

Upper Fraser Valley - SC local SFAC

Motion 1:

Whereas Fraser Interior Steelhead and Coho stocks are at point of extreme conservation concern;

And whereas; selective fishing methods have proven effective in reducing by-catch & mortality of these species;

Therefore, be it resolved that DFO initiate further consultation with all sectors (Recreational, First Nations, Commercial) to investigate and implement for the 2019 season, strictly selective terminal fishing methodology during specific times where Interior Fraser Steelhead and Coho are known to be present in the Fraser River and immediate marine approach areas.”

Motion 2:

Whereas there is strong scientific evidence that mortality of acoustically tagged Thompson steelhead smolts suggests a large proportion of mortality is occurring within inshore areas and

Whereas diet and energetic studies indicate that pinniped predation specifically harbour seals , is perhaps a dominant cause for the decline in productivity of Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead and

Whereas scientific studies have determined that harbour seal predation of out-migrant smolts is confined to a small number of specific animals and locations and

Whereas there is no scientific study to support the efficacy of a broad area wide cull or harvest.

Be it resolved that the SFAB recommends that DFO investigate and implement a science based selective harvest of problem harbour seals which have been identified as habituated to out-migrant smolt predation as soon as reasonably possible. ,