

Agriculture

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: Nov. 27, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

Treefruit replant funding

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Background

- In November 2014, a seven-year, \$8.4 million tree fruit replant program was launched
- In June 2016, the B.C. Government added \$1 million more to that commitment, bringing it to \$9.4 million total.
- The program provides partial (about 30%) compensation for expenses tree fruit growers incur to replant their orchards with higher value varieties
- The program has been fully subscribed in each of its first four years, with the B.C. government providing additional funding between \$90,000 and \$130,000 each year as well.

Draft

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: Nov. 27, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

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RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Draft

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: November 29, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

**Ministry of Environment
Hullcar Report**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Background:

The Hullcar Review:

On August 2, 2017, the Province ordered a review into the pollution in Hullcar Aquifer with the end goal of ensuring agricultural practices are consistent with the provision and protection of clean, safe drinking water.

- Oliver Brandes, an independent national water and governance expert, was chosen to provide strategic advice and oversee the review. Calvin Sandborn, legal director with the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre served as special advisor.
- Mr. Brandes provided a review copy of the nearly-final report to the Ministry of Environment Hullcar Review Project team in early October, and to key stakeholders later in October 2017.
- As part of the Hullcar situation review led by ENV, AGRI developed a series of technical and synopsis reports focused on nutrient management to help inform the recommendations developed by POLIS.
- The final report was received November 24, 2017.
- The key stakeholders are: the District of Spallumcheen, the Steele Springs Water, and the Splatshin First Nation.
- Representatives from the agriculture sector were also informed of the report's draft recommendations.
- The final report lists nine sets of recommendations with the end goal of returning the soil nitrate balance and restoring the aquifer to acceptable nitrate levels.
 - The immediate and short term actions contained in those recommendations include a moratorium on spreading liquid manure on areas of concern and ensuring residents have immediate access to clean drinking water.
 - Longer term actions include establishing sustainable governance structures for water utilities in the area, and supporting new technologies.
- AGRI staff are working with Environment staff on a government response to the report's recommendations including implementation approaches.
- The Ministry of Environment has released an intentions paper seeking public comment on proposed amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation that:
 - Will apply to all agricultural operations across the province, including hobby and commercial operations; and
 - Will provide outcome-based requirements to protect the environment and prevent pollution.
- The proposed requirements:
 - Address the concept of a "temporary moratorium" (as recommended in the Hullcar report) by prohibiting land applications in high precipitation areas, including over vulnerable aquifers for a high-risk period.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

- Address the concern regarding intensive livestock operations by limiting the amount of nutrients applied to crop nutrient requirements, which should reduce excess nutrients from leaching into the aquifer.

The Hullcar Aquifer:

- Nitrate levels have consistently exceeded water quality guidelines from March 2014 to present with respect to the Hullcar aquifer which is a drinking water source for the Hullcar Valley. There are 53 residents connected to the Steele Springs Water District (SSWD), 22 independent well users, and the Splatsin which all rely on the aquifer for drinking water.
- The aquifer provides drinking water to as many as 250 people.
- A combination of factors is likely affecting the Hullcar aquifer, but the 2017 Golder Study of the Hullcar Aquifer inferred that due to intensity of agriculture in the region, manure application is likely a primary contributor. It is understood that the nitrates are coming from several area farms/feedlots (primarily manure), and possibly, to a lesser extent, residential septic systems.
- Interior Health (IHA) issued a "Water Quality Advisory" in July 2014 to all drinking water users in Hullcar Valley - not a "Do Not Drink" or "Do Not Use" order. While there is a level of risk associated with consuming the drinking water, it does not meet the threshold for a "Do Not Use" order. Boiling the water will have no effect on nitrate levels.
- As one of AGRI's commitments to the Hullcar Inter-Agency Working Group, the Ministry has completed a voluntary research study looking at residual nitrate levels in agricultural soils over Hullcar Aquifer (2016 Post Harvest Nitrate Study).
 - Results suggest that nitrogen management could have been improved on about half of the 40 fields tested, relative to crop needs.
 - Results do not support the use of post-harvest soil nitrate as a direct measure of the risk of nitrate leaching beyond the root zone during the non-growing season in the North Okanagan, at least not at the soil nitrate concentrations observed in 4 sites that were monitored between the 2016 and 2017 growing seasons.
 - It should not be assumed that post-harvest soil nitrate will eventually leach. It is possible that soil nitrate remaining at the end of one growing season can be recovered by a crop grown the following growing season, particularly if over-irrigation is avoided.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR) 3rd Intentions Paper:

