



Nanaimo & District Fish & Game Protective Association.



www.nanaimofishandgame.com

President's Report

July August 2011

Well, the Federal Election has come and gone and the Conservative Party has received the mandate that they wanted, that being a majority government. How it affects us remains to be seen but at least it will give them the ability to govern the country as they see fit. There were no changes in representation in our small part of the world so all your letters and emails will go to the same MP's. One change that could affect us is the appointment of a new Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Gail Shea is out and Keith Ashfield is in. Mr. Ashfield is an MP from New Brunswick and he's the man whom Prime Minister Harper has chosen to inherit the mess that Gail Shea left behind. It's my humble opinion that another Easterner is probably not the best choice to make decisions pertaining to the West Coast Fishery however, this is who we've got and we'll have to make the best of it. If ever there was a time to correspond with a newly appointed Minister, now is that time. He needs to be made aware of your concerns and the issues that the West Coast Fishery is facing.

Staying on the subject of Fisheries, it was recently brought to my attention that Barkley Sound is seeing a huge amount of pressure on the prawn fishery by the commercial sector. In late May, Jeannie and I took a trip out the Alberni Inlet for a couple of days of Salmon fishing. About two thirds of the way out the canal the lines of commercial traps started and they just didn't seem to stop. All the way out to Chup Point, past Useless Inlet, up to Julia Passage, Swale Rock, Sechart Passage to the Pinkerton Islands. One steady stream of commercial traps. I was told that they extended up the other side of the sound towards Bamfield in the same continuous lines. The recreational prawn fishers were complaining of pulls with absolutely no prawns at all in their traps. We found this to be true as the majority of our pulls resulted in empty traps as well. The big problem was finding a spot where we could drop our traps without having a commercial line dropped over them. Hopefully the prawn fishing can rebound for the summer. We'll have to see. I'm sure that most of you are aware that Island Timberlands jumped the gun on their logging plans and surprised us by advising us that they needed to harvest about a quarter of their timber that is on our property and that they needed it now. The first meeting with representatives from IT did not go well. Further one on one phone calls with Sam Stanko, their Harvesting Manager, went much better and we were able to agree to an arrangement that resulted in minimal disruption to our club and resulted in no cancellations of any rentals that we had booked. Unfortunately, we had to close the ranges to members and the public for the time period that IT was on the property. This was unavoidable and thanks for your patience once again. I understand the frustration that many of you felt, especially after IT's road building project went past the time frame that they gave us. Believe me when I tell you that your frustration didn't come close to matching mine. We are bound by the agreement for sale to allow them to log on a minimum 30 days notice. We do not expect any further logging to take place until the fall, however, we didn't expect IT to show up in May either. Life is full of surprises. We will endeavor to keep disruption to a minimum when logging starts up again in the fall.

(Continued on page 4)

There will be no membership meetings in July and August.

NANAIMO & DISTRICT FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

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Skeet	Bob Mazanik	390-0839
Stream Stewardship	Wayne Hamilton	754-4996
Trap	Chuck Hawtin Jack Gilmour	751-1481 758-5302
22 Rifle Silhouette	Andrew Patchett	390-3596

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Ongoing Events at the club.

Trap and Skeet Practice

There will be Trap & Skeet practices every Wednesday and Sunday starting around 9:30am and running to ????. Unless there is a major event scheduled.

Junior Practice

The Juniors will have a practice session on the PPC range from 1pm to 3pm every Sunday unless there is a major event scheduled.

Air Cadet Practice

The Air Cadets will have practice sessions on Saturday mornings between 8am—12:00pm on the PPC range when there are no major events scheduled.

Archery Practice

Archery will practice on Monday Wednesday & Thursday from 6pm—9pm. Indoors in the winter and outdoors in the summer when there are no major events scheduled. There will be no instructors in July and August.

These practice sessions can be cancelled on short notice due to emergencies or other unforeseen problems. Please call the caretaker for up to date information

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Keith Ashfield appointed Minister of Fisheries & Oceans.

New Brunswick Member of Parliament Keith Ashfield has been appointed Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway.

Minister Ashfield, first elected to the House of Commons in 2008 for the federal riding of Fredericton, has previously served in Cabinet as Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency), Minister of National Revenue, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway.

Prior to his election to Parliament, Minister Ashfield served in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly. He was provincial Minister of Natural Resources from 2003 to 2006, and served as Deputy Speaker of the Legislature from 1999 to 2003.

Minister Ashfield studied business administration at the University of New Brunswick.

He lives in Lincoln, New Brunswick and is married with two children.

