

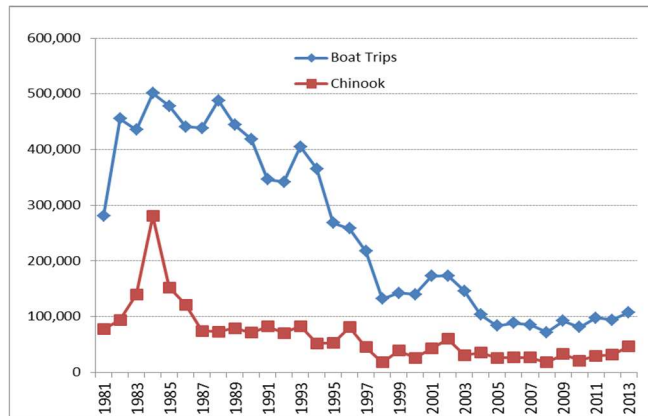
# Strait of Georgia Avid Anglers

*“Using citizen science to improve understanding in fisheries”*

## Terms of Reference (Project Charter)

### Context for the initiative

The recreational fishery in the Strait of Georgia has cultural significance, connecting local residents to the sea and the iconic salmon of British Columbia. Starting in mid-1990’s, success in the recreational fishery in the Strait of Georgia declined dramatically due to lower abundance of chinook and coho (although success has improved in recent years). The decline in abundance was a result of



multiple factors such as poor marine survival, habitat loss, fishing pressure, and the distributional change of the stocks. At the same time, funding for assessment and monitoring of the stocks and the recreational fishery declined. The combination of lower abundance and reduced information resulted in precautionary management of the fishery and increased complexity.

In 2013 a group of concerned anglers, who fish frequently and have expert local knowledge, decided to fill some of the science gap. These became the ‘Avid Anglers’.

### Vision of the Avid Anglers

Maintaining a thriving recreational fishery in the Strait of Georgia (SoG) and Juan De Fuca Strait (JDF) along with a high level of protection for those chinook and coho stocks that are threatened or endangered.

### Mission Statement of the Avid Anglers

To voluntarily contribute to the existing body of knowledge of chinook and coho fisheries in the SoG and JDF using citizen science.

### Objective

Avid Anglers data and local expert knowledge will be incorporated into Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) science to improve the understanding of salmon and other fish stocks in the SoG and JDF. This will be accomplished by:

1. Avid Anglers undertake to document and report their fishing trips, including basic fishery and catch encounter information as well as associated ecological and environmental conditions.

2. Avid Anglers will also collect and forward to DFO biological and environmental information as they are requested and able. The current focus is DNA tissue sampling from chinook and coho along with any environmental, ecological, and mammal encounter data.
3. DFO will openly share and discuss results and conclusions with the Avid Anglers prior to use in management decision making.
4. DFO will hold an annual workshop to discuss with Avid Anglers the findings and conclusions of DFO science so that expert opinion and local ecological knowledge can be integrated into interpretation and analysis of environmental and fishery information.

### Expected Outcomes

- Improved understanding of the migrations of the various stocks of chinook and coho throughout their life cycle.
- Improved understanding of stock information from sub and supra-legal fish outside of the allowable retention size collected in creel surveys (by sampling released fish).
- Data may allow the development of a test (or sentinel) fishery which provides a fishery index of abundance and distribution of salmon and other species.
- In some cases this information may be directed at addressing specific issues within the recreational fishery (e.g. evaluate the chinook minimum size limit in the GST fishery).

### Current Scope and Participation

- Expert anglers who fish frequently and have time and desire to provide supplementary scientific information from the fish they encounter.
- Tidal waters of GST/JDF only (PFMA 13-20, 28, 29). From Seymour Narrows down to Cadboro Point and out past Sooke B.C. From ECVI to mainland coast including the adjoining inlets.
- Focus currently is on chinook and coho during 'regular' fishing. There may be requests for very specific fishing for a species or size of interest (e.g. focus on catching sublegal coho to conduct sampling). In these cases we need to identify the trip as 'NOT REGULAR'.
- Year round program based on a calendar year.
- Biological sampling scope is based on available funding and interest/available effort. Since 2013 there has also been an added focus on coho DNA collection (incidence of Interior Fraser coho). Also try to determine chinook stock composition and distribution as much as we can with limited funding for chinook DNA.
- To date (end of season 2021) Avid Anglers have submitted over 7500 catch logs along with almost 16,000 chinook DNA and over 1600 coho DNA samples.

### Code of Conduct

A code of conduct outlines broad principles or values that are fundamental for any successful operation and are not a detailed set of recommended practices on any specific issue. It is a communication tool that informs everyone about what the core values are of all those involved.

All Avid Angler members should in principle:

- Respect and obey all laws, rules, and regulations of the community, province, and country on any fishing trips designated for the collection of data for the Avid Angler program.
- At all times during these trips conduct themselves in good faith through their practices in a manner which will foster and maintain the good reputation of the Avid Angler program.
- Fly your unique Avid Angler participation flag while sampling.
- Not initiate or engage in any abuse, harassment or hearsay regarding DFO or any other members of the group and thereby cause harm to the success, reputation or public perception of the Avid Angler program.
- Fish responsibly and follow the code of conduct developed and endorsed by the Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB), catch and release all fish properly, and report any violations you believe should be reported to DFO's ORR phone line at the bottom of this page.

### Project advisory and coordination team

Oversight team:

- DFO Stock Assessment:
  - Wilf Luedke <wilf.luedke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca> (cell) 250-741-6572.
  - Kevin Pellett <kevin.pellet@dfo-mpo.gc.ca> (cell) 250-619-3781.
  - Patrik Zetterberg <patrik.zetterberg@dfo-mpo.gc.ca> (cell) 250-713-6084.
- DFO Science:
  - Dr. Richard Beamish - emeritus; <rabeamish@shaw.ca>
- Avid Anglers Leads:
  - Martin Paish <martinpaish1@gmail.com> 250-882-8486.
  - Clyde Wicks <clydewicks13@gmail.com > 250-756-4833.

DFO lead coordinator: Patrik Zetterberg.

Avid Angler workshop coordinator: Martin Paish.

ORR (Observe, Record and Report any violations) - 1 800-465-4336.