- The Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR) came into force in 1992. The AWCR is the Ministry of Environment's legislation that regulates waste management practices on farms to prevent or reduce environmental impacts to water and air quality.
- In 2009, ENV announced a review of the AWCR. The goal was to update the regulation to provide clear and consistent standards for storing, managing, and using manure, agricultural by-products, and other waste materials. There is a focus on greater environmental protection in high risk areas and conditions (i.e. vulnerable aquifers, high rainfall areas). It identifies restrictions to specific unacceptable practices while removing the onus on ENV to prove pollution.
- Since 2009, ENV has developed 3 Policy Intentions Papers, with the 3rd being informed by the Hullcar Review recommendations.
- The 3rd Intentions Paper introduces new concepts compared to the 2016 final policy document (never publicly released) and the first Intentions Paper from 2015.
- ENV has shared a draft of the 3rd AWCR IP with BCAC, BCCA and BCDA (on November 22, 2017). Generally the feedback was that the paper was well written and that there was less to be concerned about than was expected.
- Once released the paper will be shared with the Agriculture Waste Control Regulation Industry Working Group that is comprised of 28 industry associations, the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) and AGRI. It is this group that will likely be the source of the most feedback and questions and the paper.
- AGRI staff have engaged in and heavily supported the AWCR Review process since 2010 and support the proposed risk based approach to nutrient management.
- Nutrient management planning is an effective tool for supporting environmental sustainability and reducing future groundwater nitrate levels in the long-term.
- The ministry has implemented and expanded its nutrient management program to support increased nutrient management demonstration trials, improved nutrient management calculation tools and targeted funding to the sector to implement beneficial management practices that will promote better nutrient management.
- The Ministry of Environment's strategy aims to set regulatory requirements that are clear, practical, achievable and enforceable to encourage the support and compliance of agricultural producers.

Communications Contact: Meghan
McRae
Program Area Contact: Mark
Raymond

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, November 29, 2017

HULLCAR REPORT – AGRICULTURAL WASTE CONTROL REGULATION

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Background:

- On August 2, 2017, the Province ordered a review into the pollution in Hullcar Aquifer with the end goal of ensuring agricultural practices are consistent with the provision and protection of clean, safe drinking water.
- Oliver Brandes, an independent national water and governance expert, was chosen to provide strategic advice and oversee the review. Calvin Sandborn, legal director with the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre served as special advisor.
- Mr. Brandes provided a review copy of the nearly-final report to the Ministry of Environment Hullcar Review Project team in early October, and to key stakeholders later in October 2017.
- The final report was received November 24, 2017.

- The key stakeholders are: the District of Spallumcheen, the Steele Springs Water, and the agriculture industry.
- The Splatstin First Nation has significant interests in the issue and copies of the draft report have been shared and discussed with them.
- Representatives from the agriculture sector were also informed of the report's draft recommendations.
- The final report lists nine sets of recommendations with the end goal of returning the soil nitrate balance and restoring the aquifer to acceptable nitrate levels.
- The immediate and short term actions contained in those recommendations include a moratorium on spreading liquid manure on areas of concern and ensuring residents have immediate access to clean drinking water.
- Longer term actions include establishing sustainable governance structures for water utilities in the area, and supporting new technologies.
- Accordingly the government has released an intentions paper seeking public comment on proposed amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation that:
 - Will apply to all agricultural operations across the province, including hobby and commercial operations.
 - Will provide outcome-based requirements to protect the environment and prevent pollution. The proposed requirements:
 - Address the concept of a "temporary moratorium" (as recommended in the Hullcar report) by giving the statutory decision maker the discretion to prohibit land applications in high precipitation areas, including over vulnerable aquifers for a high-risk period.
 - This discretion would apply in specific conditions and circumstances, on a case by case basis, based on evidence.
 - Address the concern regarding intensive livestock operations by limiting the amount of nutrients applied to crop nutrient requirements, which should leave no excess nutrients to leach into the aquifer.

