



Williams Lake Sportsmen's Association

NEWSLETTER

- March 2011 -

HUNTER SURVEY - IMPORTANT FOR US ALL

Hunters are familiar with the Hunter Surveys that come out each winter to see how resident hunters fared in their hunts. Some hunters refuse to fill out these surveys thinking somehow that gov't will use the information for some ill purpose. Under the new Provincial Allocation Policy this information will be crucial for us to maintain our LEH allocations. Don't be fooled. Fill out these surveys, it's good for all of us.

As many of you are very much aware, the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch has been conducting an annual survey of hunters for more than 35 years. The information you provide is used to estimate resident hunter harvest and effort, which informs every aspect of wildlife management including allocations, LEH authorisations, season lengths, etc. Because of your support we have enjoyed a phenomenal 70% response rate over the years. We've been hesitant to change how we do this survey because of its success.

However, hunter sample is an expensive and labour intensive program, and times are changing.

This year, we've asked our government partner BC Stats to handle some of the work of hunter sample. Questionnaires are currently on their way to 67,275 randomly selected resident hunters by mail. BC Stats is taking care of printing and mailing questionnaires, and they will handle responses as well. This has a number of benefits both for Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management and for you.

There will be 2 options for responding. First, you may fill out the paper form and mail it back as you always have. However, if you choose, you may also tell us about your hunting activity using an online form. Instructions for accessing the web form will accompany your questionnaire.

If you can, we encourage you to please use the web form. It will look very much like the paper form and allows us to avoid the costs and time of return mail and data entry.

By responding online, you will also enable us to develop hunter sample estimates much earlier than in recent history. This will aid greatly in improving wildlife management in BC.

This change is all about cost savings and improved service delivery for hunters in BC. Because BC Stats is involved only in the delivery and handling of the questionnaires, the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch is able to maintain all the statistical analysis that goes into hunter sample. This will ensure that we can compare 2010 harvest and effort with previous years.

We're excited about this change and are asking for your help in making it a success. We thank you for your continued support of this extremely valuable program by providing your information online, and encouraging your friend and hunting partners to do the same, before April 29, 2011.



Schedule of Club General Meetings

After careful deliberations the club executive has decided to reduce the number of regular meetings to four a year. These meetings have been poorly attended in the past and in order to make these meetings more meaningful, it has been decided to invite special speakers to talk on various topics of general interest to our members. The schedule of meetings for this year are:

April 18 - 7:00 pm

August 22 - 7:00 pm

November 14 - 7:00 pm

January 16 - 2012 - 7:00 pm

(Annual General Meeting)

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WILDLIFE ALLOCATION POLICY

(Why the Guide Outfitters of BC want to back out of the new Wildlife Allocation Policy)

March, 2011

The Guiding Industry is on the warpath once again and this time they are asking government to turn their backs on resident hunters. The Province after long negotiations with Resident Hunters and the Guiding industry between 2001 and 2006 developed a new Allocation Policy. All parties agreed to this new policy which is to take effect in 2012 and signed off on it. Under this policy the starting split on allocation splits for all species under L.E.H. would be 75% for resident hunters and 25% for guides. To put this into understandable terms lets use Moose in Region 5 for an example. The first priority for government once the overall allocation has been determined is to allow First Nations first cut. Once that has been determined, the Resident Hunters and Guides get to split what's left over 75/15 percent. Taking a hypothetical number lets say that the allocation called for 1,000 moose, then the resident hunters would be allowed 750 Moose and the Guides would be allowed 250 Moose. Under this new policy if either group fails to harvest their allocation, then that portion is moved to the other party. In the case of Region 5, Resident Hunters have been harvesting their allocation but the Guides have not. As a result of this rule in 2011 resident hunters will be given 82% and the Guides are being reduced to 18%. It's called the "use it or loose rule." Remember the Guides in BC consented to this new allocation policy but here comes the twist. The Guide Outfitters of BC have come to realize that economics times are not as fruitful for their businesses as the Canadian Dollars soars and they are having difficulty selling hunts. This means that they are losing part of their allocation/quota. As a result they are aggressively campaigning with government to scrap the new allocation policy. In the words of a government source, "the current situation with the guide industry as "explosive". It would appear that government has been deluged with a barrage of complaints from hunting guide operators around the Province in regards to the effects of following the new allocation policy. The complaint is that the implementation of the allocation policy is "devastating" and that 60% of guide businesses will face bankruptcy. This has resulted in the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations to appoint a contractor to "complete an analysis of the affects of implementation of the current allocations policy on the guide outfitting industry." Members of government including our own Donna Barnett of 100 Mile House have been approached by Guide Outfitters from Region 5 asking for her support in cancelling the new allocation policy and she has bought this idea, hook, line and sinker. When Christy Clark was approached by GOABC during the Liberal leadership campaign she publically stated that she would support the Guiding Industry if elected. You can bet very successfully where GOABC are going to be putting their money come the next provincial election. What can you do, call up or write to Donna Barnett and let her know how you feel and why.

