

# 2015 Canadian Federal Election Candidate Survey Form



Page: 1

---

Please Complete the Following Short Survey Form, Save Your Results and  
Return the Saved Copy to SVIAC at [info@anglerscoalition.com](mailto:info@anglerscoalition.com)  
No Later Than Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*PLEASE NOTE: This is an interactive form; enter your answers  
in the text areas marked "Click here to enter text"*

---

## Section One - Candidate Information

---

Your first and last name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

The political party you represent: [Click here to enter text.](#)

The riding in which you are running for election: [Click here to enter text.](#)

---

## Section Two – Conservation and Enhancement

---

1) **The Cowichan River** - The Cowichan River was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 2003. The river is widely considered one of the finest trout fishing streams in British Columbia and also provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for Pacific salmon including Chinook. With the increasing uncertainty of climate conditions effecting our weather, rain and snowfall, the need for a long-term solution to guarantee minimum critical water flow year-round for the fish is becoming extremely important. In the past two years there have been dangerously low flow levels in the river during the late summer leading to some juvenile fish loss and near catastrophe for resident fish species.

i) - Do you support finding a lasting solution to this urgent situation before next summer to avoid a recurrence or catastrophe in future?

---

**South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition** Society

 7252 East Saanich Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 1Y4

 (778) 426-4141

 [info@anglerscoalition.com](mailto:info@anglerscoalition.com)

 [www.anglerscoalition.com](http://www.anglerscoalition.com)

# 2015 Canadian Federal Election Candidate Survey Form



ii) - Would you support introducing legislation guaranteeing minimum water flows for fish?

Please write your answers to question 1 here: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**NEXT QUESTION** - - - - - ➔

2) **Fish Farming** – There have been many concerns expressed to the federal government by the public and specific stakeholder groups about the risks of salmon farming in the ocean along the BC coast. The potential to permanently harm or lose our wild Pacific salmon populations is clearly the main reason for the apprehensions expressed. The Cohen Commission suggested ceasing all open-net salmon aquaculture on known salmon migration routes. Chinook salmon are a key species for the public sport fishery, therefore as anglers we are very concerned about any potential damage to the environment or harm to wild Pacific salmon. We would like to know where you stand on this issue and what you will do to address it.

i) - Do you believe it is a conflict of interest for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, one federal government agency, being the managers of wild Pacific salmon while at the same time the promoters and managers of ocean-based Atlantic salmon aquaculture in BC?

ii) – Are you in favour of transitioning all open-net salmon aquaculture in BC’s tidal waters to land-based closed containment systems?

Please write your answers to question 2 here: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**NEXT QUESTION** - - - - - ➔

3) **Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW)** – The salmon-eating Orcas of the Salish Sea have been listed endangered by both the US and Canadian governments for over a decade. To date no official recovery action plan has been commenced in Canada. An important piece of the SRKW recovery is their ability to access sufficient large adult Chinook salmon in their diet. Additionally, low Chinook salmon abundance is negatively affecting the public sport fishery around South Vancouver Island. Certain important Fraser River and Southern BC Chinook

## 2015 Canadian Federal Election Candidate Survey Form

salmon stocks are continuing to hover at historic low levels of abundance. So far, the federal government has essentially done nothing to enhance these depleted stocks or restore their vital habitat. It is worth noting here that scientists have indicated that closing all fisheries for Chinook salmon is insufficient to solve the SRKW food problem. To be proactive, SVIAC is pursuing a local community-based plan to address SRKW food needs by focusing Chinook enhancement efforts on the Sooke River and lobbying for government action to recover and enhance stream-type Fraser Chinook salmon stocks.

i) – Do you support SVIAC’s taking the lead with Sooke River Chinook Salmon Revitalization Initiative to significantly enhance and restore the Chinook salmon to the Sooke River, thus increasing food availability for SRKWs?

ii) – Will you do all you can to ensure the federal government meets its obligation to fund a Species At Risk recovery action plan for endangered SRKW and their food, including significant enhancement of key Fraser River Chinook salmon stocks?

Please write your answers to question 3 here: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**NEXT QUESTION** ----->

4) **The Salmonid Enhancement Program** – In 1977, backed by strong public support, DFO launched the Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP). Its goal was to arrest and reverse the decline of many Pacific salmon stocks. The program's activities aim to rebuild vulnerable salmon stocks, provide harvest opportunities, work with First Nations and coastal communities in economic development, and improve fish habitat to sustain salmon populations. The fish hatchery component of SEP continues to be vital to maintaining BC’s salmon fisheries today. At its peak in the 1990s, the annual SEP operating budget was \$40,000,000. Today the government has shaved their budget down to around \$25,000,000 annually and still relies on the original infrastructure that now needs upgrading. SEP can no longer provide the broad enhancement and restoration services of the past. SVIAC members are deeply concerned that SEP will become less and less effective, if increased annual operational budgets are not forthcoming. In addition, SVIAC believes an infrastructure upgrade and modernization program is required to maintain Canada’s salmon world-leading enhancement program.

i) – Do you support the federal government increasing operational funding for SEP and upgrading their aging infrastructure?