The Hullcar Aquifer:

- Nitrate levels have consistently exceeded water quality guidelines from March 2014 to present with respect to the Hullcar aquifer which is a drinking water source for the Hullcar Valley. There are 53 residents connected to the Steele Springs Water District (SSWD), 22 independent well users, and the Splatstin which all rely on the aquifer for drinking water.
- The aquifer provides drinking water to as many as 250 people.
- A combination of factors is likely affecting the Hullcar aquifer, but the 2017 Golder Study of the Hullcar Aquifer identified agriculture as the primary cause. It is understood that the nitrates are coming from several area farms/feedlots (primarily manure), and possibly, to a lesser extent, residential septic systems.
- Interior Health (IHA) issued a "Water Quality Advisory" in July 2014 to all drinking water users in Hullcar Valley - not a "Do Not Drink" or "Do Not Use" order. While there is a level of risk associated with consuming the drinking water, it does not meet the threshold for a "Do Not Use" order. Boiling the water will have no effect on nitrate levels.

GCPE ENV – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Communications Contact: Victoria Klassen Jeffery
Program Area Contact: Ed Hoffman
Last updated November 27/2017 6 pm

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Site C

Highlights:

- The BCUC delivered its final report on the Site C review on November 1st.
- The BCUC assumed that the cost of Site C would rise to \$10 billion and that BC Hydro's low load forecast was the most realistic scenario.
- The BCUC assembled their own alternate energy portfolio based on wind power and significant demand management.
- Based on these assumptions they found that there is little difference in impact on ratepayers between proceeding with Site C or cancelling and building alternate energy.
- The BCUC notes that this could change significantly if the costs of Site C increase further up to \$12 billion (favouring alternate) or if electricity demand increases beyond the low load forecast (favouring Site C).

Contrast:

- When it comes to Site C, the previous government didn't live up to their responsibility, and as a result created this uncertainty.
- It shouldn't have been this way.
- They refused to allow our independent energy watchdog to examine the project to determine if it was in the public interest.
- They started construction without proper regulatory oversight.
- That was irresponsible and it was wrong.

Solution:

- We ordered an independent review of the Site C project by the BC Utilities Commission to ensure we make the right decision for BC families and keep hydro rates affordable.
- We recognize this impacts a lot of people and we thank the BCUC for their work to conduct a comprehensive review within prompt timelines.
- The BCUC received more than six hundred submissions and conducted extensive public consultations and we thank everyone who took the time to participate in this process.
- We will take the time to fully review the BCUC's findings and other issues outside the scope of the review, and engage further with First Nations.
- Given the complexity of the issues involved and the significant and long-term impacts for our province, this is a decision we take very seriously.
- A government decision on the project is anticipated before the end of the year.

Background:

- The report finds that suspending the project and restarting later would greatly increase costs and this is not a recommended option.
- The report concludes that based on an assumption of a \$10 billion cost for Site C, and the use of BC Hydro's low load forecast scenario, when compared with the BCUC's alternative energy portfolio, either option would have very similar impact on ratepayers.
- However their sensitivity analysis finds that if project costs increase to \$12 billion (as was noted was a possibility by Deloitte), it would be significantly lower cost to cancel Site C and build an alternative portfolio.
- Conversely, if electricity demand rose in line with BC Hydro's medium load forecast, it would be significantly cheaper to proceed with Site C.
- BCUC estimates that costs of terminating the project and remediating the site would be \$1.8 billion and accepts BC Hydro's estimate that \$2.2 billion will have been spent by year end.
- BCUC questions BC Hydro's load forecasts and assumptions underlying their cost estimate of alternative energy portfolios.
- The BCUC has adopted BC Hydro's low load forecast as the most realistic.
- The BCUC developed their own alternative energy portfolio for analysis based on wind power, demand-side management, and industrial load curtailment.
- During the process, BC Hydro filed new information indicating that the project was a year behind their construction schedule and will cost an additional \$610 million – bringing the total cost to \$8.95 billion according to BC Hydro
- The BCUC projects that \$10 billion is a more realistic final cost for the project.
- BCUC also indicated that there are further risks to cost and schedule that could increase final costs beyond \$10 billion.
- The panel received 620 written submissions and more than 300 people made presentations at community and First Nations public input sessions around the province.
- Ministers Mungall and Fraser will be meeting with First Nations in mid-November.

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Animal Health Centre

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CHEK News at Five

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Page 037

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Timeline of Events:

Wednesday, August 27, 2017

- Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Midsummer and Swanson Islands began.

