

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE 2023

All anglers of the Tyee Club are interested in the health of not only the Chinook salmon but all aquatic populations. Over the last few years, the Tyee Club has been involved with various groups that have been addressing environmental and fisheries-related concerns.

Jeremy Maynard has continued to lead the local Sports Fishing Advisory Committee meetings and has been a strong voice for our area at regional meetings when discussing annual management strategies of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Jeremy's valuable insights into the state of the Campbell/Quinsam River Chinook stocks and their management by DFO are valued by numerous government and environmental organizations throughout the province.

Once again Jeremy Maynard has organized the Chinook Net Pen Project which helps contribute to our fishery. The net pen is located at the downtown wharf near the Quadra ferry. This new location allowed for a shorter and more efficient transfer of smolts to the net pen from the tank in which they were transported in.

The annual estuary cleanup organized by Phil Griffith of the Campbell River Salmon Foundation (CRSF) was not required in March 2023 due to reports from divers showing that very little debris was seen. The abundance of eel grass in the estuary is a positive sign that previous years of cleanup efforts have been successful in rehabilitating the estuary.

Over the years the general membership has been instrumental in the gathering of fisheries data when they donate fish heads to DFO for research purposes. This was critical in 2020 as data collected from scale samples and fish heads proved that most of the Chinook caught by Tyee Club members are Campbell/Quinsam River stock which confirms that the Tyee Club has no impact on Chinook stocks for the Fraser River or those that are critical for resident killer whale populations in the lower Georgia Strait south of Nanaimo. The CRSF has been helpful in fostering the collaboration with DFO for the data collection in past years and the Tyee Club looks to carry on with this successful program. The data from 2020 allowed retention of one Chinook in the Campbell River Special Management Zone (CRSMZ) when the initial decision was to restrict Chinook to a 60cm to 80cm size that would be well below a 30-pound size. This decision allowed not just Tyee Club anglers, but all fishermen to retain one Chinook of legal size in the CRSMZ for the period July 15 to August 31. As of September 1, two Chinook of legal size can be retained.

Chinook size has declined in the past number of years but the enthusiasm for the Tyee Club fishery has continued to be strong. With the dedicated efforts of club anglers and like-minded supporting groups such as CRSF and PSF contributing their efforts to enhancing salmonid environment and strengthening scientific data, fish stocks will hopefully increase in the years to come.