

27 Oct. Sport Fishery Advisory Committee

From: Bob Kissinger [basherbob@outlook.com]

These are some of the highlights from that meeting:

Cowichan River

Good chinook return of 9109 of which 3500 were jacks

Good return of chum, as of 26 Oct, there were 92,000 in the river

Good return of coho with 3200 to date

As a result the Cowichan will open for coho and chum retention on the 1st Nov. (Check the Fed Fish Regs)

Stamp / Somass

Good return of chinooks , as of 10 Oct. there was a return of 35,000

Good return of sockeye with an escapement of 440,000

Problem at the Robertson ck. hatchery with I.H.N. virus and as a result ALL of the steelhead smolts had to be killed. This is the 2nd year in a row for this.

As a result of this infection the Nahmint chinook smolts are now being raised at Rosewall cr. hatchery. Concern was raised that these chinook should have been raised at the Omega hatchery (private) on Great Central.

Nanaimo River

Good return of coho observed in some of the river swims. Some very large ones of 15 + pounds seen

Chinook, due to the high water they are having trouble getting brood stock.

Pink, only about 8,000 came back. As a result they got 1.2 million eyed eggs from the Quinsam hatchery

Chums are strong and as a result there are a number of commercial openings. With the large number of chum on the east side of the Island the current price for silver bright chum is only 17 cents a pound.

Chemainus River

O.k. chum returns but VERY poor chinook returns with only 6 pairs being captured.

Chum returns to:

- Puntledge- below average
- Big Q-10,000 as of 10 Oct.
- Little Q-average
- Englishman- below average
- Nitinat- huge return

Warm Water Blob

It started to break up in late 2015 so hopefully this year's out going smolts fared better than last year. That being said the ocean from Chile to the top of Mexico is still hotter than normal.

Halibut

Still open until 31 December. The total halibut bio-mass appears to be on an upward trend so maybe more for 2017.

Freighters Anchorage off Gabriola Island

There is a proposal to make an anchorage for extra large coal carriers to be anchored off Gabriola between Entrance and the Flat Tops. Concern was raised as to the damage that their anchor chains , as the freighters swing, will due to the bottom in that area . That area is noted for being a productive sport fishery area.

cheers,

Basher