

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**  
**FOR MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH**

Ref: 189805

Date: February 13, 2019

**Title:** Recommendations of Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food Report on Local Meat Production and Inspection in British Columbia and increased oversight of provincial slaughter establishments.

**Issue:** Deputy Ministers Agriculture and Health to discuss licensing and oversight of provincial slaughter establishments and transfer of responsibilities to Agriculture from Health Authorities.

**Background:**

- On September 28, 2018, the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (SSCAFF) released its report Local Meat Production and Inspection in British Columbia (Report). The Report has 21 recommendations, eight of which address abattoir licensing and oversight (X-Ref: 189111: Standing Committee Report on BC Meat Production).
- On December 17, 2018, Minister Popham provided direction for Deputy Ministers (DM) of Agriculture and Health to discuss transfer of Class D and E establishments back to Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI), and the transfer of responsibility for processing and retail at Class A establishments to AGRI.
- Minister's direction is in response to:
  - Recommendation 1: AGRI to look for ways to improve cross-ministry coordination, collaboration and communication to expand current meat inspection and enforcement services to realize efficiencies, minimize risks, ensure consistency, and simplify practices for producers and processors.
  - Recommendation 2: AGRI (or AGRI's designate, the Health Authorities) increase resources to enable engagement with Class D and E establishments to ensure increased inspections at those facilities, including slaughter.
  - Recommendation 8: Make sufficient resources available for enforcement to ensure compliance in relation to regulations regarding the humane treatment of animals by those engaged in all aspects of meat production and inspection.
- In 2012, the Food Safety Act's Meat Inspection Regulation (MIR) animal slaughter responsibilities were transferred from Ministry of Health (HLTH) to AGRI. This divided food safety responsibilities for meat between AGRI (animal slaughter) and HLTH (meat processing and retail).
- AGRI administers animal slaughter at 42 Class A, and 18 Class B (slaughter only) establishments.
- There is no traditional slaughter inspection at Class D and E establishments. AGRI delegated authority to Health Authorities (HA) for licensing and inspection of (66) Class D and E establishments related to slaughter.

**Discussion:**

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**Seafood Inspection (See Appendix C)**

- Although not directly linked to the Report, seafood inspection has been part of the ongoing discussion about distribution of food safety responsibilities between HAs and AGRI.
- AGRI administers the Fish and Seafood Act, and has food safety inspection responsibility for 425 seafood processors, fish receiver and fisher vendor licenses.
- In 2014, AGRI assumed responsibility for seafood inspections, after HAs withdrew services due to a disagreement about inspection duties.
- In January 2017, Regional Directors of Health Protection Council agreed to explore an expanded role for inspection of fish processing but have not been able to reach an agreement on service with AGRI and HLTH.
- Consequently, AGRI will continue to conduct seafood inspections and work collaboratively with HAs for overall food safety but will not pursue further discussion about transfer of seafood inspection to HAs.

**Summary:**

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Contact: Gavin Last, E/D Food Safety and Inspection Branch, 778-974-3819

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**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR DM FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING**  
**April 8, 2019 with the BCGGA**

Ref: 189986

Date: March 20, 2019

**Title:** Impact of volatile prices for natural gas on the greenhouse vegetable sector

**Issue:** Instability in the price of natural gas will continue until the constraints to supply are resolved

**Background:**

On October 9, 2018, there was an explosion on Enbridge's T-South natural gas pipeline near Prince George. The damage was repaired quickly, but Enbridge must inspect the entire pipeline for damage (e.g. cracks, corrosion) and make any necessary repairs before it can return to full capacity. As of March 1, the maximum operating pressure was at 85 per cent. Enbridge expects to have the pipeline back to full service by November 1, 2019. However, that will not be possible if critical work to be completed this winter is postponed to winter 2019/20.

The reduction in pipeline capacity and other factors have led to: 1) extreme spikes in the spot price of natural gas and 2) more frequent curtailment of gas use for greenhouses on an interruptible transportation rate. Curtailment is used at the discretion of FortisBC to protect the integrity of the supply system due to operational or weather-related system constraints. Greenhouse operations select interruptible service to get a lower rate on the delivery charges. Curtailment indirectly increases the price of fuel because operators need to switch to an alternative fuel (e.g. diesel at \$29/GJ).

