

2025

# FVSS NEWSLETTER



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## President's Update

By Dean Werk, FVSS President

### Dear FVSS Members and Fellow Anglers,

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future, I am pleased to share the key developments, challenges, and successes that have shaped our work at the Fraser Valley Salmon Society (FVSS). The 2025 season brings new opportunities, and we continue to build on the progress made in 2024.

### Advocacy and Fisheries Access

Securing fishing opportunities remains a top priority. Our voice to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) remains strong as we advocate for access to all local rivers, including the Fraser and Thompson River. I participate in every planning call possible, working diligently to open fisheries for our members. Looking ahead, we are organizing Pink Salmon working group meetings early in the year to push for expanded opportunities. This fishery is crucial for both experienced and novice anglers and plays a vital role in our local community and economy.

We must continue to secure our place at the decision-making table. I remain committed to representing our members and all anglers across British Columbia.

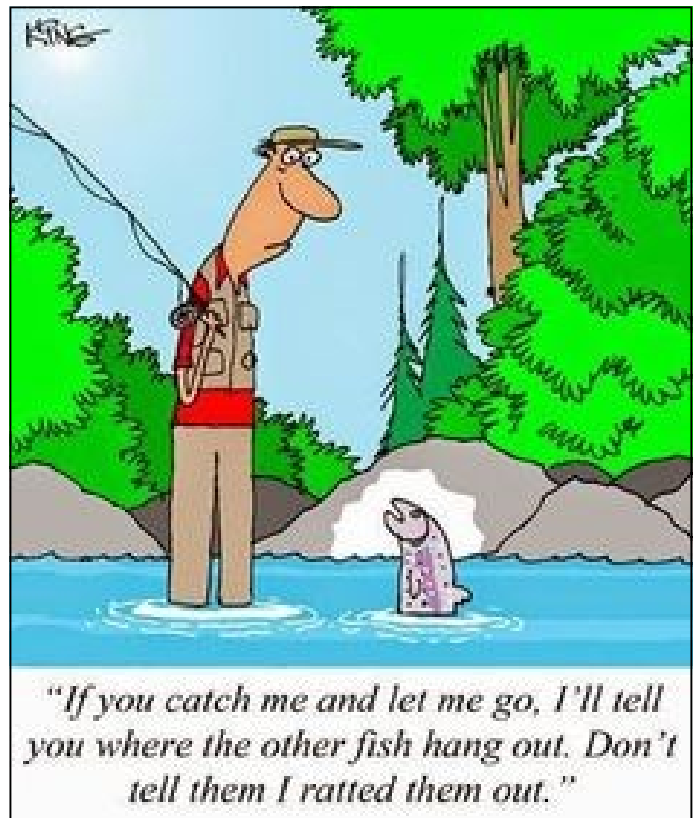
Additionally, over the past three years, we have witnessed incredible highs in salmon returns, signaling a positive shift for our fisheries. With these surplus stocks, we are working diligently to ensure increased access and opportunity for anglers, ensuring a balanced and sustainable approach to harvesting these abundant resources. Notably, Pink Salmon runs for 2025 could exceed 30 million fish migrating up the Fraser River, presenting an extraordinary opportunity for anglers and the broader fishing community.

### Conservation and Habitat Protection

Protecting fish stocks requires preserving their habitats. We must hold government and industry accountable for safeguarding our rivers and ecosystems. In the past year, FVSS has achieved significant milestones in conservation efforts:

**Fish Farm Closures:** In the past 5 years there were 34 Atlantic fish farms were removed from Fraser River migratory routes and we need the Federal Government to remove the rest in the next few years. These efforts are a testament to our advocacy, including key contributions from our directors along with collaboration with Fisheries Minister representatives and Alexander Morton.

**Habitat Protection:** Our ongoing collaboration with government stakeholders has led to further protections for critical habitats, including the continued preservation of sensitive spawning and rearing areas.