Donna Barnett

PO Box 95

100 Mile House, BC

VOK

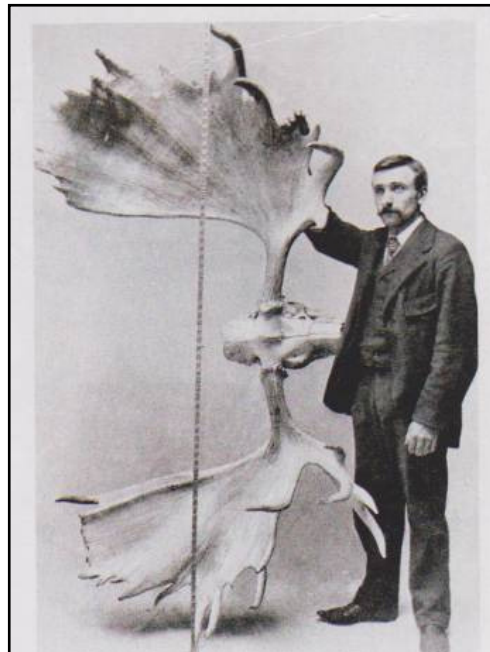
Telephone: 250-395-3973

NEXT CLUB GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18th at 7:00 pm when we will have a special speaker to talk to us about fishing. Each General Meeting will be accompanied with current topics affecting hunting, fishing, conservation and other topics of interest to club members. The meetings will start at 7:00 pm instead of the previous start time of 7:30 pm. If you have any subjects you would like featured during one of these meetings, please let us know and we will do our best to feature it during one of the upcoming meetings.

Annual Wild Game and Awards Banquet

This year's Annual Wild Game and Awards Banquet was held on February 5th, 2011 at the Elk Hall in Williams Lake. Previous years the event was held at the Clubhouse where seating capacity was 130 people. With the demand for tickets growing in recent years it was decided to look for a larger hall in order to accommodate more people. The choice for a hall was rather simple as the Elk Hall is centrally located in town and the rental cost is very reasonable. The sale of tickets went well and tickets were sold out well in advance of the evening of the event. We were able to sell 225 tickets, which is a substantial increase in seating capacity from previous years. This was by far our most successful fundraiser in many years netting us a profit of a little over \$10,000. The Awards is always a popular part of the event with trophies being awarded for various categories of fish and wildlife harvested by club members in B.C. There were also lots of door prizes as well as a silent auction, open auction and ticket sales. This year we had two rifles raffled off with the help once again of Chilcotin Guns. Ernie Davidson won a Remington Model 700 in his choice of caliber and Jack Butler won a 17 HMR rifle.



This moose was shot in the Yukon in 1897 and measured two metres across.

HALIBUT FISHERY IN TROUBLE

The "Stanyer Process" is a facilitated series of negotiations between the commercial sector as represented by the Pacific Halibut Management Assoc. (PHMA), the recreational sector as represented by the Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) and DFO. After meeting for almost a year there are 4 options to consider moving forward: Status Quo - continue to manage the recreational fishery to a catch ceiling of 12%. This option is considered completely unacceptable to the recreational fishery because the existing 12% allocation is simply not adequate to provide for a sustainable, thriving recreational fishery. Individual Anglers Fishing With Commercial Quota - Would provide for private transactions between individuals and commercial quota holders to lease or purchase quota for their own personal or business use. This option is also considered unacceptable to the recreational fishery for the following reasons: It accepts that a common property resource can be turned in to private property which can be bought, sold, leased and even inherited. The SFAB rejects this notion as socially wrong and even potentially illegal based on the *Saulnier vs Royal Bank* decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. It does not provide an increase in allocation for the recreational sector but rather simply provides another market for the "slipper skippers" to continue to get rich based on their gift from the taxpayers of Canada. It will do nothing to prevent further management restrictions, in season closures and further erosion of expectation and opportunity for the recreational halibut fishery. It would be virtually impossible to enforce for a variety of reasons including: time at which individual public anglers switch from their rightful share of the public fishery to some private fishery, when do individual boats switch from their private right to fish to guiding for commercial quota, selling of commercially caught sport fish which is illegal, determination of dead fish on a dock as to commercial or recreational, and others. **IT REWARDS THE BAD BEHAVIOUR OF THE CURRENT NON-FISHING QUOTA HOLDERS!!!** The creation of a new market for quota will only serve to drive the price of that quota up. The current slipper skippers will reap even larger windfall profits at the expense of working commercial fishermen and small coastal communities who depend on sport fishing dollars for their economic survival. Flexible implementation of 88%\12% over time - Would attempt to ensure that the recreational sector was managed to an average of 12% over some longer period of time. This is a similar approach that is applied for Sockeye, Pink and Chum Salmon in the Salmon Allocation Policy.