Fuel accounts for 12 per cent of the annual operating costs for greenhouse vegetable operations (CANSIM). Increases in fuel prices will quickly lead to an escalation of operating costs, especially from January to March when fuel use is at a peak (i.e., the three-month period accounts for 37 per cent of annual fuel use). Greenhouses being supplied through "pooled" purchasing by Cascadia Energy Ltd. paid an average of \$23.94/GJ for natural gas in February and \$51.27/GJ for the first two weeks of March. This equates to more than an 8-fold increase relative to the commodity price prior to the explosion.

**First Nations Considerations:**

The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation near Prince George has filed a lawsuit against Enbridge with the B.C. Supreme Court. It has been reported the lawsuit asks for a permanent injunction to prevent Enbridge from operating the pipeline in their territory and reserves, and asks for a mandatory injunction to require the company to immediately dismantle and remove the pipeline from its lands.

**Discussion:**

The sector s.13 has taken steps to reduce the impact, such as recommissioning biomass boilers and selling contracted gas supplies that are not needed. Another step many operations took was to delay planting to increase the number of months the greenhouse would remain unheated. Unfortunately, this had limited benefit because of the late winter. The record cold weather and highest prices for natural gas occurred in February and early March, after all of the acreage had been planted. Once the crop is planted, growers cannot reduce the temperature or rate of CO2 fertilization to save energy because it would result in a weaker plant, which would compromise its yield and quality for the entire year.

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**Suggested Response:**

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Contact: Dave Woodske, Greenhouse Specialist, 604 556-3044

ED MR      ADM AL      DM WS

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR DEPUTY MINISTER INFORMATION FOR MEETING WITH**  
**CANOPY GROWTH ON APRIL 10, 2019**

Ref: 190004

Date: April 1, 2019

**Title:** Deputy Minister meeting with Canopy Growth on April 10, 2019 to discuss technological developments related to odour and their facilities in Aldergrove and Delta.

**Issue:** Canopy Growth is concerned with Metro Vancouver's proposed bylaw amendment that aims to regulate cannabis production emissions as it may be overly restrictive of cannabis production operations.

**Background:**

- Canopy Growth is a major investor in commercial cannabis production in Canada, with large scale facilities in Ontario and British Columbia (BC). Canopy Growth's cannabis greenhouse operations in BC are located on Agricultural Land Reserve land in Aldergrove and Delta.
- Canopy Growth is the subject of an ongoing BC Farm Industry Review Board complaint regarding the odour associated with its cannabis production operation in Aldergrove.
- In August 2018, Canopy Growth met with Deputy Minister Shoemaker to discuss issues they were experiencing with Metro Vancouver's delegated air quality powers as they relate to Canopy Growth's production facilities and odour management, as well as normal farm practices and protections under the *Farm Practices Protection Act* (FPPA).
- Metro Vancouver (MV) has drafted a discussion paper about regulating cannabis production emissions within its jurisdiction. The proposed discussion paper was on the agenda for the March 15, 2019, meeting of the MV Regional District Board's Climate Action Committee; they are expected to formally release the paper for public consultation in the near future.

**Discussion:**

- On February 11, 2019, Canopy Growth requested a meeting with Deputy Minister Shoemaker to discuss how they are addressing concerns about odour generated from their cannabis production operations.
- On March 13, 2019, Canopy Growth followed up with an email to Deputy Minister Shoemaker expressing their concern about MV's discussion paper as they believe that MV is attempting to overstep its authority and potentially contravening the FPPA s.13,s.16
- s.13,s.16
- s.14,s.16
- On March 19, 2019, Ministry of Agriculture staff met with MV and Ministry of Environment staff to talk about the discussion paper that will be released for public consultation. Key discussion points from the meeting include:
  - s.13,s.16

**Suggested Response:**

- Staff from the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment will be undertaking a technical review of Metro Vancouver's discussion paper, and will provide comments back to Metro Vancouver, as part of the consultation period.