President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

The Alberni Sockeye season should be in full swing by the time this Newsletter is published. I'm pretty stoked thinking about it and my Sockeye gear is already in the boat. The early predictions are for 600,000 Sockeye to return to the Stamp/Somass system and this should result in another year of great fishing. Let's hope that the snowpack melts slowly and that the fish don't come into the Inlet and head straight up the river. As of June 13th the daily limit was increased to 4 a day and eight in your possession. That's an increase in the limit before the real season actually got underway. For those of you who like to tie up at China Creek for the night you may have a problem this year. The two outside fingers have been changed and no longer allow nose in moorage. They are now just two long fingers and this has resulted in the loss of about 60 moorage spots. China Creek won't book moorage unless it's seasonal or to go along with camping so you'll have to take your chances if you're just looking for a couple of nights. Some good news though, is that the Port Alberni Harbour Commission, who operates both China Creek and Clutesi Haven Marinas, have done some long overdue repairs and upgrades to the launch ramp at Clutsei Haven Marina. This should make for better and easier launching. If you've never tried fishing for Sockeye then I highly recommend it. The fish are small but the action can be nonstop.

Our Family Day Barbeque was another big success. We had about 100 people show up in spite of the fact that we had competition from the Boat Show, the Air Show and a Car Show. The kids enjoyed catching some really nice trout from the pond. Thanks to VIU for supplying the fish again this year. Most of the fish were over a pound and a half. The barbequed salmon was top notch, as usual, and we received lots of compliments about it. Thanks all who came out and helped. As usual it was a pleasure to serve lunch to our friends who are sight impaired and to those with Multiple Sclerosis. It was a true team effort.

With summer almost here, take advantage of where we live. Get out and enjoy the outdoors. Have a happy and safe summer.

Respectfully Submitted, David Parenteau

Firearms Report

Well it finally happened. Stephen Harper's Conservative party has achieved a majority government. They can now deliver on their promise to scrap the long gun registry. By all appearance the legislation to do this will not be introduced until the fall as they are currently trying to pass the budget before they adjourn for the summer. During this time we must remind them they promised to scrap the long gun registry and not just tinker with it which is what their last efforts amounted to. Destroying all the records gathered in registering our long guns should be part of the legislation.

Even though they didn't promise to do so now would be a good time to ask them to cancel all those prohibitive and useless orders in council, such as the short barrelled handgun order, the magazine capacity restrictions, and all the others.

Remember if they don't hear from you they can always claim no one seemed to care about these things.

Big Game Report

Unfortunately, I don't have a lot to report this time around. LEH results should be released this week (June 15) so as you're reading this you'll likely know if you were successful or not.

I hope that those of you that took the time hunt black bear were successful as well.

I was out looking, and one things for sure, there's no shortage of bears to choose from. Have a safe summer.

Bob Atkey

Family Fishing Day 2011

The F & G - CNIB - MS Family Day and BBQ went off flawlessly under clear sunny skies. With a dedicated and well trained crew the event was enjoyed by an enthusiastic albeit a somewhat diminished group from previous years. Starting at 6:30 AM, 6 captains and crew from the NYC hosted 20 CNIB/MS participants, while back at the Club Pat Baldassi organized the Trout Pond Crew while Norm Hygh Bossed the Kitchen Staff. Top fish of the day was caught by Colin Turner, a 1.83 kg Rainbow from VIU, shadowed by Noah Eto with a 1.76kg, while 58 fish were landed overall. Many thanks to everyone who came out to help, and to those who enjoyed the day.

Fred Adkins



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Estuarine marsh impacts on Vancouver Island:

A Case of too man Canada Geese

Neil K. Dawe

Historically, the Canada Goose was primarily a migrant and winter visitant to Vancouver Island. A small population nested on the island mainly at the northern end and scattered records exist of nesting geese south to the Great Central Lake area.

In the late 1920s and 1930s, over 30 geese were released to Elk Lake from a local Provincial Game Farm. By the early 1940s this introduced, resident population had increased its numbers and expanded its range to the Quamichan Lake area and by the late 1960s, the population was estimated at over 250 birds.

Some small, unauthorized introductions took place in the 1960s in the Nanaimo and Parksville areas. However, in the early 1970s, the BC Fish and Wildlife Branch began a program to introduce Canada Geese to Vancouver Island with partners that included Ducks Unlimited and the BC Wildlife Federation, among others. The purpose was to provide a harvestable surplus of geese and to provide wildlife viewing opportunities. Geese were introduced to the Nimpkish River valley region, Nanaimo, Comox, Woss Lake, Sidney Island, and the Duncan area.