Sunday, Sept 8, 2017

- Conversations with Marine Harvest Managing Director Vincent Erenst re: fish farms in Broughton Archipelago

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

- In person with BC Salmon Farmers and Marine Harvest

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

- Conference Call with Marine Harvest (Ian Roberts, Vincent Erenst)

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

- Alert Bay visit from Premier, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Minister of Transportation to hear the concerns of the Namgis, Dzwawdaenuxw, Kwikwasutnuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamlalikula, and Kuterra Nations.
- Conversation between Agriculture DM Wes Shoemaker with Fisheries DM Catherine Blewett regarding Animal and Plant Health Centre and aquaculture.

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

- Met with Minister Dominic LeBlanc to discuss the federal role in aquaculture and the relationship with the province.
- Met with Terry Beech, Parliamentary Secretary to the Fisheries Minister about collaboration with the federal government on aquaculture.

Friday, October 13, 2017

- Minister Popham sent a letter to Marine Harvest re: restocking fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago

Saturday, October 14, 2017

- Marine Harvest sends response to request to consider implications of restocking in the Broughton Archipelago.
- W5 Piece interview with Dr. Kristi Miller-Saunders; s.13, s.16
s.13, s.16

Monday, October 16, 2017

- Meeting with Marine Harvest (Vincent Erenst, Ian Roberts, and Sharon DeDominicis)

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

- Phone conversation with Dr. Kristi Miller-Saunders about s.13, s.16
s.13, s.16

Thursday, October 19, 2017

- Conversation with Dr. Jane Pritchard about the concerns with data produced by lab, and suggestions for how to review and verify the accuracy of data collected.
- Interview with Randy Shore regarding fish farms where he accused Minister Popham of launching an investigation into an individual.

Monday, October 23, 2017

- Conversation between Agriculture DM Wes Shoemaker with Fisheries DM Catherine Blewett regarding Animal and Plant Health Centre.

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: October 20, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

Animal Health Centre

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13,s.16

BACKGROUND:

- On Saturday, October 14, 2017 CTV's W5 aired a story regarding B.C.'s fish farms that called into question the scientific results coming from B.C.'s Animal Health Lab.
- Federal researcher Dr. Kristina Miller alleged during the W5 story that research coming out of the Animal Health Lab that ministry staff have "...a relationship with the industry, and (they are) also ...doing the pathology associated with the regulatory programs. Even if it isn't a conflict of interest, it certainly has the appearance of one."

Communications Contact: Jillian
Milne/Meghan McRae
Program Area Contact: James Mack

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s.16;s.13

Background:

- On an October 14 W5 story on fish farms, an interview with Dr. Kristi Miller, a research scientist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans called into question the research performed by s.13
s.13
- She claimed that s.13 has “a relationship with the industry, and (they are) also...doing the pathology associated with the regulatory programs. Even if it isn’t a conflict of interest, it certainly has the appearance of one.”
- A report published by Evidence for Democracy in April 2017 on scientific research by government scientists:
 - 71 percent of scientists found that the Liberal cuts to science had a negative effect on research capacity and ability to fill their mandate.
 - 49 percent of scientists believed that Liberal interference compromised their ministry’s ability to develop laws, policies and programs based on scientific evidence.

Fish Processing Plants

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Fish Processing Plants

s.13,s.16

Background:

- Fish plant is operating on permits that are 30 years old.
- The last inspection of the plant was conducted in 2013.
- Environment ministry staff are expected to be on site early next week (target is Tuesday) to inspect and take samples.
- Test results are expected to take a few days.

Blood Pipe

s.13,s.16

Blood Pipe

s.13,s.16

Fish Farms

s.13,s.16

Page 055

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s.16;s.13

Background:

- **Wed, Aug 27, 2017:** Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Midsummer and Swanson Islands began.
- **Sun, Sept 8, 2017:** Conversations with Marine Harvest Managing Director Vincent Erenst re: fish farms in Broughton Archipelago
- **Wed, Sept 13, 2017:** In person with BC Salmon Farmers and Marine Harvest
- **Wed, Sept 27, 2017:** Conference Call with Marine Harvest (Ian Roberts, Vincent Erenst)
- **Tues, Oct 10, 2017:** Alert Bay visit from Premier, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Minister of Transportation to hear the concerns of the Namgis, Dzwawdaenuxw, Kwikwasutnuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamlalikula, and Kuterra Nations.
- Conversation between Agriculture DM Wes Shoemaker with Fisheries DM Catherine Blewett regarding Animal and Plant Health Centre and aquaculture.
- **Wed, Oct 11, 2017:** Met with Minister Dominic LeBlanc to discuss the federal role in aquaculture and the relationship with the province.
- Met with Terry Beech, Parliamentary Secretary to the Fisheries Minister about collaboration with the federal government on aquaculture.
- **Fri, Oct 13, 2017:** Minister Popham sent a letter to Marine Harvest re: restocking fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago
- **Saturday, October 14, 2017:** Marine Harvest sends response to request to consider implications of restocking in the Broughton Archipelago.
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s.13,s.16
- **Monday, October 16, 2017:** Meeting with Marine Harvest (Vincent Erenst, Ian Roberts, and Sharon DeDominicis)
- **Tuesday, October 17, 2017:** Phone conversation with Dr. Kristi Miller-Saunders^{s.13,s.16}

