



February 28, 2019

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Communications Branch
200 Kent Street
Station 13E228
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Attn: Minister Wilkinson, Mr. Grout, Ms. Reid
Via email
min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Jeff.Grout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
rebecca.reid@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: 2019 Proposed Chinook Management Measures

Dear Minister Wilkinson, Mr. Grout, Ms. Reid, and the Pacific Salmon Management Team,

Since the release of the 2019 Proposed Chinook Management Measures letter on February 5th, 2019, the BC Chamber of Commerce (including 17 of its Island Chambers that form the Thriving Orcas, Thriving Communities Coalition), the Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia, and Tourism Vancouver Island have heard significant concerns from our collective stakeholders regarding the impact of the proposed management scenarios. As industry associations, we recognize the significant and negative impact that both scenarios A and B would have on coastal communities and we submit this joint letter on behalf of our associations, members, and stakeholders with the utmost respect.

British Columbia is a world-renowned sport fishing destination known for its trophy Pacific salmon, iconic destination lodges and unique coastal communities. Up and down the coast, sport fishing – for Chinook Salmon in particular - contribute significantly to the economic health of communities and profoundly shape our cultural identity. Fishing is one of the top 10 activities for short haul visitors to British Columbia - and Chinook Salmon are perhaps the most appreciated of British Columbia's trophy fish species.

The two proposed management scenarios would both have significant and negative impacts on British Columbia's reputation as a sport fishing destination and on the economies of local communities across the Province. Both these proposed management scenarios would force the closure of businesses across the value chain and would disenfranchise a sector that has meaningfully contributed to salmon conservation for decades. Province-wide, the sport fishing sector generates \$1.1 billion in annual sales, contributes \$395 million in GDP and creates over 9,000 jobs. In order for the recreational fishery to continue attracting non-resident travellers and to continue contributing to the social and economic vibrancy of British Columbia, these visitors must have the opportunity for retention of their catch.

While the sport fishing sector must – and will continue to - do its part to support the sustainability of Chinook Salmon stocks in Fraser River watersheds and across the Pacific Coast, it is clear that management scenarios A and B would place a disproportionate burden on employees, businesses, and communities.

With this in mind, the BC Chamber of Commerce and its 17 Island Chambers, the Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia, and Tourism Vancouver Island urge the DFO Pacific Salmon Management Team to meaningfully engage with sport fishing stakeholders to identify and implement alternative approaches to Chinook Salmon management.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.



Anthony Everett
President & CEO
Tourism Vancouver Island



Walt Judas
CEO
Tourism Industry Association of BC



Val Litwin
President & CEO
BC Chamber of Commerce