From those introductions, Canada Goose populations on the east coast of Vancouver Island grew exponentially. Today a total of over 15,000 birds are reported on Christmas Bird Counts from Sooke to Campbell River; most of those are thought to be resident birds that remain to breed.

While the introduction of geese to the island would have to be considered a success, there has been a negative aspect to the introductions. Goose numbers increased to the point where they have now exceeded the carrying capacity of a number of the coastal estuaries on Vancouver Island, which has resulted in significant damage to these wetlands.

Recently, myself, Sean Boyd, Ron Buechert and Andy Stewart studied the impacts resident geese were causing to the Little Qualicum River estuary. Of major concern were the impacts to a keystone species, a sedge called *Carex lyngbyei*. This sedge contributes significant biomass to the detrital food web of the estuary, which feeds a wide variety of invertebrates that, in turn, support the higher trophic levels, including salmonids and waterbirds.



Resident Canada Geese feeding in the *Carex*-channel edge community of the Little Qualicum River estuary, 23 April 2007. Evidence of their grubbing activities in the form of mud clumps and an eroded channel edge can be seen in the channel behind the geese. Photo: Neil K. Dawe.

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A case of too many Canada Geese?

(Continued from page 6)

One plant community on the estuary, the *Carex*-channel edge community, is known for its high productivity and this community has suffered the most damage from the grubbing and grazing activities of the geese. In some areas, this community has been completely eliminated. In its place is mainly bare substrate colonized by species with much lower productivity. We estimate that over 17 metric tons of *Carex lyngbyei* dry mass from this one community alone is now lost from the detrital food web of the estuary. This loss can't help but affect many species dependent on the Little Qualicum River estuary.

Resident goose impacts also include damage to other plant communities and the in-filling of estuarine channels that results from their grubbing activities and the attendant soil erosion.

In order to allow the estuarine marshes to recover, Canada Goose numbers must be reduced below the *current* carrying capacity of the estuary or they must be eliminated altogether from local areas. Concurrent with reducing goose numbers, marsh rehabilitation programs will likely have to be initiated. Simply removing the geese may not be sufficient to allow the marshes to recover, depending on the abiotic changes that have occurred, such as increased soil salinities and organic matter loss.

The introductions of Canada Geese to Vancouver Island are an example of command and control management, what ecologist C.S. Holling calls the pathology of natural resource management. It occurs when resource management activities reduce the natural variability of a system such that it loses resilience and may flip to an alternate stable state, as has happened on the Little Qualicum River estuary. Additional management actions will be required in an attempt to return the system to its former state and there is no guarantee of success.

To do nothing, however, would result in continued growth of the resident Canada Goose population and the continued decline of many of these once productive estuarine systems on Vancouver Island.



North dendritic channel of the Little Qualicum River estuarine marsh, 29 August 1980 (top) and 26 June 2009 (bottom). The tall form of *Carex lyngbyei*, growing directly adjacent to the channel, has been eliminated from much of the *Carex*-channel edge community by resident Canada Geese. Note the substrate erosion that has also occurred, a result of goose grubbing activities. Photos: Neil K. Dawe.

Trap Report

The month of April saw the revitalization of the shooting stations for the number three trap house. After many years of use and numerous patches the old walkways had degraded to a point beyond repair, with several large depressions forming at the 16 yard line as well as a myriad of other fissures throughout the structure. Jack Gilmour, with the assistance of Chuck Hawtin, developed a plan for the replacement of the



walkways and collected a large number of donations, including the purchase of plaques, from generous individuals from both within and outside the clay shooting fraternity. The number three walkways are now greatly improved. They are level, square with the trap house and significantly wider. The addition of a ramped

entrance allows those shooters using a wheelchair full access and a stable platform from which to shoot. The Trap Club would like to extend their appreciation to: Bedrock Readi-Mix for their contribution of cement to the project, Harris Rebar for supplying the rebar, Milner Group for providing topsoil, Slegg Lumber for their donation of wood for the forms and Sharecost Rentals & Sales for the provision of equipment used during construction. The Trap Club would also like to



recognize Jack McLellan, Jim McDonald and Jan Maltesen for the substantial time, effort and financial support they provided to the project. Last but not least, a big thank you to those individuals who came out and lent a hand on the day the cement was laid. If you have the opportunity, stop by and have a look at the new walkways and maybe shoot a round with us.

Sincerely,

Jack Gilmour and Chuck Hawtin

The Nanaimo and District Fish and Game Protective Association Trap Division.