- **Thursday, October 19, 2017:** Conversation with Dr. Jane Pritchard about the concerns with data produced by lab, and suggestions for how to review and verify the accuracy of data collected.
- Interview with Randy Shore regarding fish farms where he accused Minister Popham of launching an investigation into an individual.
- **Monday, October 23, 2017:** Conversation between Agriculture DM Wes Shoemaker with Fisheries DM Catherine Blewett regarding Animal and Plant Health Centre.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: Oct.23, 2017 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Marine Harvest
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RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13,s.16

BACKGROUND:

- On October 13, 2017 Marine Harvest vessel on route to deliver smolts to Gilford Island fish farm. Occupiers of the Swanson and Midsummer farms, as well as other protestors, are aware, and there is some discussion about planning to block the Marine Harvest vessel in order to prevent delivery.
- On October 13, 2017, a letter drafted by Agriculture Minister Lana Popham was sent to Marine Harvest Canada regarding their decision to restock the Port Elizabeth salmon farm.
- The letter explains all tenures with leases expiring June 2018 will be reviewed by the government.

Salmon farming in B.C.

- The federal government licenses the production and growing of the fish, and the province's role is to provide the land tenure for the anchor that positions the pens to the ocean foreshore.
- As of July 2017, there are 65 operating salmon farms in B.C.
- In 2016 there were 4 reported incidents, with 22 confirmed escaped fish.

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Fish Farms

Highlights:

- There have been ongoing occupations of Fish Farms in the Broughton Archipelago and concurrent protests at several MLA constituency offices over the previous month.
- Protesters are calling for the provincial and/or federal governments to remove all fish farms from the BC coast.

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: September 9, 2017 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Open Pen Fish Farms
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Messaging on DFO responsibilities

As a result of the Hinson decision in 2010, oversight responsibility for fish farms now rests with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

As a result, DFO has regulatory authority over the industry including issues such as risk of disease transfer to wild fish populations, incidents with predators, fish escapes, siting decisions, and any other matters relating to fish health.

Fish Farms

Background:

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- Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Swanson and Midsummer Islands in the Broughton Archipelago began in August after about 300,000 salmon escaped a fish farm net in the San Juan Islands.
- Hereditary Chief Willie Moon from Musgamagw Dzawda'enuxw and Hereditary Chief Ernest Alfred from Nagmis, Lawit'sis and Mamlilikala have been occupying the sites throughout and observing Marine Harvest Operations.
- David Suzuki has stayed overnight with the chiefs and has amplified their requests.
- On October 10, the Premier, as well as Ministers Popham, Fraser and Trevena visited Alert Bay to discuss and listen to feedback from First Nations about fish farms.
- On October 13, Marine Harvest began restocking operations at sites in the area of the occupations.
- On October 13, the Minister of Agriculture sent a letter to Marine Harvest requesting that they consider the potential negative impacts to their business if they restock farms with only eight months before they are up for renewal.
- 2016's Fraser River sockeye salmon run is reported to be the lowest, or among the lowest, ever.
- The original 2016 forecast of 2.3 million is much lower than the last 50 year average, of about 4 million. Returns thus far suggest only ½ of those forecast to return, are doing so. In contrast,
- To preserve stocks, the federal government has closed the Fraser River sockeye fishery to commercial and recreational fisheries. 40,000 sockeye have been allocated to First Nations for food, social and ceremonial purposes.

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Fish Farms

Issue: As of September 1, 2017 two fish farms are being occupied by First Nations. The protestors say they won't leave until the government revokes the permits.