HALIBUT IN TROUBLE

This option has been rejected by the IPHC as it does not account for fish, and meet conservation objectives on an annual basis. This option does not provide a solution for allocation transfer - it simply delays the need for it for a few years. If the TAC provided to Canada doesn't increase over the next few years, the recreational fishery may at that time face a deficit that would provide for absolutely no season.

THE SOLUTION:

The Fixed Number Approach:

- Season Length of Feb 1st to Dec 31st.
- Choose bag and possession limits based on 2 Canadian TAC scenarios:
- “Normal” TAC triggers 2 per day, 3 in Possession
- “Lower” TAC triggers 2 per day, 2 in possession
- Calculate the anticipated catch pre-season based on the previous years effort and catch trends.
- Assign that catch to the recreational fishery pre-season. Allow for enough catch to anticipate slight growth in catch due to unforeseen circumstances.
- If the number is overestimated, surplus fish should be released to the commercial sector in September.

Why does the recreational fishery support this approach?

It acknowledges that recreational – commercial catch is about allocating the benefits of fish, **it's not about conservation**. The IPHC assigns a conservation based TAC to Canada each year. This catch is internationally accepted to be sustainable, and account for conservation needs on an annual basis.

THIS OPTION PROVIDES THAT CANADA WILL ALWAYS FISH WITHIN ITS NATIONAL TAC AS PROVIDED BY THE IHPC.

By remaining within its conservation based TAC, Canada will ensure the sustainability of its halibut fishery for future generations. It honours the principle that fish are a common property resource the Supreme Court says cannot become private property until caught. Halibut always have, and always should belong to the Canadian public. Having public access to this great common property resource is a tradition in BC that stretches back generations. It conforms to the principles of the Recreational Fishery Vision – a 2009 policy document that charts a new, positive course for the recreational fishery based on a series of principles and goals that have been endorsed at the ministerial level by DFO, the Province of BC, and the SFAB. It recognizes the social importance and economic value of the recreational fishery. Recreational fishing is an integral part of the social and economic fabric of British Columbia. For many generations, British Columbians have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in this healthy outdoor activity with friends and family. These traditions must be preserved. After decades of dependence on logging and commercial fishing, the economic activity created by the recreational fishery is the engine that drives the fragile economies of most small coastal communities in BC. In its 2007 “Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector” report, BC stats reported that tidal waters recreational fishing accounted for \$135 million, or 39% of the total GDP of all fisheries and aquaculture combined in BC! This sustainable, inclusive, highly value added way of extracting wealth from our fishery resources must be fostered and allowed to reach its fullest potential.



The Cariboo Archers are always looking for new members of all ages and skill levels. It doesn't matter if you've never picked up a bow. Or, maybe, you used to shoot, but haven't blown the dust off your arrows in years. It's time to start! Drop-ins are welcome to use our indoor and outdoor ranges on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. We also have a great Junior Olympic Program for the kids.

Call Lee Jackman at 250-398-5691
for more information

You can also find us on Facebook!

Annual Indoor 3D Shoot is
March 26 & 27

Annual Outdoor 3D Shoot is
May 14 & 15

Provincial Outdoor 3D
Championships are July 9 & 10

PHOTO CORNER



Traveling east on Highway 20
approaching the Sheep Creek Bridge



One mis-step by this moose fell into a
crevice where it died. Scavengers picked
him clean.

TORONTO SUN: Amnesty extended for unregistered gun owners

March 25, 2011 2:09pm

OTTAWA - On the eve of an election campaign the Conservative government has quietly extended an amnesty for long-gun owners who have not complied with the gun registry. The move was expected to come in May but was moved up due to the election. "This government is committed to improving public safety through effective gun control and tackling the criminal use of firearms, while reducing administrative requirements on lawful firearms owners," Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said. It is the fifth time that the Conservatives have given licensed owners of unregistered long-guns an amnesty, meaning they will not face criminal charges for not registering their weapons. Licences for gun owners are still required. "The government is determined to focus its efforts on combating the criminal use of firearms. We have introduced mandatory prison sentences for those who commit serious gun crimes and tougher bail rules for serious weapon-related offences," Toews said. While past extensions have been for one year, this current extension is for two years and will expire on May 16, 2013. The Conservatives have tried unsuccessfully to abolish the long-gun registry, including a vote last September that split parts of the Liberal and NDP caucuses. That vote and the continuation of the gun registry will be an issue in the upcoming election campaign.