Contact: Reed Bailey, Land Use Planner, 778-698-3455

DIR/MGR WM ED                      ADM AL DM WS

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS RESPECTING BROUGHTON ARCHIPELAGO FISH FARMS**

Ref: 190128

Date: April 8, 2019

**Title:** Implementation of the recommendations respecting fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago.

**Issue:** Implementation is reaching key milestones and preparation is underway for public communications.

**Background:** On January 30, 2018, the Provincial Government, represented by Ministers Lana Popham, Doug Donaldson, Scott Fraser and George Heyman, met with five bands representing six First Nations (Dzawada'eunuw, Kwikwasut'inuxw-Haxwa'mis, Gwawaenuk, 'Namgis, and Mamalilikulla) to discuss the issue of salmon farm tenures in their asserted territories within the Broughton Archipelago. At the January 30 meeting, the Nations and Province agreed to move forward on a consent-based government-to-government (G2G) process to reach agreement related to historical concerns about these tenures.

On June 27, 2018, the consent-based G2G process regarding salmon aquaculture in the Broughton Area was formalized in a letter of understanding (LOU). The Province and the 'Namgis, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis and Mamalilikulla First Nations (collectively "the LOU First Nations") are signatories to the LOU. A total of 17 tenures are listed under the LOU.

On December 14, 2018 the Province and the LOU First Nations announced the endorsement of the recommendations resulting from the LOU process. The Province, the LOU First Nations, and aquaculture companies with tenures in the area jointly support the recommendations.

**Discussion:** In accordance with the LOU recommendations, the partners worked collaboratively to complete an Implementation Plan (Attached) by March 31, 2019. This work was completed by a "Collaborative Implementation Forum" comprised of representatives from the LOU First Nations, provincial ministries, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and industry (Cermaq and MOWI). The recommendations from the LOU process that are addressed in the final Implementation Plan include:

- Creating an orderly transition in farm tenures from 17 to 10. Remaining farms will be renewed until 2023 and will face new operating requirements.
- Developing an Indigenous Monitoring and Inspection Program to oversee the farms.
- Investments in wild salmon habitat restoration.
- Investments in new technologies to address environmental risks.
- Commitment to increase provincial resources for Crown land tenuring.

The Implementation Plan also incorporates timelines, a governance structure, communication protocols, activities and workplans, and budgeting.

In addition, on March 31, 2019, all statutory decisions for the 17 tenures listed under the LOU were completed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), including renewals and decommissioning of sites.

The Province has continued to provide ongoing capacity funding to the Nations for post-recommendations engagement, including engagement to facilitate completion of the Implementation Plan by March 31, 2019. Additional funding has been secured from year-end surplus of the Indigenous Funding Envelope, which will provide core G2G capacity for the Nations and secretariat support for FY 19/20. It is expected that the proponents will supplement the Province's capacity funding to the Nations that provide capacity funding for their own engagement.

Funding to deliver on the Implementation Plan will be negotiated with industry as well as through a proposal for federal-provincial funding from the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). BCSRIF was jointly announced by the federal government and the Province on March 15, 2019. At the announcement, the Province highlighted a number of priority areas for funding, including its interest in continuing to support the implementation of the recommendations around aquaculture in the Broughton Archipelago.

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#### **Next Steps:**

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Contact: David Travia, Director Intergovernmental Relations, Seafood and Trade, 778-974-3764

ED   LH             ADM   JM             DM   WS

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 190129

Date: April 24, 2019

**Title:** Meeting with Fisheries and Oceans Canada Executives to Discuss BCSRIF – May 3, 2019

**Issue:** Approvals Required for the First Intake of BCSRIF Expressions of Interest

**Background:** On March 15, 2019, Premier Horgan and federal Minister Andrew Wilkinson announced a \$142.85M five-year joint investment to create the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). The federal government committed \$100M to the fund and the provincial contribution to BCSRIF is \$42.85M (70:30 contribution ratio).

At the March 15<sup>th</sup> announcement, the provincial funding priorities for the first year of BCSRIF were identified as follows:

- Protecting critical salmonid habitats from loss or degradation and investing in the restoration of critical habitats that have been lost or degraded.
- Maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon populations, with focus on existing community-based hatcheries and community education.
- Supporting the implementation of the recommendations that were provided by First Nations governments, industry and the Province around aquaculture in the Broughton Archipelago.