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BACKGROUND:

- On Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017, media reported about 300,000 salmon escaped a fish farm net in the San Juan Islands. No escapes took place in B.C. waters.
- On Monday, Aug. 28, 2017, protesters from the 'Namgis, Tlowitsis and Mamalilikulla First Nations began occupying the Swanson Island fish farm. The protesters have asked that permits be revoked and are citing health and environmental concerns about the farms after gathering footage of deformed fish, with unknown ailments, and the major Atlantic salmon spill in Washington last week.
- On Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017 the Shishalh Nations reported Atlantic salmon has been verified in the Sabine Channel, Sechelt, B.C. The Shishalh Nations is the third group, along with Namgis (Swanson Island) and the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw to express concerns regarding the escaped Atlantic salmon.
- On Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, media reports indicated lumber was delivered to the fish farm on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017 and the construction of a house structure is underway by protesters.
- Additional hereditary chiefs from 'Namgis and Mamalilikala arrived to support the occupation.
- Protesters indicated they plan on remaining long-term at the fish farm until the Province revokes the Swanson Island License of Occupation (LOO). Those involved with Operation Virus Hunter II have identified that B.C. can revoke the LOO if the project is found to be not in the Province's best interest.
- On August 31st, 2017 members of the Dzawada'enuxw and Kwikwasutinuxw Haxwamis First Nation led by Chief Okwilagame (Willie Moon), began occupying Wicklow Fish Farm near Port Hardy.
- Representatives from Operation Virus Hunter II have started collecting information regarding the capture of any Atlantic salmon in Pacific waters.
- British Columbians who catch what they believe to be an Atlantic salmon should keep the fish and report it to the Atlantic Salmon Watch Program hotline.
- Media have reported that experts have offered mixed opinions about the potential impact:
 - The chief biologist of the Pacific Salmon Commission Michael Lapointe, which manages salmon stocks under a treaty between Canada and the United States, said the release is unlikely to harm wild salmon over the long term.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

- John Volpe, an associate professor at the University of Victoria studying the introduction of Atlantic salmon into B.C.'s waters, said there is simply not enough evidence to declare how these escaped fish will affect the region.
- Critics of salmon aquaculture in B.C. have reported that farmed salmon pose health risks, such as disease and sea lice, to wild salmon stocks.
- British Columbians who catch Atlantic Salmon should report it to the federal government's Atlantic Salmon Watch Program @ 1-800-811-6010 or <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/aquaculture/aswp/index-eng.html>

Salmon farming in B.C.

- The federal government licenses the production and growing of the fish, and the province's role is to provide the land tenure for the anchor that positions the pens to the ocean foreshore.
- As of July 2017, there are 65 operating salmon farms in B.C.
- In 2016 there were 4 reported incidents, with 22 confirmed escaped fish.
- In 2015, there were 3 reported incidents, with 3 confirmed escaped fish;
- Some factors that could contribute to failures of the fish farm net containment system include:
 - Biofouling (ie: the growth of organisms such as plants, barnacles, algae, etc.)
 - Ice build-up
 - Marine mammal interactions or other factors that could contribute to failures of the containment system.

Government's commitments on aquaculture industry

- "We will ensure that the salmon farming industry does not endanger wild salmon by implementing the recommendations of the Cohen Commission, keeping farm sites out of important salmon migration routes, and supporting research and transparent monitoring to minimize the risk of disease from captive to wild fish; We will also provide incentives to help the aquaculture industry transition to closed containment where possible." -2017 BC NDP Platform

Communications Contact: Meghan

McRae

Program Area Contact: James Mack

Min of
Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (MAACFA) report that I expect to receive later this fall.

- Our government is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Cohen Commission.
- We're committed to working with First Nations, the aquaculture industry, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to ensure BC's aquaculture sector is environmentally sustainable and respects First Nations' rights while providing good jobs for British Columbians

If asked about the Federal government's role in fish farming in B.C. waters:

- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is the lead agency with respect to farms in Canada; all discussions on aquaculture licensing must include them.
- I have met with Minister Leblanc to discuss with him what I've heard over the past few days, and I let him know that I expect the federal government to take a seat at the table for these discussions.

If asked about the protesters at aquaculture sites near Swanson Island:

- We respect the right of people to engage in peaceful protests. In every situation, we ask people to remain respectful of one another.
- We encourage resolution of issues through discussion wherever possible. We believe negotiation is the best way to resolve issues.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: Oct.24, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

ALC Panel Appointments

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13,s.16

BACKGROUND:

On October 25, 2017 an Order in Council (OIC) was approved resulting in the following changes to the composition of the ALC's panels

- Appoint Dave Zehnder, replacing Sharon Mielnichuk, as Vice Chair – Kootenay Panel for 3

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

years.

