

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY DONNELLY FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193313

Date: January 13, 2021

Title: Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly meeting with Chief Ernest Alfred regarding salmon farms.

Issue: Chief Ernest Alfred is seeking to discuss further action regarding salmon farms in the Discovery Islands. He was previously concerned that salmon aquaculture may continue to operate in the Discovery Islands area, and the potential of harm to wild Pacific salmon.

Background:

- Chief Alfred of the Namgis First Nation recently met with ADM McGuire and staff during the interregnum period to discuss concerns with Fisheries and Ocean Canada's (DFO) recently completed science assessments of risks on the impact of interactions between wild Pacific salmon and pathogens from salmon farms in the Discovery Islands. The assessments were DFO's responsibility for response to Cohen Recommendation #19.
- All nine assessments find that the transfer of pathogens pose a minimal risk to abundance and diversity of migrating Fraser River sockeye salmon in the area. Therefore 19 sites in the area with licenses set to expire December 2020 were eligible for renewal. These assessments did not include risk of sea lice.
- Following DFO's completion of the assessments in response to Recommendation #19, DFO launched consultation with the Holmalco, Klahoose, Komoks, Kwiakah, Tla'amin, We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) and Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nations about the aquaculture licences in the Discovery Islands. The information collected informed the federal DFO Minister's decision on whether to renew aquaculture licences in the area, prior to the December 2020 licence expiration date for these sites.
- On December 17, 2020, DFO announced that it will move to phase out salmon farming licences in the Discovery Islands by June 2022, following consultation with First Nations: [News release](#).
- This timeline aligns with the B.C. Salmon Aquaculture Policy (SAP) which requires that by 2022:
 - Operators to have negotiated agreements with First Nations in whose territory they propose to operate, and;
 - Operators can satisfy DFO that their farm will not adversely impact wild salmon.
- s.13

- s.13 and that operators will be allowed to grow-out existing stock until June 2022.
- The Discovery Islands aquaculture region represents 20 percent (approximately \$130M) of all currently licensed B.C. salmon farming operations, which collectively are worth \$662 million (2019) in revenue.
- There are five finfish aquaculture companies operating in this area through 19 farm sites: MOWI Canada West (13 farms), Cermaq Canada (3 farms), Grieg Seafood (1 farm), Yellow Island Aquaculture (1 farm), and Saltspring Engineering (1 farm). Of the 19 sites, most have licences expiring soon or are currently tenured month-to-month, although some have tenure expiration dates post 2022 and up to 2034.

First Nations Considerations: The Province has a shared interest in ensuring a sustainable aquaculture industry that respects the environment and rights of Indigenous Peoples. One-third of fish harvesting jobs are in First Nation communities, and salmon are of critical cultural, and socioeconomic importance. In

B.C.'s four largest salmon farming companies, 30 percent of the jobs are staffed by First Nations. Approximately 78 percent of the salmon farming industry's operations are under agreement with the First Nation in whose territory they are working within. However, many other First Nations in B.C., both coastal and interior, are vocal about calling for the transition of this industry to land-based closed containment.

Discussion:

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- Chief Alfred has publicly expressed support for a transition of finfish aquaculture to solely land-based operations. s.13

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He contributed to the pre-consultations on transition held by Parliamentary Secretary to DFO, Terry Beech, which Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly attended.

- While opponents to salmon aquaculture have continued to interpret the 2025 transition as a removal of all farms to land by 2025, DFO Minister Jordan has clarified that the goal is to develop the transition plan by 2025, not to complete the transition by 2025. Along with a "responsible plan for aquaculture", DFO also noted plans to continue the development of a new federal *Aquaculture Act*.
- In September 2020, DFO requested the Province be involved at a Strategic Oversight Committee (SOC) level for the development of the transition plan. The purpose of the SOC is to provide strategic direction for the objectives and parameters of the plan, including providing direction on engagement strategy, other research, and analysis needed to inform a plan for open-net pen aquaculture in coastal B.C.