C.O.R.E.

(HUNTER TRAINING)

& FIREARMS SAFETY COURSES

To obtain hunting licence and/or
federal firearms licences (PAL)

Spring training courses available in
May at Bond Lake Clubhouse

For Registration and information
call

Barry or Judy at 250-392-6750

ACCESS BRITISH COLUMBIA

Join Up Now!

THIS IS A NEW SOCIETY FOR ACCESS TO AND STEWARDSHIP OF OUR CROWN LANDS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO RESPONSIBLE USE OF OUR CROWN LANDS FOR INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES. WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT TO MEMBERS, CORPORATIONS AND AFFILIATES TO PROVIDE ACCESS POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT ENSURE CONTINUED AND MUTUAL USES OF OUR CROWN LANDS.

OUR OBJECTIVES ARE "TO DEVELOP ACCESS POLICIES THAT ALLOW FOR TRADITIONAL USES LIKE BERRY PICKING, FIRE WOOD HARVESTING, WILDLIFE VIEWING, EXPLORING, ROCK HOUNDING, HIKING, FISHING, HUNTING, CAMPING AND INDUSTRIAL USES SUCH AS TRAPPING, MINERAL, COAL, OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND FOREST HARVESTING. OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE GOVERNMENT AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY STOP DESTROYING TRADITIONAL FORESTRY AND MINING INDUSTRY ROADS. SUCH ACTIVITY IS DETRIMENTAL TO PROTECTING OUR FORESTS, WILDLIFE AND WATERSHEDS AND DENIES BRITISH COLUMBIANS AND VISITORS ACCESS TO OUR CROWN LANDS FOR RECREATIONAL AND OTHER PURPOSES.

PLEASE BECOME A MEMBER TO-DAY AND PASS THIS MESSAGE ON TO YOUR E-MAIL CONTACT LIST. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

- \$20 INDIVIDUAL FIVE [5] YEAR MEMBERSHIP
- \$250 AFFILIATE FIVE [5] YEAR MEMBERSHIP
- \$500 CORPORATE FIVE [5] YEAR MEMBERSHIP

MAIL TO

CP ROAD ACCESS {bc} SOCIETY.*
PO BOX 222
CRANBROOK B.C. V1C 4H7

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PLEASE ACCEPT MY ADDITIONAL GIFT OF \$ _____ TO GET OUR B.C. BUSH ROADS BACK.



ANNOUNCING THE WILDLIFE RECORDS CLUB OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 14th BIG GAME TROPHY AWARDS BANQUET, DANCE AND FUNDRAISER

*Conservation
 Selective Hunting
 Sportsmanship
 Fair Chase*



Saturday, May 7, 2011

Colombo Hall
 814 Lorne St.
 Kamloops, BC



**Cocktails 5:00 pm
 Dinner 7:00 pm**

•Wildlife display, awards presentation, dinner, fund raiser, and dance

•Don't be disappointed – get your tickets early!!!

Tickets: \$40/person

AVAILABLE FROM:
 Bob Patrie
 (Kamloops)
 ph. 250-372-1950

BY MAIL: Don Sundquist
 Wildlife Records Club
 PO Box 22
 Nanoose, BC V9P 9J9
 ph. 250-468-7773

**For additional info., contact Bob Morris at:
 250-738-2116 or see our website:
www.wildliferecordsclub.com**



The host hotel will be the Plaza Heritage Hotel in Kamloops (www.plazaheritagehotel.com). Rooms have been made available for our group at a special rate of \$95 per night. Contact them at 250-377-8075 (1-877-875-6259) and mention the Wildlife Records Club to get the rate.

email: wildliferecordsclub@shaw.ca

2011 Executive

President	Jacques Drisdelle
Vice President	Vic Rafuse
Secretary	Debbie Powers Barron
Treasurer	Ed Oliver
Sgt At Arms	Wayne Biffert
Past President	Barry Jenkins
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	George Chignell
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	Daniel Pellan
Directors	1 Year Term
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	Corky Berkelaar
	Gord Mayfield
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