Submitted by: Christopher McFarlane

July 2011- Nanaimo Fish & Game Event Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Black Powder Rendezvous - all ranges closed all day	2 Black Powder Rendezvous - all ranges closed all day
3 Black Powder Rendezvous - all ranges closed all day	4 Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	5	6 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	7 Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	8 BC Sheriff's PPC range rental 8am-1pm	9 PPC Match 9am-3pm PPC range & ready room closed
10 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? 22 Silhouette, Rifle range closed 9-3 Junior program practice 1pm-3pm PPC range	11 Exec Meeting 7pm Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	12 Probus BBQ	13 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	14 BC Hydro BBQ Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	15 IPSC BC setup - all ranges closed all day	16 IPSC BC - all ranges closed all day
17 VISL Championship IPSC BC - all ranges closed all day	18 Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	19	20 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	21 Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	22	23
24 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? VISL Rifle match- Rifle range closed all day. Junior program practice 1pm-3pm PPC range	25 Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	26	27 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	28 Archery Outdoors 5-dusk	29 BC Sheriff's PPC range rental 8am-1pm <i>All ranges closed for work party</i>	30
31 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? Junior program practice 1pm-3pm PPC range	The calendar was up to date at the time of publication of this newsletter but is subject to change without notice. Various agencies will book rental dates and the disciplines will book events on open dates on a first come first served basis throughout the year. Emergencies may arise that we have no control over. Do not assume the range is always open please contact the caretaker for up to date information.					

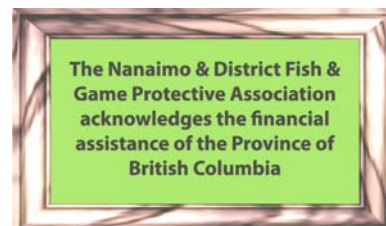
August 2011- Nanaimo Fish & Game Event Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ???	4 BC Sheriff's PPC range rental 8am-1pm	5 <i>Securicor local branch PPC range rental 2-6pm</i>	6 IPSC setup rifle & pistol ranges closed from noon
7 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? IPSC match-rifle & pistol ranges closed.	8 Securicor Main Hall rental 8-4 Exec Meeting 7pm	9 Securicor Main Hall rental 8-4 BC Sheriff's PPC range rental 8am-1pm	10 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? Securicor Main Hall & PPC range rental 8-4	11 Securicor PPC range rental 8-4	12 Securicor PPC range rental 8-4	13 Clubhouse booked from 8am-4pm for CFSC
14 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? 22 Silhouette, Rifle range closed 9-3 Junior program practice 1pm-3pm PPC range	15 Securicor Main Hall & Archery range rental 8-4	16 Securicor Main Hall & PPC range rental 8-4	17 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? Securicor Main Hall rental 8-4	18 Securicor Main Hall rental 8-4	19 Securicor Main Hall rental 8-4	20 Archery Windup -pistol ranges closed Skeet - Robin Watt Memorial - trap & archery closed
21 Skeet - Robin Watt Memorial match-trap & archery closed Junior program practice 1pm-3pm PPC range	22	23	24 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ???	25	26 BC Sheriff's PPC range rental 8am-1pm <i>All ranges closed for work party</i>	27
28 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ??? Junior program practice 1pm-3pm PPC range	29	30	31 Trap & Skeet practice 9:30 am to ???	The calendar was up to date at the time of publication of this newsletter but is subject to change without notice. Various agencies will book rental dates and the disciplines will book events on open dates on a first come first served basis throughout the year. Emergencies may arise that we have no control over. Do not assume the range is always open please contact the caretaker for up to date information.		

Membership Report

Reminder, members who are renewing their membership, once your due date has expired on your membership card, you have only 30 days to renew if you do not want your benefits and liability to expire while you are away hunting and fishing. I cannot backdate your membership. If you are moving, please notify me. If there are more than two members with the same address, we will only be sending one newsletter to the same address, this will also help with the cost of distribution. If you want to receive your newsletter as an attachment by email please advise at nfgnewsletter@shaw.ca and you will be added to the distribution list. Appreciate your understanding.

Tom Wakelam, Membership Chairperson,
 tlwakelam@telus.net
 (250) 741-9848



<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		<input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	
Date: _____		Member number if Renewal _____	
Names: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Adult \$90.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$100.00 <i>(Spouses & Children included - list all names for insurance, covered up to 21 years of age & under if living at home and attending an educational institution)</i>	
Mailing Address: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$75.00 (65 +) <input type="checkbox"/> Senior & Spouse \$80.00	
City: _____	Postal Code: _____	Phone # _____	
Email: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Junior \$55.00 <i>(18 years & younger)</i>	
Newsletter by Email? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yearly Range Pass \$15.00	
<u>Mail to:</u> Nanaimo Fish & Game P.O. Box #211 Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5K9 Phone # 754-2846		Total: \$ _____	



Nanaimo & District Fish & Game
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