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Key Messages:

- **The Ministry thanks Chief Ernest Alfred for his time to share his concerns about the B.C. salmon aquaculture industry.**
- **The Province shares concerns of ensuring a minimal environmental risk from salmon farming activities, including proper sea lice management, and restoration of wild salmon.**
- **The protection of wild salmon is critically important to B.C.'s environment, history, economy and way of life.**
- **British Columbia appreciates the work done by the Federal government to address concerns regarding fish farming in the Discovery Islands. We look forward to hearing how they will mitigate the impact of this decision on the families and communities of Northern Vancouver Island.**
- **We will continue to work together with our federal colleagues to do everything we can to protect and rebuild our critical wild salmon stocks.**

Contact: Mike Turner, Sr. Manager, IGR, Fisheries and Aquaculture, 778-698-3129

ED DT ADM JLM DM TE

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER ~~PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY LANA POPHAM~~ FOR
INFORMATION ~~FOR MEETING WITH TONY ALLARD OF WILD SALMON FOREVER~~

Ref: 193318

Date: January 13, 2021

Title: ~~The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries~~ Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly is -meeting with Tony Allard of Wild Salmon Forever

Issue: Meeting to discuss developments on the wild salmon file and the recent federal decision on Discovery Islands finfish aquaculture.

Background: Tony Allard is the President of Wild Salmon Forever (WSF) and the owner and proprietor of Good Hope Cannery lodge, a private sport-fishing lodge in Rivers Inlet. Mr. Allard also supports the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project (SSMSP). He has made multiple large donations to fund initiatives and research into declining wild salmon populations. Mr. Allard has also been an outspoken critic of salmon aquaculture in B.C. and brought that position to his appointment as a member of the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (MAACFA) through 2017-2018. Mr. Allard has been vocal in support of the Broughton Implementation Plan, as well as a desire to have salmon farms removed from Discovery Islands citing risk to migrating juvenile salmon.

First Nations Considerations: One third of fish harvesting jobs are in First Nation communities. Pacific salmon are of critical cultural, social and economic importance for coastal and interior First Nations. In B.C.'s four largest salmon farming companies, 240 employees or 30 percent of the total direct jobs are staffed by First Nations employees.

Discussion:

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Provincial mandate on wild salmon and BCSRIF:

- Through the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Parliamentary Secretary on fisheries and aquaculture, there is a mandate to work with the federal government to develop new strategies to protect and revitalize B.C.'s wild salmon populations, including by working to double the size of BCSRIF, building on past successes and supporting innovation in fish hatcheries, and ensuring B.C. processing of B.C.-caught fish.

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- \$71.3M in BCSRIF projects have been funded so far, with another 59 projects totaling about \$60M are currently under review by both DFO and the Province.
- These projects support things like hatchery infrastructure, fisheries monitoring, shellfish aquaculture, habitat restoration and scientific research, all in the name of restoring salmon and fisheries in B.C.

Discovery Islands

- In March 2013, shortly after the release of the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River (Cohen Commission) final report of recommendations, the B.C. Government accepted the intent of each of the eight provincial recommendations and has since acted on each. In addition, the Province put in place a salmon aquaculture policy that it would not issue new salmon aquaculture tenures in the Discovery Islands until September 30, 2020, or until DFO could determine the impact of salmon farms in that area on wild salmon migration (Cohen Recommendation #19).
- On September 28, 2020, DFO responded to Recommendation #19 by announcing the completion of nine peer-reviewed risk assessments. All nine assessments found that the transfer of pathogens posed minimal risk to abundance and diversity of migrating Fraser River sockeye salmon in the area.
- Hon. Bernadette Jordan announced shortly thereafter that DFO would consult Discovery Islands First Nations to better understand their position and concerns. In October, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans established its own process for consulting with First Nations about the renewal of aquaculture licences in the Discovery Islands.
- DFO has now concluded that it will phase out salmon farming operations in the Discovery Islands by June 2022. This coincides with timing of the Provincial salmon aquaculture policy implementation. The Province is currently working with DFO to understand implications to this decision and mitigate any impacts to communities that rely on these operations.

2025 Open-Net Pen Transition Plan

- On December 13, 2019, the DFO Minister received a mandate that included developing a plan to transition from open-net pen salmon farming in coastal B.C. by 2025.
- In January 2020, DFO Minister Jordan further clarified that the goal was to develop the transition plan by 2025, not to complete the transition by 2025. Along with a “responsible plan for aquaculture”, DFO also noted plans to continue with the development of a new federal *Aquaculture Act*.

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Suggested Response:

- **B.C. recognizes the value of wild Pacific salmon stocks and their importance to commercial, recreational and First Nations user groups, and all British Columbians.**

- **B.C. is actively working towards new initiatives to assist salmon recovery. The Wild Salmon Advisory Council's recommendations and BCSRIF are key components of our wild salmon strategy.**
- **The Province has committed to a doubling of BCSRIF to continue to support wild salmon and local communities.**
- **Collaboration between B.C. and DFO on this strategy is critical to the health of Pacific salmon. We will continue to work together with our federal colleagues to do everything we can to protect and rebuild our critical wild salmon stocks**

Contact: Tyson Carswell, Senior Policy Analyst, 778-698-4056

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION FOR
MEETING

Ref: 193321

Date: January 12, 2021

Title: B.C. Watershed Security Coalition (BCWSC) has requested a meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly.