During this announcement, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) opened BCSRIF to the first Expressions of Interest (EOI) process. The deadline for eligible applicants to submit an EOI for project funding was April 15. The short timeframe for this first intake of EOI was due to DFO's desire to have review and approvals concluded by May 3. This will allow for final negotiations of some funding agreements to be concluded in time for public announcements prior to any federal restrictions on public communications in advance of the upcoming federal election.

**First Nations Considerations:** All coastal First Nations and many interior First Nations have a cultural connection with salmon and are intimately involved in salmon fisheries, management and habitat restoration. About 31 percent of all commercial fishing jobs (including processing) are held by B.C.'s Indigenous people. Salmon farms are currently located in the traditional territories of 28 First Nations, with 20 economic and social partnerships in place with B.C. salmon farmers. 78% of B.C.'s farmed salmon production comes from areas covered by partnerships with First Nations. First Nations communities provide approximately 20% of the workforce in the aquaculture and fishing sector, substantially higher than the provincial average of 5%.

**Discussion:** The first BCSRIF EOI intake resulted in 191 submissions. Of these submitted, 22 are not advancing as they were deemed to not meet the eligibility criteria. For the others, a joint review process for these EOIs is currently underway involving DFO and provincial subject matter experts (includes staff from the following ministries: Agriculture; Environment; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and, Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development). This process will result in a list of EOI proponents who are eligible for BCSRIF funding and who have submitted an EOI that is highly-aligned with the priorities of BCSRIF by April 30th.

Due to compressed timelines, the EOI's will be reviewed jointly by the ADM Management Committee and the DM Steering Committee on May 3rd between DFO and Ministry of Agriculture with the goal to approve the recommendations brought forth by the work of the cross-ministry review process. DFO, as the implementing party, will be responsible for communicating the outcome of the decision-making review, including inviting the successful EOI proponents to submit complete application packages as soon as possible. The provincial staff and DFO will be responsible for reviewing completed application packages to ensure all information

required has been submitted with the goal to have some funding agreements able to be announced in May/June 2019 in advance of the federal election black out period.

As the priority on May 3<sup>rd</sup> is to review the EOI's, a detailed discussion of governance protocols and administrative procedures for BCSRIF will be brought to the BCSRIF Steering Committee (consists of the Deputy Ministers of each party) and BCSRIF Management Committee (consists of a Ministry of Agriculture Assistant Deputy Minister and a DFO Regional Director General) for their review and approval during the summer 2019 in advance of the next EOI intake period.

**Next Steps:**

- **A list of recommended EOIs will be finalized by DFO and provincial staff on April 30.**
- **The BCSRIF Steering Committee and BCSRIF Management Committee will meet jointly on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to review and approve the list of recommended EOIs.**
- **DFO will communicate the results of the May 3 meeting to EOI proponents, including inviting successful EOI proponents to submit complete application and proposal packages as soon as possible.**
- **DFO and provincial staff will review complete application and proposal packages to support DFO-led negotiations with applicants towards executed funding agreements.**
- **Some funding agreements are expected to be announced in May/June 2019, in advance of the federal election.**

Contact: Mike Renaud, Corporate Governance, Policy & Legislation Branch, (778) 974-3834

ED   LH             ADM   JM             DM   WS

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING WITH MARK**  
**ZACHARIAS, JOHN ALLAN, AND DEPUTY MINISTER TIM SARGENT**

Ref: 190145

Date: April 10, 2019

**Title:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada Deputy Minister coming to Victoria to meet with select provincial Deputy Ministers.

**Issue:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Deputy Minister Tim Sargent has invited Deputy Ministers from the Ministries of Agriculture (AGRI), Environment (ENV), and Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) to discuss high priority fish and seafood files in the Pacific Region.

**Background:**

On January 7, 2019, the Prime Minister appointed Tim Sargent to the position of DFO Deputy Minister (DM). Previous to this transition Tim was the Deputy Minister for International Trade and an Assistant Deputy Minister in Finance and Agriculture and Agri-Food. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of British Columbia.

On April 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>, DM Sargent will be co-chairing the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) Deputies' meeting in Saskatoon. AGRI DM Shoemaker will be attending in person as representative for British Columbia. DM Sargent will be also be AGRI DM Shoemaker's counterpart moving forward on the DM Steering Committee for the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF), setting annual priorities for that program.