- Re-appoint Honey Forbes to the Island Panel for 3 years (term expired Oct 8, 2017).
- Re-appoint Greg Norton to the Okanagan Panel for 3 years, after his appointment expires Dec 30, 2017.
- Re-appoint Ian Knudsen to the Kootenay Panel for 3 years (term expired Oct 8, 2017).
- Re-appoint that Satwinder Bains to the South Coast Panel for 3 years (term expired Oct 8, 2017).
- Appoint that James Berge to the North Panel for 2 years.
- Appoint lone Smith to the South Coast Panel for 2 years.
- Rescind appointment of Sam Wind to the South Coast Panel.

Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX

From: Beale, William AGRI:EX
ent: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 9:59 AM
To: Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: ALC Board Members (Bios)

David Zehnder:

Dave Zehnder owns Zehnder beef along with his brothers. They worked together to develop a management plan for the property which one of the brothers takes a lead on operating. David has a passion for both agriculture and ecology and has worked in BC and across the world on related projects. He is a Certified Environmental Farm Plan Advisor.

ALC Letter

s.13,s.16



B.C. MLA's e-mails shed new light on ALR backroom politics

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Exclusion of land for industry not in mandate of ALR: agriculture minister

City of Abbotsford plans to ask for exclusion of ALR lands to increase industrial land supply

TYLER OLSEN / Aug. 11, 2017 11:30 a.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: November 17, 2017 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Breweries on the ALR
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RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13,s.16

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

s.13,s.16

BACKGROUND:

- On Thursday, November 9, the Ministry of Agriculture announced a change in regulations that enables all alcohol producers to operate within the ALR, providing they source at least 50% of the primary farm product used in their alcohol from their own and other B.C. farms.
- The previous government had previously changed the regulation in 2015 to allow this flexibility for wineries and cideries, but did not include other alcohol producers, such as breweries, meaderies and distilleries.
- Persephone Brewery, on the Sunshine Coast, was one stakeholder affected by the previous government's decision, and had applied to the ALC for an exception. Their application had been denied by the ALC.

Foreign Ownership of ALR

s.13

ALR and Foreign Buyers

s.13

WTO Complaint on BC Wines

s.13

ADVICE TO MINISTER

**CONFIDENTIAL
ISSUES NOTE**

Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Date: Oct. 3, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Bruce Ralston

NAFTA Renegotiations - B.C. Wine in Grocery Stores

s.13,s.16

BACKGROUND:

On Sept. 28, 2017, the US permanent mission to the World Trade Organization requested consultation about some B.C. measures (law, regulations) governing the sale of wine in grocery stores and the request has attracted media attention.

Several media outlets have reported on the U.S. administration's concern over the sale of B.C.-only wine in B.C. grocery stores, and it may include this item in the NAFTA renegotiation with the Government of Canada.

The U.S. launched a trade enforcement action against Canada through the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement process in January 2017. New Zealand, Australia, Argentina and the European Union joined the dispute as third parties. The U.S. administration claims that the sale of B.C.-only wine in grocery stores gives B.C. producers a market advantage and has an adverse effect on U.S. wine producers. The first stage in this process is consultations, and the U.S. had a consultation meeting with Canada on April 21, 2017.

The U.S. Trade Representative has indicated that the administration may go to a dispute settlement panel in Geneva or seek resolution of their concerns in the NAFTA renegotiations with the Government of Canada, as it believes that WTO's preliminary consultations failed to address its concerns.

In August 2017, Canada's International Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne told media that the federal government will protect Canadian interests, including B.C.'s wine industry, during NAFTA renegotiations with the U.S.

Concerns have been voiced in the media that the Province might be unable to protect B.C. wineries' interests against international pressures.

Attorney General David Eby, formerly the critic for liquor policy, predicted that in the future, other imported wines will be sold at B.C. grocery stores.

"We know what the trade obligations are going to result in, which is the opening of the grocery-store shelves," he told the House last year. "That will be, initially, all B.C. products. Then it will be all products. So if it's all wine products, then it will be international wine products as well, because it is very difficult to justify, under trade obligations, anything else."
(Times Colonist: Grocery wine becomes NDP's problem, Aug. 10, 2017)

The 1987 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement had some measures to protect the Canadian wine industry, in exchange for opening up the Canadian market to more U.S. wines. These protections allow those stores that were currently selling only B.C. wine to continue to do so, and these protections were integrated into NAFTA in 1994.