Issue: The BCWSC would like to discuss the new provincial mandates for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF), which include working to restore wild salmon and supporting the Ministers of Environment (ENV) and Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) in development of a watershed security strategy.

Background: The B.C. Watershed Security Coalition is an association consisting of member organizations with a shared interest in protecting B.C.'s water and watersheds. Membership includes several high-profile organizations:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| -Watersheds B.C. | -B.C. Freshwater Legacy Initiative |
| -Pacific Salmon Foundation | -Freshwater Alliance |
| -Watershed Watch Salmon Society | -Rivershed Society of B.C. |
| -Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. | -B.C. Wildlife Federation |

BCWSC is also endorsed by a number of domestic and international organizations and institutions. The Coalition is led by co-chairs Coree Tull, Director at Canadian Freshwater Alliance; and Tim Morris, Project Director at B.C. Freshwater Legacy Initiative. Their vision is for more prosperous communities, healthier people, cleaner water, restored salmon runs, and authentic and enduring partnerships between First Nations and non-Indigenous British Columbians. One of BCWSC's main goals in implementing this vision is to encourage the provincial government to invest in and protect watersheds in order to maximize the economic and environmental potential they can sustain.

First Nations Considerations:

First Nations have significant social, economic, and cultural ties to species like wild Pacific salmon and the habitat that supports these stocks. Many First Nations communities in B.C. are rural and coastal, with high dependency on the preservation of adjacent watersheds for their own water source, as well as for sustaining other species of importance for their people.

Discussion: In 2019, ENV received a one-time \$37 million contribution from the Contingencies: Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery Vote to fund watershed, wetland, species and ecosystem restoration initiatives across the province. Two Treasury Board submissions were prepared: Watersheds and Wetlands; and Species and Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration.

Watersheds and Wetlands (Watersheds B.C.) received \$27M to deliver over 40 shovel-ready watershed restoration and conservation projects proposed by Watersheds BC, a non-government organization focused on improved watershed planning and governance in B.C. Watersheds BC is a member of the BCWSC and was on hand for the public announcement of this partnership in September 2020.

Species and Ecosystems Conservation and Restoration received \$10.215M to deliver more than 65 species and ecosystem conservation and restoration projects proposed by ENV and FLNR that cover both terrestrial and aquatic environments. \$10M was provided to fund projects and \$215K was provided to

FLNR to fund up to 16 fulltime employees (FTE) to support administration of permits needed by projects across both submissions.

s.13; s.17

Suggested Response:

- **Government is committed to developing a Watershed Security Strategy and associated Fund, led by ENV with support from FLNR and AFF.**
- **As a part of StrongerBC, \$27M in COVID stimulus funding is currently being invested in watershed health as part of government's economic recovery plan, and over \$40M has been invested in habitat to support wild salmon through BCSRIF, with more to come in 2021.**
- **Thank you for your interest in working with the Province on the development of a Strategy and Fund. We look forward to working with the B.C. Watershed Security Coalition on our shared commitments to watershed health and a desire to see the Strategy be a success.**

Contact: Mike Turner, Senior Manager, IGR, Fisheries and Aquaculture, 778-698-3129

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION FOR
MEETING

Ref: 193373

Date: January 12, 2021

Title: The Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. (FFSBC) has requested a meeting with Minister Popham and Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly.

Issue: FFSBC would like to discuss their work with Minister and Parliamentary Secretary as it relates to the new mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF).

Background:

British Columbia has a reputation for being one of the greatest marine and freshwater fishing destinations in the world, with a variety of fishing opportunities available from shoreline fishing to world class fishing lodges. The recreational fishery and its businesses are a key driver of the broader outdoor recreational and ecotourism sectors and bring in over \$1.1B in revenues and provide over 9,000 jobs (2016).

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) manages recreational fishing in tidal (salt) waters as well as recreational fishing for salmon in non-tidal (fresh) waters in B.C. Freshwater fisheries (e.g., steelhead, trout, bass) are managed jointly between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) and FFSBC, with advice provided by the stakeholder advisory body - the Provincial Angling Advisory Team. FFSBC was formed as a non-profit organization in 2003 and undertakes a unique role through contract with the Province (FLNR). FFSBC is uniquely funded by angling licence fees. All revenue from licence sales go directly to FFSBC (and a portion of the additional Conservation Fees go to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation).

