Gorge, Cherry Pt, Porlier Pass stocks are different according to DNA
- Alternative hypothesis: there were many small distinct stocks, these have been wiped out by reduction fisheries in 1950s
- If Gorge herring are distinct, we have a DNA tag for them, that’s why DNA study was important
- In past years, poor returns, this year a bit better than last year – is it overflow from other stocks? Not sure, may be spawning somewhere else
- Alternative spawning screens (substrates) were put in place in Squamish, and now False Creek
- Link between increased spawning and increased stock is tenuous
- Herring spawning curtains were tried here - at Blogg’s dock, no result; Sidney Anglers – no luck
- How do we tell whether these efforts have an impact?

- Yogi did his PhD on herring, there's a pheromone that can be isolated, if added to the herring curtain it would likely induce a spawning event

Meaghan:

- Jan 22 - Mar 20 did 2 kinds of surveys:
  - Drive-by to see if anyone was fishing: Craigflower Bridge is most popular, no one seen on Tillicum, a few on Selkirk Trestle
  - Interviews: 39 fishers were interviewed, 2 people very dedicated, passionate, provided lots of information
- Results: 80 herring have been caught, avg of 2 people/trip, up to 7 anglers on the bridge at once
- At one time there were 100 caught/hour
- Usually spend 3 hr at a time, avg maturity – most fish have already spawned
- Avg fork length: 17cm, Weight: 46gm
- Fin samples being sent for DNA analysis
- Also did gut analyses, to see what they're eating here
- Compare with other areas, e.g. Esquimalt Hbr, Oak Bay
- Another project: Shoreline Middle School – Meaghan put together an educational program, took kids to the bridge after teacher showed them a powerpoint presentation that Meaghan prepared
- During the week-long program, had 140 students: taught them how to fish, fishermen brought donated rods for kids to learn with
- Did bird monitoring and a plankton tow; school is going to continue this project
- Early on the fish had eggs, but now they've done spawning
- Q: how did you do gut contents? A: Gut flushing to get the contents, have not examined these yet; only 5 obtained
- Q: What influences where they spawn?
- A: Million \$ Q, tend to spawn where they've spawned before
- In 1930s, Saanich people tried to bring herring in to the bay here to encourage spawning, but they didn't spawn
- In a big year, there are events on Salt Spring Is, or in Saanich Inlet
- Don't know whether they use olfactory cues or light spectrum, they have good hearing as well
- Don't know why they decide to spawn in a particular time or place
- Seems to be a combination of food and hormone systems
- Ben: 5 – 7 years ago in September, there was a large school of herring in the Gorge, so many it lasted about 2 hours
- Fishermen say that they catch herring from the bridge all times of the year
- Other fish – e.g. pilchard, also show up here, maybe the fall sighting was herring that were travelling from west coast to east, or similar
- Meaghan is developing an app to use to upload herring sightings, she set up a site on iHerring – easy to use app

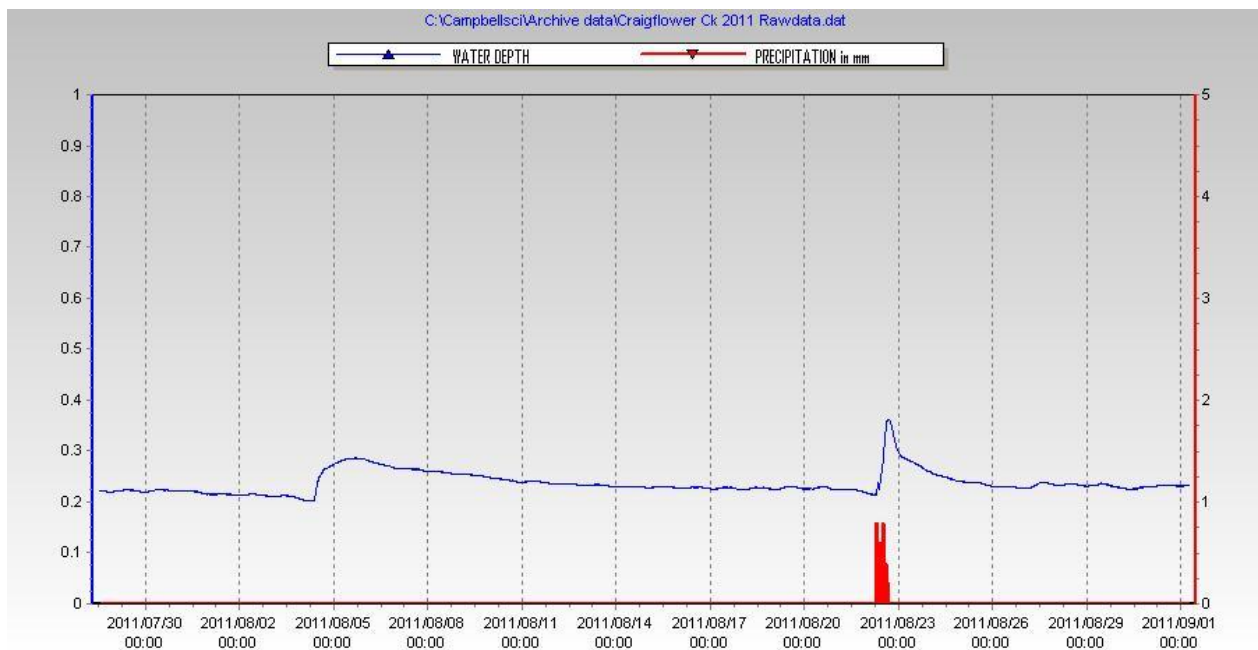
**ACTION:** Meaghan will send Kitty a link to send out to the group