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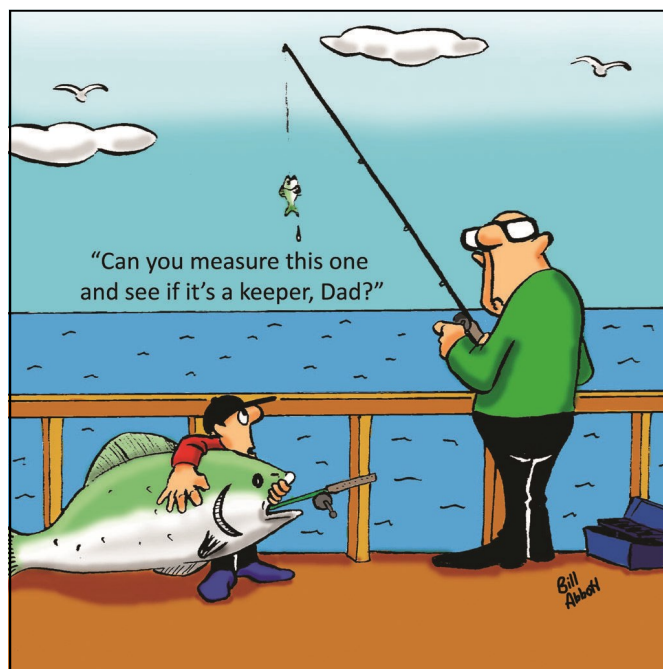
Cont. from Pg. 01

**Bar Fishery Advocacy:** We remain steadfast in our pursuit of a legal and recognized Bar fishery. Catch-and-release methodologies are widely accepted worldwide and should be recognized in the Fraser watershed as well. In 2023 there was over 1 million Chinook Salmon migrate up the Fraser River and there was zero access to even one of these fish for the recreational sector, this is wrong.

## Team and Community Collaboration

None of our achievements would be possible without the dedicated efforts of the FVSS Directorship. I extend my deepest gratitude to our Executive team and board members:

- **Vice President:** Nick Basok (will be retiring after 41 years of service and was a founding member in 1984)
- **Secretary:** Alyssa Cowles
- **Treasurer:** Glen Stoner
- **Directors:** Terry Bodman, Marvin Rosenau, Dean Worrall, Glen Stoner, Dawson Kallevig, Spencer Schlatter, Matt Bentley, Arnold Dogelis, Chad Hammond and Kayden Oostenbrink



These individuals generously volunteer their time and expertise to protect our fisheries and advocate for anglers' rights. If you encounter them in the community, please take a moment to thank them for their service.

## Collaboration with First Nations and Stakeholders

The Lower Fraser Collaborative Table (LFCT) continues to serve as a critical platform for cooperation among First Nations (represented by the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance and other FN Bands), Commercial fishers (Area E), and the public sport fishing sector. This collaborative approach has led to greater progress in addressing the challenges facing wild salmon and sturgeon populations. In the coming year, we anticipate reviewing the 2024 harvest data and working toward equitable sharing solutions.



<https://chilliwackworknplay.com/>



<https://chilliwackdart.com/>



Cont. from Pg. 02

Looking Forward to 2025

As we embark on another year, I encourage each of you to take an active role in preserving our Canadian angling traditions. Whether through FVSS or other organizations, your voice and participation matter. Ask yourself: *What can I do to contribute to the future of our fisheries?* Every effort counts, and together, we can safeguard our fisheries for generations to come.

Closing Thoughts

The FVSS remains dedicated to advocating for fishing opportunities, habitat conservation, and the rights of recreational anglers. Thank you to all our members past and present for your support, donations, and belief in our mission. Your contributions make our work possible, and I am honored to serve as your President.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to reach out. I am always available by phone at **604-991-3474** or via email at **info@greatriverfishing.com**.

Wishing you a safe, successful, and rewarding 2025 fishing season.

**Yours in Conservation,** Dean Werk  
President, Fraser Valley Salmon Society

2025 FVSS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Evergreen Hall. 9291 Corbould St., Chilliwack

- 6:00 PM Doors open (Light refreshments available & membership sales)
- 6:30 PM Call to Order & Opening Remarks
- 7:00 PM President’s Report
- 7:10 PM Acceptance of Minutes AGM 2024
- 7:20 PM Treasurer’s Report
- 7:30 PM Andrew Day
- 7:40 PM Questions & Answers
- 8:00 PM Coffee Break
- 8:20 PM FVSS Updates & Newsletter info
- 8:30 PM Nominations & Elections—Terry Bodman
- 8:45 PM Door Prizes & Draws
- 9:00 PM Adjournment of AGM 2025

Fishing Update

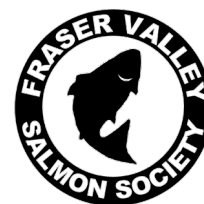
By Nick Basok, FVSS Vice President

I am going to try and give you the basic expected returns for our salmon resource in the mainstem Fraser and local tributaries. This forecast is based on science from previous years spawning escapements and some educated guesses.