FFSBC Operational Cost Summary:

- 80 percent of costs arise from five areas: staff salaries; fish food; electricity; fuel for vehicles; and natural gas/propane.
- 20 percent go to a variety of smaller costs, including property taxes, insurance, equipment rental, oxygen, service contracts, and communications.

Many of the operational activities are conducted under the authority of the *Wildlife Act* through statutory decision makers at FLNR. These include stocking releases, hatchery releases, brood stock collection, etc. It also delivers a range of conservation services and education programs. FFSBC is led by President Andrew Wilson, formerly a Director of Fish and Wildlife with the Province. FLNR Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch maintains a seat on the FFSBC's board of directors.

First Nations Considerations:

First Nations make up a significant proportion of B.C.'s commercial fishers, as well as have economic interests in tidal recreational fishing and aquaculture. Additionally, most B.C. First Nation communities have strong cultural and social ties to salmon and the marine environment consecrated in a Constitutional right to harvest fish. While traditionally there has been low participation by First Nations in recreational fishing, in recent years, more communities are embracing the industry by purchasing lodges or operating charter businesses.

Discussion:

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Suggested Response:

- **The Province of B.C. is thankful for the great work of the Freshwater Fisheries Society and the tremendous impacts the organization has had on building the freshwater angling community.**
- **The renewed mandate on fisheries for the Province strengthens the need for continued collaboration and partnership between B.C. agencies and the Freshwater Fisheries Society.**
- **We are eager to learn more of how the Society might play a role in recovery of declining freshwater species such as Interior Fraser and Gold River steelhead.**

Contact: Mike Turner, Senior Manager, IGR, Fisheries and Aquaculture, 778-698-3129

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING

Ref: 193381

Date: February 08, 2021

Title: Parliamentary Secretary is scheduled to meet with John Paul Fraser, Executive Director of B.C. Salmon Farmers Association (BCSFA).

Issue: Meeting to discuss salmon farming and its contributions to B.C.'s economy, stemmed from a request made by Mr. Fraser in advance of the Discovery Islands decision.

Background:

- In October 2020, BCSFA commissioned an independent research report to examine the role of industry in contributing to B.C.'s post-COVID-19 recovery. It focusses on economic, social, Indigenous and environmental impacts, and highlights potential barriers.
 - The report indicates a potential for industry to invest \$1.4B post 2030 generating an additional 132,580 tonnes of production capacity.
 - Barriers include: Tenure renewal delays and uncertainty, and negative public perception.
- On September 28, 2020, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) responded to Cohen Commission's Recommendation #19 by announcing the completion of nine peer-reviewed risk assessments. All nine assessments found that the transfer of pathogens posed minimal risk to the abundance and diversity of migrating Fraser River sockeye salmon in the Discovery Islands area, allowing DFO to continue to issue licenses for the area.
- After consultations with First Nations, in December 2020 Minister Jordan announced that DFO will phase out salmon farming operations in the Discovery Islands by June 2022, with the stipulations that:
 - No new fish of any size may be introduced into Discovery Islands facilities during this time; and
 - All farms are to be free of fish by June 30, 2022, but existing fish at the sites can complete their growth-cycle and be harvested.
- This coincides with timing of the Provincial salmon farm tenure policy implementation.
- Most of the tenures are on a month-to-month renewal scheme as a result of the provincial moratorium on issuance of new tenures pending DFO's Cohen Response. There are, however, tenures with expiry dates past this date and up to 2034.
- DFO has provided the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) summary tables of the relevant Discovery Island sites, and their proportional contribution by company and by B.C. production (Appendices 1-3). Briefly, the area represents 32 percent of current B.C. farmed biomass and represents approximately 20 percent of provincial aquaculture revenue (\$132M in 2019).
- On January 18, 2021, MOWI Canada West, Cermaq Canada, Grieg Seafood, and Saltstream Engineering applied to the Federal Court of Canada for a judicial review of the decision.
- Industry has noted a strong opposition of the decision to prohibit restocking of fish as they will need to cull existing hatchery fish scheduled for spring stocking. They have indicated that no other pens exist for this brood stock, and a cull will impose a non-trivial financial loss.
- The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation (JERI) is currently focused on characterizing the risks and economic consequences of the Discovery Islands decision. As part of this work the Province is identifying existing or possible supports that would assist affected communities during this transition.
- JERI is currently leading discussions with the federal government in taking a firm stance to commit Canada to provide near and longer-term solutions including funding to mitigate the impacts of their decision.