DM Sargent has requested a lunch meeting with provincial DMs. The following are the priority topics for discussion:

- Chinook salmon conservation measures for 2019,
- Southern resident killer whales (SRKW);
- Broughton negotiations;
- Interior Fraser steelhead; and,
- Interchange agreement for Dr. Gary Marty.

**First Nations Considerations:**

All coastal First Nations and many interior First Nations have a cultural connection with salmon and killer whales and are intimately involved in salmon fisheries, management and habitat restoration. About 31 percent of all commercial fishing jobs (including processing) are held by B.C.'s Indigenous people. First Nations communities provide approximately 20 per cent of the workforce in the aquaculture and fishing sector, substantially higher than the provincial average of 5 per cent. First Nations are also becoming more invested in the recreational fishing industry, through ownership of lodges and charter operations.

**Discussion:**

**1. Chinook salmon conservation measures - 2019**

s.16

**Suggested Response:**

- **B.C. understands that there are significant conservation concerns regarding southern chinook salmon stocks and that restrictions on these fish are the result of difficult decisions.**
- **However, full socio-economic impact analysis of the effects of the proposed Scenarios should be considered, especially in light of the thousands of jobs and businesses that rely on commercial and recreational fishing in this region.**
- **B.C., along with DFO, is investing in salmon recovery through the new BCSRIF, and ready to step up as a government in supporting wild salmon stocks and the communities that depend on them.**

**2. Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW)**

In 2003, Northern Resident Killer Whales were listed as Threatened, and SRKW were listed as Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The Recovery Strategy for Resident Killer Whales was drafted by DFO and Parks Canada and was finalized in 2008 and amended in 2011. Partial Critical Habitat was defined as part of this Recovery Strategy. In 2017, the Action Plan for Resident Killer Whales was published to the Species at Risk Public Registry, and one of the actions identified was to identify and protect additional areas of critical habitat.

In spring of 2018, DFO launched consultations on management measures for SRKW critical habitat in the Salish Sea. This consultation resulted in recreational finfish closures in Juan de Fuca Strait between Otter Point and Port Renfrew, the area around Pender Island, and the mouth of the Fraser River. The closed areas remain open for whale watching vessels, commercial fishing, and other marine traffic (shipping, cruising, military activities, etc.). In summer of 2018, DFO initiated the update for an Amended Recovery Strategy identifying two additional areas as Critical Habitat (Swiftsure and La Perouse Banks and Dixon Entrance). Both areas are critically important recreational fishing areas as there are multiple fishing lodges and charter operations in the adjacent communities.

Currently DFO with other agencies are contemplating a suite of further actions and fishing restrictions to protect SRKW, which will compound the effects of restrictions related specifically to chinook conservation. These measures are expected to be announced in April 2019. They will likely complement the recent Washington (WA) State's SRKW Task Force's report and recommendations

**Suggested Response:**

- **B.C. acknowledges the threats to the SRKW populations and that unpopular measures may be needed to ensure their future viability.**
- **However, due to the significance of the remaining salmon fisheries in B.C., it is important that the federal government continues to conduct transparent consultation with full socio-economic analyses when considering Pacific fisheries closures.**
- **It is important that all proposed fisheries management measures are considered together as part of a cumulative assessment of both conservation and socio-economic impacts.**

### 3. Broughton Negotiations

On June 27, 2018, the consent-based G2G process regarding salmon aquaculture in the Broughton Area was formalized in a letter of understanding (LOU). The Province and the 'Namgis, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis and Mamalilikulla First Nations are signatories to the LOU. A total of 17 tenures are listed under the LOU. On December 14, 2018 the Province and the three signatory First Nations announced the endorsement of the recommendations resulting from the LOU process. The Province, First Nations, and aquaculture companies with tenures in the area support the recommendations. Work is ongoing on the development of the Indigenous Monitoring and Inspection Program for the region. DFO is participating and this work is aligned with their development of area-based management for aquaculture in the Pacific region.

