

with real-time access to regulations and other fishing-friendly features. In 2020, the Fishing BC app enjoyed a makeover and additional functionality and features are available and still for free. Anglers can find species and area-specific regulations through map tools which identify their current location and species of interest. The Fishing BC app is a real-time display of current DFO regulations. Wording and updates are delivered to the app several times a day and come directly from DFO. In addition to providing current regulatory information, the Fishing BC app has several other important features, including serving as an electronic licence holder and as a permanent record of your catch.

If you are heading out yourself, ensure you are up to date on regulations for species and equipment required, use the Fishing BC app. If you consider using the services of a guide to help navigate some of these details or to introduce a new area, make sure to ask about credentials for both the guide and the vessel. The Certified Tidal Angling Guide (CTAG) identification is any easy way to understand the qualifications of your guide. CTAG is only available to qualified and experienced guides and is an industry-designed trade certification. While the CTAG program is voluntary, the Transport Canada regulations are not. So, although your guide may not be CTAG, he or she must legally have the necessary Transport Canada qualifications and the vessel must be properly equipped for passengers. The vessel suitability can be identified, in part, by a commercial designation or CO number on the hull, rather than a BC number.

As the season gets further into the summer, some anglers may set their sights offshore to pursue tuna. If you choose to venture offshore, please make sure to check the safety and tuna handling guidelines developed by the SFAB.

We hope that you are able to have a great summer on the water. Best of luck and tight lines this season, wherever you choose to go on our coast. Whether the options are fully open for travel and opportunity because of the pandemic it is hard to know, but the coast is waiting and continues holds unrivalled variety.

We look forward to catching up with you in this space in the fall.✘



BCWF & GOABC – Collaborating For Wildlife

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

SUBMITTED BY THE GUIDE OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ON FEB. 29, the leadership of BCWF and the Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC) met for an executive-to-executive meeting focused on our shared goals for habitat and wildlife management issues in BC.

Both organizations share a passion for conservation and the wise use of BC's fish, wildlife and habitat. Both are on a mission to steward these resources for future generations. Both believe that making decisions based on science is the way to get there, and both believe we are stronger united than we are fractured.

It is deeply concerning to both groups that the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has no objectives for wildlife. It's a bit like operating a business producing and selling widgets with no goals. How would you know if you were succeeding or failing? You have a number of managers responsible for different regions of the sales territory, but each one has a different methodology, often conflicting with a neighbouring region. Every so often, the widgets are counted – each region using a different technique – and you find that you have way too many of some kinds and concerningly few of some others, but yet you have no fact-based plan to correct this. None of this

seems like the ideal way to achieve success over time. Of course, wildlife and habitat management are significantly more complex.

BCWF and GOABC have joined forces to address the ministry on this matter. We are asking for a multi-species approach to managing wildlife, urging them to set population objectives, including density objectives, for all species in BC – and then proactively manage to those objectives. We'd like to see alignment between regions, and wildlife managers held accountable for the outcomes in their areas.

What we have in BC is special. Wildlife is a valuable resource; it must be seen as such and managed accordingly. Bold and united action is vital to ensure we have abundant wildlife populations, both today and in the future.

Effective wildlife management requires difficult – and sometimes unpopular – decisions be made. Together, we are against wildlife management by ballot box. Groups who promote propaganda and wildlife management by emotion must be ignored.

Collaboration is a powerful force and we hope you, as a resident hunter in BC, will join our two organizations in our efforts to influence government to base their decisions and actions upon proven science. ✘