First Nations Considerations: One-third of fish harvesting jobs are in First Nation communities, and salmon are of critical cultural and socioeconomic importance. In B.C.'s four largest salmon farming companies, 30 percent of the jobs are staffed by First Nations. Much of the salmon farming industry's operations are

under agreement with the First Nations in whose territory they are working within. However, many other First Nations in B.C., both coastal and interior, are vocal about calling for the transition of this industry to land-based closed containment or ending entirely. The Discovery sites included in the federal decision intersect several First Nations territories (Appendix 4).

Discussion: s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

Suggested Response:

- We thank BCSFA/Mr. Fraser for the meeting and the opportunity to discuss the industry's importance to the economy and how the federal Discovery Islands decision is affecting the broader sector.
- The Province, through JERI, is currently focused on characterizing the risks and economic consequences of the Discovery Islands decision. As part of this work, the Province is identifying existing or possible supports that would assist affected communities during this transition.
- We remain committed to ensuring that our federal counterparts will consider these impacts in their relevant planning and policy efforts at the national and regional level.
- The Province has agreed to participate as an observer in the 2025 Transition Plan Strategic Oversight Committee to better understand DFO's intentions with that process.

Contact: Tyson Carswell, Senior Policy Analyst, 778-698-4056

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APPENDIX 1: Total production impacted by DI decision, in metric tonnes and in %, relative to total B.C. production (Provided by DFO)

s.16; s.17

APPENDIX 2: Impacts in tonnes and % on total licensed production for each company, for
Discovery Islands and Broughton Archipelago (Provided by DFO)

s.16

APPENDIX 3: List of Aquaculture Sites in the Discovery Islands

s.16

APPENDIX 4: Map of Aquaculture Sites in the Discovery Islands

s.13; s.16

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193509

Date: February 18, 2021

Title: Meeting with Western Angler Inc. on February 23, 2021.

Issue: Proposal for a salmon-focused fisheries event and lottery which could provide funds for adipose fin-clipping of all British Columbia hatchery-produced chinook and coho salmon.

Background: Brian Tutty of Western Angler Inc. has requested a meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly to discuss a project proposal for a lottery and fishing festival called “*A Super, Natural BC Million Dollar 1) Salmon Lottery & 2) Fishing Festival!*” (Appendix 1) that he developed with Tom Davis and Bob Cole. Funds generated by these activities would be used to support the adipose fin-clipping (marking) of all British Columbia (B.C.) hatchery-produced chinook and coho salmon. The primary objectives of the initiatives are to support the Public (recreational) Salmon Fishery and related tourism which have been negatively impacted by restrictive regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Component 1 – Salmon Conservation Lottery:** a perpetual lottery, with a “Pacific Salmon Conservation” theme, which is open for purchase to everyone in B.C. (of legal age). The preference is for the B.C. Lottery Corporation to operate this on an ongoing basis.
- **Component 2 - Salmon Fishing Festival:** a multi-month annual event along the coast of B.C. with a focus on the Public Salmon Fishery. Participants would register and participate by buying entry tickets and compete for prizes, including cash prizes which would be awarded to participants who catch a hatchery-produced chinook or coho salmon with identifiable metal “Medallion” tags (i.e., platinum, gold, silver, bronze). Prizes would also be given for fish caught; however, anglers would be encouraged to release wild salmon.

The recreational or public fishery sector is increasingly interested in removing barriers to targeted access to salmon, specifically chinook, that are produced in hatcheries. Mark-selective fisheries (MSF) is a management system whereby only ‘marked’ hatchery-produced fish are retained. Hatchery-produced salmon in B.C. are currently marked by the removal of the adipose fin, and for some species a coded wire tag (CWT) is used. Hatchery-produced coho are all marked and tagged whereas about five percent of chinook are marked and tagged with CWT. The release of marked hatchery fish is a component of Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s (DFO’s) approach to stock assessment for wild salmon and supports reporting requirements under the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). Advocates for MSF often support marking 100 percent of fish (mass marking) without the need for tagging all released fish with CWT. Thus, with mass marking, any hatchery-raised fish is more easily identified from wild stock by harvesters. Proponents of mass marking argue that mass marking paired with appropriate fisheries management regulations would increase angler access to hatchery salmon while reducing interactions and bycatch with wild stocks.