- Herring live about 8 years, start spawning at about 3 years of age
- Ones that have been seen here are in their 2nd or 3rd spawning season
- Jacques – has seen few herring in the area, but has seen several bird species feeding on bay pipefish – these are difficult to swallow, but maybe birds are switching to target these as a herring substitute
- They are long and stiff, and do not school
- The whole foraging fish group is interesting
- Look for northern anchovy too. Yogi – probably here more in the fall
- Huge runs of anchovy in 1860s

- Found surf smelt larvae in the Gorge last year, may be a new thing here
- Sara – there is a course coming up in Lacy WA in forage fish spawn surveying

**Craigflower Creek Fish Fence** – Bruce Bevan, Esquimalt Anglers (see photos attached)

- Fish fence is located near the Island Highway off-ramp to Colwood, beside the former remand centre in View Royal
- There is a small shack where equipment is kept
- Upgraded the counting fence a few years ago, replaced the grills and now capture more of the small fish and jacks than previously
- There's a sensor for water depth, and a data logger (powered via solar panel) that tracks depth, flow, air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity – get a daily average, can generate graphs (see photo below)
- Even a small rain event produces a spike in water depth, due to impervious surfaces in the watershed:



- The other longer “blip” in water depth on above graph was from beaver dam construction upstream
- Best year for salmon returns was 3<sup>rd</sup> year after Thetis Lake outflow was regulated. It's more fish-friendly now (more water released during summer dry season)
- Returns: 2017: 300 coho
- 2016: 900 coho
  - 25,000 fry were introduced into Prior Lake from eggs taken from Craigflower fish
- 2015: 2,000 – and in Colquitz there were 1,400 that year
- Esquimalt Anglers will be taking over the Colquitz fish fence monitoring starting this fall [since Colquitz Colquitz Salmonid Stewardship and Education Society has disbanded]

**Lighting under the Johnson St Bridge** – Dorothy Chambers

- Victoria councillor Jeremy Loveday contact Dorothy 6 weeks ago, showed her conceptual pictures of the blue LED lights that will be shone down from the new bridge
- Hemmera consultant – contacted Dorothy to inquire about the fish under the bridge, Jeremy told Dorothy about lighting plans
- Cutthroat live under the bridges, hide in the shadows

- Bridge project manager Jonathan Huggett told Dorothy that they were allowing 3 days of no lights for fish passage – ridiculous for fish that live there year round, as well as salmon runs that take more than 3 days to move through the harbour on their way to Colquitz and Craigflower
- Lights will affect invertebrates as well
- Yogi – has a colleague in WA, he'll contact him about lighting effects
- Maybe there is a quality or spectrum of light that is less harmful
- Mick – has a colleague who knows a lot about this as well, he'll put in touch with Yogi

**Coordinator Updates:**

**Draft 2017 Annual Report:**

Comments:

- Wording about the McKenzie Interchange project should be more forceful. Suggestions: Challenges remain; there are ongoing concerns, GWI members remain vigilant
- Remove CSSES as partner from Terms of Reference and Annual Report (Esquimalt Anglers now operating the Colquitz fish fence as well as the Craigflower one)

**ACTION:** In GWI Annual Report, include a couple of sentences about Elk/Beaver Lake, focus on water quality monitoring and the fish survey done last summer. Send to group as a Word document or email

**Terms of reference:**

- Discussion about spokesperson, new phrasing states that a spokesperson may be appointed annually
- Agreed that we will appoint someone on an as-needed basis

**ACTION:** Send any further comments about ToR to Kitty ASAP

**Update on CRD Abandoned Boat Efforts:**

- CRD received notice of funding approval for first round of Abandoned Boat Program funding – for assessments of 9 boats in Tsehum Harbour and the mast on Halkett Island near the Selkirk Trestle
- Bruce: That's not a boat mast on Halkett Is, it was a wind tower for the sawmill that was there, part of the environmental requirement many years ago.
- Other funding that was received was for the Capital Region Abandoned Boat Strategy (CRABS) – an education and awareness program that will be used to educate boaters of the new federal regulations coming into effect regarding boat licensing; "clean green boating"; responsible end-of-life disposal options for old boats