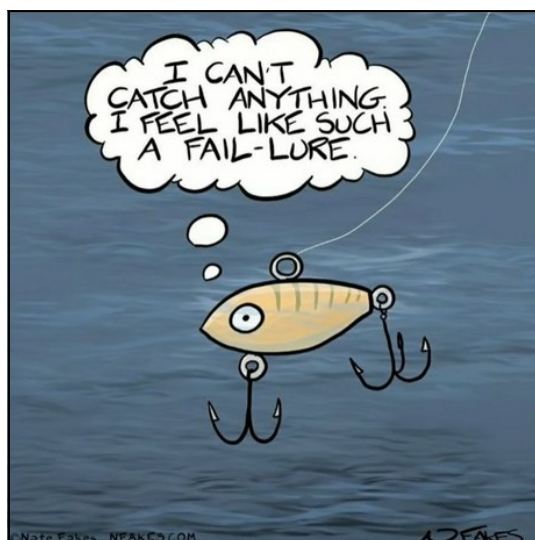
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Cont. from Pg. 03

**CHINOOK**- the return of early run chinook (April-July) in the Fraser is still in the rebuilding stage and so the recreational fishing opportunities will reflect that with little chance for a recreational fishery on the mainstem. A very good return of fall chinook is expected again in the Fraser that are migrating through our area on their way to the south Thompson river. This population of chinook is the strongest run in the Fraser and the FVSS along with DFO are working together to get an opportunity at these fish and hopefully this will happen sooner than later as it is long overdue. There are some mitigating factors at work here holding up this fishery like returning weaker stocks of steelhead, coho, and sockeye with the same migration timing. If DFO truly believes in catch and release then they should use this management tool to allow other fishing opportunities for recreational anglers. However there will be a fishery for red chinook on the Chilliwack / Vedder river starting on July 1st. This fishery does not have a large number of returning fish but is a good opportunity for anglers to get out and harvest a fish to eat. There is also a fishery for this same stock of chinook in the Chehalis river which begins on June 1st. There is also the fall run of chinook in the Chilliwack/Vedder and Chehalis which at this time is our best opportunity to harvest a chinook. Returns of this stock are averaging 20,000 plus fish each fall.



**COHO** - the FVSS is working on getting a hatchery coho retention fishery on the Fraser in the fall before November. This is a perfect reason for DFO to allow a Fraser mainstem fishery for hatchery coho in

October with all wild coho being released. There has previously been a fishery for these fish starting in mid November but by that time 99% of the coho both hatchery and wild have migrated through our area so essentially why bother. Coho numbers are expected to be very good this year so all of the local tributaries that have hatchery coho returning should provide excellent fisheries.

**CHUM** - opportunities for Fraser chum have varied over the past few years due partially to a set number for spawning escapement imposed by DFO of 800,000 fish thru the test fishery in the lower Fraser before a recreational fishery is allowed. Hopefully this number is realized this season and recreational fishers get a fishery.

**PINK** - There is a multi million number of pink salmon expected this season on the mainstem Fraser which should provide rec fishers with a grand opportunity for a great family fishery. Two years ago there was an excellent return and a good spawning escapement especially from the interior pink salmon run. All of this run whether local or interior have to migrate through our area and we should get an excellent opportunity as long as they show up.

**SOCKEYE** - this is the third sub-dominate year return of Fraser sockeye and the numbers again are not great so there is a very small chance of a RECREATIONAL fishery. 2026 is the next expected large return of sockeye to the Fraser and hopefully the stars all line up and recreational anglers get a chance at these excellent tasting fish.

Please understand that there are a lot of environmental factors as well as management measures and politics that determine whether the recreational angler gets to fish for salmon period. All we can do as recreational anglers is to keep fighting for our share of the resource through negotiations, sound management, and hopefully some common sense decisions from the powers to be. Try to get out and enjoy the opportunities that are available to the angling community.

# FRASER VALLEY SALMON SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**NAME:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

**TELEPHONE:** .....

**EMAIL:** .....

I would like to extend my membership by: (please check 1 box only)

- |                          |          |   |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 year   | \$10.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 years  | \$20.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime | \$100.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Donation | Any amount (No tax receipt available as we do lobby.) |

Please find enclosed \$.....Signature.....

Please mail to: Fraser Valley Salmon Society, 9839 Candow Street, Chilliwack BC, V2P 4K5

or

Please etransfer to [fraservalleysalmonsociety@outlook.com](mailto:fraservalleysalmonsociety@outlook.com)

Thank you for your support!!