In addition, the Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) allows up to 60 B.C.-only wine stores in the Province, of which 49 are now in operation.

Communications Contact: Jessica Li & Tasha Schollen (JTT)

Program Contact: Janna Jesse

Last updated: Sept. 29, 2017

Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: November 27, 2017 - Updated

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

**Emergency Response:
AgriRecovery**

s.13

BACKGROUND:

- As of Nov. 27, 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture has received 55 applications.
- As of Nov. 1, 2017, the Ministry had received 25 applications.

Timeline:

- On Aug. 16th, the governments of Canada and British Columbia announced they are working under the AgriRecovery disaster framework to determine the type of assistance that may be required by British Columbia's agriculture sector to recover from the impact of wildfires.
- On Sept 5th, the federal and provincial government announced a \$20-million AgriRecovery program to help ranchers and farmers recover from losses from the 2017 wildfires.

Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

- On Oct 5th, it was announced that applications are now available for farmers and ranchers looking to access the Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Recovery Initiative.

Further Background:

- This investment is cost-shared 60:40 between the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia.
- Coverage includes:
 - Up to 70 per cent of extraordinary feed costs,-a per/head/day payment based on feed requirements to ensure timely assistance through the recovery period;
 - A per head payment of up to \$80 per breeding animal to help producers with costs including:
 - Up to \$80 per head to re-establish safe winter feeding facilities and general clean-up,
 - Up to 70 per cent of the rental of temporary production facilities,
 - Up to 70 per cent of the market value of breeding animals for mortality;
 - Up to 70 per cent of extraordinary costs incurred by an industry organization and not paid by another agency or government department; and
 - Up to 70 per cent of the extraordinary costs required to return to normal crop production, including:
 - Critical infrastructure not covered by insurance.
 - Labour costs to repair private fences.
 - Reseeding/re-establishment of tame forage and other perennials damaged by fires.
- A federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs is available to help farmers in managing disaster events, including wildfires. These include AgriStability, AgriInvest and AgriInsurance. AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework intended to work together with the core BRM programs to help agricultural producers recover from natural disasters.

Communications Contact: J. Milne

Program Area Contact: A. Lalani

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Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: November 2, 2017 - Updated

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

**Emergency Response:
AgriRecovery**

s.13

BACKGROUND:

- As of Nov. 1, 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture has received 25 applications of which 40% arrived in the last seven days.
- Currently, four applications have already been approved for \$322,000.

Timeline:

- On Aug. 16th, the governments of Canada and British Columbia announced they are working under the AgriRecovery disaster framework to determine the type of assistance that may be required by British Columbia's agriculture sector to recover from the impact of wildfires.
- On Sept 5th, the federal and provincial government announced a \$20-million AgriRecovery program to help ranchers and farmers recover from losses from the 2017 wildfires.
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Advice to Minister-CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

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Communications Contact: J. Milne

Program Area Contact: A. Lalani

Wildfire Recovery - Agriculture

Premise 10

s.13

Grow BC, Feed BC, Buy BC

s.13

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture Date: Nov. 2, 2017 - Updated Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham	Living Conditions of Agricultural TFW's
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RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

Background:

- The Temporary Foreign Worker Program is a federal immigration program that enables Canadian employers to hire foreign nationals to fill skills and labour shortages on a temporary basis.
- TFWs have access to provincially-funded services that are available to all workers (workplace safety, employment and housing standards, health care, consumer protection, workers' compensation, policing, and court services).
- The Employment Standards Branch (ESB) enforces legislation and regulations regarding wages, holidays, and working conditions for all workers and provides help in person, on-line or through a toll-free number.
- Demand for TFWs is highest in agriculture, information and cultural industries, and manufacturing.
- In 2016, BC received 9,692 Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) from all Agricultural Occupations, an 8.2 percent increase from 2015.
- Over 77 percent (7,550) of foreign agricultural workers in BC are in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program.
- The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) organizes inspections of TFW housing, using updated industry-developed housing guidelines that exceed federal program requirements in many areas.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Industrial Camps Regulation (Ministry of Health)

- The Ministry of Health provides policy support for land use management, which includes regulating industrial camps.
- The regulation outlines the requirements for a number of public-health-related factors, including:
 - camp siting and size
 - arrangement of camp facilities (including sleeping accommodations)
 - provision of safe drinking water
 - location and construction of sewage facilities
 - waste management

Communications Contact:

Program Area Contact:

Meghan McRae

Draft