**Partner Updates:**

- **VWCA:** John – At the Johnson St bridge there will be new space for a park, most of harbour is concrete, would be nice to have an element of nature on Vic West side – new curve in road adds new space for a park; opportunity to consult with CoV? He's writing to CoV to see what status is, he will let Kitty know
- **Gorge Swim Fest** – will be on July 22 this year
- **VGR&R:** Mick – have a new rack card, membership drive, need 12 new members, very social group; made a donation to Peninsula Streams for Millstream fishway project; legacy fund from some late members; Peter McCully from Goldstream fish hatchery speaking to group on May 8<sup>th</sup>; looking forward to new EBL coordinator being selected; group meets every Tuesday at CNIB Silver Threads building
- **VCKC:** active time of year, many courses going on, Wake up the Gorge – April 14/15; Gorge Waterway Cleanup May 5<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> year of doing this, worst spots are under Admirals Bridge and around Christie Pt; switch blade relay, sports competition, paddle sports; this Sat – Paddle for the Kids, 37<sup>th</sup> year, from



Brentwood Bay to the Gorge, 10 or 11 hours; Camp Shawnigan is now closed, sending kids to Winfield instead; Don paddled across Canada last summer for Canada 150, 1000 miles of paddling, also bike, made a video

**ACTION** - send the video link to Kitty to send to group

- **Peninsula Streams:** Brian - fundraising for Millstream fishway to get fish through a culvert to access 8km of habitat; Pat Bay restoration – adding over 200K of sand for forage fish habitat, funding from Ministry of Highways as they're responsible for the damage done to the beach, getting help from Tseycum band; Creatures of Habitat event for grade 6's coming up - need volunteers – Colquitz April 30, Bayside May 16, other schools as well
- **Friends of Swan Creek:** Craig: Held their AGM recently, several projects underway with help from Saanich and Peninsula Streams
- **GWAS:** Brad: opened Nature House last week, open Sat and Sun until summer, hours will be posted to their Facebook page, based on volunteer availability, 10am – 3pm; looking for volunteers; restoration event March 11, pulling ivy in Esquimalt Gorge Park behind Nature House; hiring summer students soon
- **SISKA:** Morley: Will let his membership know of the need for volunteers
- **Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park:** Julian - mostly involved with monitoring McKenzie Interchange project, wants to get public involved with mitigation plan, wants to get Dave Polster involved in the berm construction; cloverleaf needs sound attenuation, there's encroachment within the 30m setback, wants to get the best deal possible for the park, this has been main effort for past year and a half
- **Esquimalt Anglers:** Bruce - based at Fleming Beach, operate the only all-weather boat launch in the area; replacing the floats this year, very expensive; salmon enhancement – Craigflower Cr – beaver dam management, big increase in beaver population, paperwork for taking over the Colquitz fish fence, should be online for next fall, derby in Aug for members (500 members)
- **WFT:** Meaghan: looking for areas where herring are spawning, working with Harbour Air pilots and whale watching companies, developed a forage fish ID guide, getting tour guides to talk about this on their tours, going out testing it on the tour boats on the weekends

**ACTION:** Send the forage fish ID card to Kitty to send out

- **WFT** - Yogi: Also doing oyster surveys – oysters are small on the reef balls, dove on them last week, did not see any oysters, or they have fallen off; will put new reef balls at Fishermen's Wharf, will move one of the reef balls in the Gorge closer to the bridge; there's a film of mud and diatoms, but no other marine life on the balls, although there is lots of life on surrounding rocks; special cladding on the Craigflower Bridge is now packed with oysters; concrete – Israeli company makes a special kind of concrete specially designed for bio-fouling, factory in Tacoma – will send a sample to set beside the reef ball. June 2<sup>nd</sup> Oceans Day at Nature House, doing a Nail, Sail, Bail event – make a boat out of door skins and race it
- **FoVicHbrMBS:** Jacques – Blair Hammond from CWS, first time that a manager from CWS has visited the MBS since 1923, he was very impressed; new confirmed species – brown booby at Ogden Pt Jan 29; official website – <http://friendsofvhmb.org/> is now launched; reaching out to decision makers; contributed to integrated herring management plan – talked to new lady at DFO – to impress on her that there are other interests besides fishing for herring; Victoria Postlethwaite, DFO in Vancouver, dealing with non-fishing stakeholders; now over 60 blue loon MBS signs in the Victoria Harbour MBS, 20 in Shoal Harbour MBS
- **Dorothy:** on the phone to DFO, MOE, EMBC, regarding McKenzie Interchange, dumping from drill sites, runoff, Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood had contamination in their drinking water; Esquimalt Anglers will take over the Colquitz fish fence; society will apply for grants to support their efforts; fish fence needs some repairs, happy about this new association

**Meeting Adjourned 9:45pm**

Photos from Bruce Bevan's Presentation – Craigflower Fish Fence