#### Suggested Response:

- **Our historic, government-to-government talks with First Nations in the Broughton have produced important recommendations to address Nations' longstanding concerns and protect and restore wild salmon stocks.**
- **The recommendations will help protect and restore wild salmon stocks, allow an orderly transition of open-pen finfish aquaculture from the Broughton and create a more sustainable future for local communities.**
- **We anticipate the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund will be a key component to implementing the Broughton recommendations.**

### 4. Interior Fraser Steelhead

Interior Fraser River steelhead (IFS, commonly called Thompson Chilcotin Steelhead) are a high-profile conservation concern. Combined, IFS have declined from approximately 8,000 total fish in 1978 to less than 300 today. 2018 and 2019 represent the two worst years for returning IFS spawners. With a five-year life-cycle, another three years of low numbers will result in a full generation at extreme risk of extinction and recovery becomes improbable.

The Province's jurisdiction focuses on freshwaters species, and on salmon habitat, while DFO focuses on salmon conservation and management. Both jurisdictions must work together to achieve success. Many stocks of Pacific salmon in B.C. are in a state of serious decline. Both Governments are taking steps to protect and restore these stocks. FLNR is the lead provincial agency on the IFS issue.

In February 2018, COSEWIC concluded the species was at imminent risk of extinction and stated that there are several contributing factors (bycatch, freshwater and marine habitat, pinniped predation, low marine survival). DFO is leading an emergency Species at Risk Act (SARA) review on IFS. The process has now moved beyond the public and First Nations consultation phase, to federal government decision taking. Differences of opinion between DFO and the Province became public when a letter from ENV criticizing DFO's peer review science process (i.e., CSAS) was leaked. In spite of the disagreement over science process, Ministers from FLNR, ENV, AGRI and DFO have agreed on a path forward to put in place all measures necessary to avoid the regiment of a formal listing under SARA.

Former DFO DM Blewett wrote to BC ENV DM in December 2018, seeking the Province's view on a potential listing of IFS under Schedule 1 of SARA. A draft response letter is still pending.

#### Suggested Response:

- **B.C. recognizes the values of wild Pacific salmon stocks, including steelhead, and the commercial, recreational and First Nations fisheries and communities that depend on them.**
- **We are working with First Nations, DFO, sport fishers, the B.C. Wildlife Federation, and other steelhead organizations on how to recover this species.**
- **B.C. has been active in working with the federal government on the potential Species at Risk Listing of Steelhead. The significance and potential fallout of such a listing is not being taken lightly.**

**Suggested Response:**

- **AGRI needs direction on whether or not DFO would like to proceed with this so that we can manage our own program accordingly, s.13**

Contact: Mike Turner, Senior Policy Analyst, GCPL, 778-698-3129

ED LH            ADM JM            DM

**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING WITH MAYOR**  
**HARVIE FROM THE CITY OF DELTA**

Ref: 190188

Date: 16-APR-19

**Title:** Introductory meeting with Mayor Harvie from the City of Delta

**Issue:** Recently elected mayor of the City of Delta. Agriculture is vital to the City's economy but the land faces enormous pressure from development. It is a regulated community.

**Background:**

- Prior to becoming Mayor of the City of Delta on October 2018, Mayor George Harvie served as Delta's City Manager from 2002 to 2018. During his leadership, as City Manager, he guided the municipality to challenging projects, including the South Fraser Perimeter Road, Deltaport Third Berth, the Southlands development in Tsawwassen and the more recent MK Delta Lands Group Industrial Application.
- Delta contains some of the most productive farmland in British Columbia with a total gross farm receipt of \$223 (about 6% of the BC total gross farm receipt) and supports the equivalent of 1,500 person years of employment.
- The City of Delta is one of four communities 'regulated' under Section 553 of the Local Government Act; regulated communities may adopt Farm Bylaws, and/or restrict or prohibit agriculture under Section 552 and/or 481(2) of that act. In a regulated community such as Delta, zoning bylaws which prohibit or restrict the use of land for a farm business in a farming area must be approved by the Minister of Agriculture.

**First Nations Considerations:**

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**Discussion:**

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**Suggested Response:**

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Contact: Dieter Geesing, Reginal Agrologist, 604-556-3048, dieter.geesing@gov.bc.ca

DIR MR                      ADM AL                      DM WS