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In Memoriam

There is no simple way to put it other than to say that it has been a tough few months for those of us in the sport fishing industry. We have lost two dear friends who dedicated their lives to promoting sport fishing in British Columbia.

In December we were saddened to learn of the passing of **Ivan Berry**, a pioneer in the recreational fishery. For more than forty years Ivan literally taught and equipped generations of young anglers. Ivan and his wife Marilyn founded the eponymously-named **Berry's Bait and Tackle** in Richmond in 1973 and sold dew worms from the basement of the family house. The couple built the small bait operation into a thriving full-service tackle store until leaving the day-to-day operations to their son Mike and daughter Michele.

Ivan was one of the original investors in the famous Salmon King Lodge in Rivers Inlet where he made countless trips in search of that inlet's legendary chinook. Ivan continued spend time at the store until his passing, famously directing traffic at the annual Father's Day tackle sale where many local children would come out to make their first cast on the back lawn while dad shopped for new gear. Ivan is survived by his wife Marilyn, children Mike and Michele and four grandchildren.

Ivan's life and accomplishments were celebrated at a well-attended memorial held at the Green Acres Golf Course in early January.

In February, we were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of our friend **Tom Bird**. While Tom's endeavors on behalf of the sport fishing community are well known, they bear repeating. Tom quite literally spent his career (or more accurately, *careers*) in sport fishing. He spent more than twodecades with DFO, concluding his government career as the Pacific Region's recreational fisheries coordinator. Tom spent his second career as Executive Director of the SFI before "retiring" to serve on the Fraser Panel and as an SFI director.

Tom worked every year to help the SFI raise funds through the Big Splash and to pass on his considerable knowledge to others in the sport fishing sector.

Tom is survived by his wife Carol and son Owen. Tom's life will be celebrated at the Delta Airport Richmond Hotel on March 18th.

Ottawa Mission 2010

SFI representatives **Robert Alcock**, **John McCulloch** and **Gerry Kristianson** were in Ottawa last week to make the rounds of the capital and meet with senior staff and parliamentarians.

Thanks to the organizational skills of the SFI's Administrative Assistant **Shelia Connauton** the delegation organized meetings with Fisheries Minister **Gail Shea**, Deputy Minister **Claire Dansereau**, and her two Assistant Deputy Ministers responsible for Fisheries Management and Policy.

The SFI delegation touched base with a number of Members of Parliament and Senators and their staffs either on the Hill or at a well-attended reception held on March 9th.

We'd like to thank Conservative MPs **Randy Kamp**, **John Duncan**, **John Cummins** and **Blaine Calkins** for taking the time to meet with us. New Democrat Fisheries critic **Fin Donnelly** and Liberal Fisheries Critics **Lawrence MacAuley** and **Gerry Byrne** were equally generous with their time as was B.C. Senator **Nancy Greene Raine** and Ministerial Advisor **Kym Purchase**.

While one could be forgiven for thinking that Parliament has been dysfunctional and partisan in recent years, the SFI reception was notable for the degree to which politicians from across the political spectrum seemed eager to discuss the substantive issues facing the recreational fishery. Guests raved about the smoked tuna and salmon provided by **Gerard St. Jean** (Gerard can probably expect follow-up requests from visiting politicians wanting to tour his Nanaimo operation), perhaps proving that the best way to nurture political compromise is by serving smoked salmon and cold beer.

Much remains to be done, and we will need to follow-up with our contacts, but we believe that the SFI's 2010 Ottawa mission will ultimately prove to have been a very worthwhile endeavour.

Issues and Activities

Stanyer Process Unveiled While it will do little to resolve the challenges we'll face in the 2010 season, the SFI is cautiously optimistic that DFO's newly announced halibut mediation process may yield substantive results. In early January, Deputy Minister **Claire Dansereau** told us that she planned to appoint former provincial Deputy Minister and well known labour relations practitioner **Roger Stanyer** as a special mediator tasked with finding a solution to the department's halibut policy. Stanyer has worked with Dansereau in the past and has a reputation for being a no-nonsense mediator who can find common ground and help move parties away from their entrenched positions.

While finding a workable, acceptable solution to the halibut impasse will not be easy, it seems clear that the department knows that the status quo won't hold. Stanyer will get his process underway in the coming weeks and we'll report back as we learn more about where the process is heading.

Cohen Commission It looks like the much-anticipated public inquiry into the disastrous 2009 Fraser River sockeye season is finally getting under way. Commission staff have been making informal inquiries of a number of people in the recreational sector to seek advice on how the process should unfold and who should be involved. While we are pleased that the inquiry will eventually produce real answers about how the Fraser River fishery is managed, we are nervous that the process will become all-consuming for the department as officials are called to testify and provide evidence. We'll report back when the inquiry begins in earnest in the coming months.

Issues and Activities (cont'd)

It's a Vision Thing As much as we shake our heads when people use buzzwords like "vision" or "paradigm shift" or "decafe soy latte", occasionally the buzzwords actually make sense. And in the case of the SFAB's recently-completed vision process with the federal and provincial governments, it actually looks like the creation of a "vision" for the recreational fishery will produce tangible changes to the way in which fisheries managers approach their jobs.

The process began in 2008 as a way of distilling the collective, and occasionally contradictory, interests of the recreational fishery into a simple manageable list. As the process proceeded with the help of a facilitator, the list evolved into a series of principles that government and recreational anglers agreed should inform and guide all future decisions made by fisheries managers.

As a result of the vision process, DFO has agreed that in the future, fisheries managers must formally consider the interests of the recreational sector before making commercial management decisions that might impact on our sector, something that seldom happened in the past.

It's still early days, and as they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. But we look forward to seeing whether this new process will produce more measured management decisions that better protect the interests of recreational anglers.

CTAP Update The Certified Tidal Angling Guide Program is well underway and has already produced its first class of graduates. To date, 32 students have completed the program and received comprehensive training that will ensure they are well-equipped to work as angling guides or charter boat operators in the sport fishing industry. CTAP has also offered challenge programs in Victoria and Campbell River where experienced angling guides went through a half-day assessment to demonstrate their expertise and received full certification at the end of the program.

Thus far the program has been well received by participants. The SFI is very supportive of this innovative program and will help coordinate special courses where operators would like to arrange training and certification for groups of 12 or more people.

Pre-Season Survey Underway The province has agreed to conduct the annual pre-season angling effort survey for the recreational sector. Over the next few weeks, staff in the Ministry of Environment will be conducting an online survey of operators in the sport fishing industry to gather information that DFO and the SFAB will use to plan this year's fishing season. As always, information gathered from individual operators will be kept in the strict confidence and only anonymous, aggregated information will be shared. We encourage operators to fully participate in this survey.

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