Please write your answer to question 4 here: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**NEXT QUESTION** - - - - - ➔

---

## Section Three – Fisheries Issues

---

5) **Fair, Predictable and Stable Access** - Various federal and provincial economic studies and surveys have suggested that sports anglers’ expenditures have the highest overall economic return of all the fisheries sectors to our economy and provide tens of millions a year in tax revenue for federal and province coffers. However, the public sport fishery around South Vancouver Island is far from maximized. Late fishery opening notification, uncertainty over allowable catch levels, restrictive regulations and lack of government funds for proper stock assessment all result in lost opportunity to optimize BC’s public sport fishery. The current Pacific halibut quota system of only 15% of Canada’s total annual halibut catch going to anglers is a classic example of lost opportunity to the public sport fishery. Fair, predictable and stable access to key species is vital to optimize the social and economic benefits of the public fishery.

i) – Will you support the federal government funding a comprehensive economic study of the public sport fishery to authenticate the benefits BC anglers bring to the Canadian economy?

ii) – After conservation needs and First Nations constitutionally protected access have been met, do you support the public sport fishing sector having fair, predictable and secured access to Chinook salmon, Pacific halibut and other key fish and invertebrate species?

Please write your answers to question 5 here: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**NEXT QUESTION** - - - - - ➔

## 2015 Canadian Federal Election Candidate Survey Form

6) – **Fisheries and Oceans Canada Budget Cuts** - It is a reality today that severe budget reductions over the past few years within Fisheries and Oceans Canada have left BC's salmon enhancement, restoration of key spawning and rearing habitat, stock assessment, catch accounting and fishery consultation all subject to reduced service delivery. The result for anglers is a growing loss of opportunity and a diminished public fishery. The British Columbia angling community needs assistance raising extra fishing license revenue and having those fees directed towards protecting, maintaining and rebuilding the public fishery in BC. In early 2015 the Vision for Recreational Fisheries in BC: Implementation Plan, a plan designed to address the aforementioned shortfalls, was as good as approved by senior DFO in Ottawa. Unfortunately no funding was assigned towards its implementation. The Sport Fishing Advisory Board on behalf of salt water anglers in BC, have agreed to an increase in annual fishing license fees. They want anglers to pay more for a fishing license. However, their stipulation is the license fee revenue must all be directed back to restoring proper levels of key DFO public sport fishery services altered by the cutbacks and to optimize the public sport fishery. SVIAC understands there is currently no movement to address this dilemma or to provide funding for the Vision of Recreational Fisheries in BC Implementation Plan.

- i) - Do you support the increased fishing license fees funding of the Vision for Recreational Fisheries in BC Implementation Plan to restore key service levels to the public sport fishery?
- ii) – If elected, how would you propose moving government past this service shortfall funding gridlock and ensuring adequate funding is directed to DFO for improving BC's public sport fishery.

Please write your answers to question 6 here: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**NEXT QUESTION** - - - - - ➔

7) **Southern Vancouver Island Chinook Fishery** – Chinook salmon are the most important species to the public sport fishery around South Vancouver Island. Unfortunately, between March 1<sup>st</sup> and mid-July each year complex restrictive regulations impact local anglers' opportunity to retain fish due to the low abundance of certain Fraser River Chinook stocks.

## 2015 Canadian Federal Election Candidate Survey Form



Page: 6

Anglers are strong supporters of conservation and cooperatively accept part of these regulations in a principled effort to avoid impacting stocks of concern as they rebuild. However, these regulations do negatively influence the social and economic benefits angling provides to South Vancouver Island. For five years, the Sport Fishing Advisory Board has approved and advised DFO about implementing a very minor relaxation of regulations from mid-June to the end of July each year in order to improve the fishery. If approved, this would provide predictability and stability to local anglers and the businesses that support them at a key time of year. It is worth noting here that annually tens of thousands of Chinook escape to the Fraser River; despite that DFO have not approved this very minor relaxation of the regulations even though the request involves only a few Chinook. This is especially troubling when their own catch assessment data shows fundamentally zero risk of negatively impacting the Fraser Chinook in question. SVIAC believes that by their failure to act DFO is not managing the public sport fishery in the best interest of the public they serve, nor are they managing in accordance with the principles agreed to in the Vision of Recreational Fishing in BC. In addition, their failure to act is negatively changing the fishery and DFO are now perceived as being unfairly punitive to South Vancouver Island angling community.

i) - Do you support the angling community getting minor regulation adjustments approved in order to improve their fishery, provided there is no prospective conservation risk?

Please write your answer to question 7 here: [Click here to enter text.](#)



**We Sincerely Thank You For Completing Our Short Survey Form.  
Please Save Your Results and Return the Completed Saved Document  
to SVIAC at [info@anglerscoalition.com](mailto:info@anglerscoalition.com)  
No Later Than 5:00 p.m. on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition** *Society*

 7252 East Saanich Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 1Y4

 (778) 426-4141

 [info@anglerscoalition.com](mailto:info@anglerscoalition.com)

 [www.anglerscoalition.com](http://www.anglerscoalition.com)