Mr. Tutty has also indicated an interest in discussing an open letter to Minister Jordan from the Public Fishery Alliance (PFA) (Appendix 2). The letter outlines PFA’s concern at broad federal chinook regulations and the rationale provided for stopping the fishing of abundant U.S. hatchery chinook stocks through MSF. It goes on to illustrate why abundant stocks in specific areas or U.S. hatchery stock should be allowed to be caught and kept and how an additional year of broad regulation for chinook will negatively impact the Public Salmon Fishery.

First Nations Considerations: First Nations make up a significant proportion of commercial fishermen in the province, as well as having economic interests in tidal sportfishing and aquaculture. Additionally, First Nations have strong cultural and social ties to salmon and the marine environment consecrated in a Constitutional right to harvest fish.

Discussion:

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Suggested Response:

Overall Comments on the Proposal

- Thank you for taking the time to share this innovative project with me. The protection of wild salmon is critically important to B.C.'s environment, history, economy and way of life.
- Our government has been working with the federal government, First Nations, conservation organizations and industry to support the conservation of wild salmon in the province.
- There are many factors involved in the declining wild salmon population, and this problem requires diverse tools and perspectives to help maintain and restore current wild salmon stocks.
- We partnered with the federal government on the \$142.85 million B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) that is working to protect and restore wild salmon stocks and ensuring long-term economic and environmental sustainability.
- I am pleased to share with you that both Minister Popham and I have been tasked in our November 2020 Mandate Letters to "Lead work with the federal government to develop new strategies to protect and revitalize B.C.'s wild salmon populations, including working to double BCSRIF."
- This commitment ensures that we can continue the important work being done to support salmon restoration, and I anticipate that many of the themes you outlined in your proposal will be reflected in its priorities as the fund moves forward.
- I look forward to learning more about your project as it moves forward and would greatly appreciate being kept apprised of your progress.

Mass Marking

- B.C. remains very interested in the prospect of MSF for chinook harvest in particular.
- DFO has indicated to the Province that funding is not the major issue in preventing mass marking and MSF, but rather these would have major implications on stock assessment and management.
- AFF is continuing to explore options for involvement in community and small-scale hatcheries.
- AFF is developing a Wild Salmon Strategy and will work closely with DFO to ensure their Pacific Salmon Strategy considers innovative changes to how hatcheries operate in B.C.

Contact: Rebecca Wardle, Senior Policy Analyst, 236-478-2417

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s.13

Re: Liberal Government's Unwarranted Devastation of B.C.'s Public Salmon Fishery

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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Bos', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

on behalf of the Board of Directors

Christopher Bos
Media Contact
chris@anglerscoalition.com
778-967-2363

Public Fishery Alliance is a broad-based organization, representing the interests of BC Anglers.

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193628

Date: February 16, 2021

Title: Background information for meeting between Dr. Beamish and Dr. Riddell and Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly

Issue: Dr. Richard (Dick) Beamish and Dr. Brian Riddell have requested a meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly to discuss the status of wild Chinook salmon and the Strait of Georgia.

Background: Dr. Richard Beamish is an Emeritus Scientist at Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Pacific Biological Station (PBS) in Nanaimo. Dick Beamish was born in 1942 in Toronto, Canada, and started his career as a fisheries biologist in the 1960s. He finished his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in 1970 and started working at PBS in 1974. He was the Head of the Groundfish Section from 1977 to 1979 and Director of the PBS from 1980 to 1993. Dr. Beamish has an extensive research history on salmon and has served as chairman of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission's Scientific Steering Committee, which is the agency responsible for the 2019 International Year of the Salmon. Dr. Beamish has received both the Order of Canada and Order of British Columbia for his work and is considered a world-renowned scientific authority in fisheries and marine research. He has recently co-authored a book on the Strait of Georgia marine environment (*The Sea Among Us – The Amazing Strait of Georgia*), of which all profits go to the Pacific Salmon Foundation.

Dr. Brian Riddell worked for 30 years in research and management positions in the Science Branch, DFO, where he co-authored Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon (2005) and provided science advice to the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Mr. Riddell joined the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) in 2009 where he established the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project and the research network to undertake this international project (www.marinesurvivalproject.com). He has served as a member of the Royal Society of Canada's Expert Panel on Ocean Climate Change and Marine Biodiversity and is currently a Canadian Commissioner to the Pacific Salmon Commission. He was a member of the Province of B.C.'s Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (2018). In February 2015, he was recognized nationally as one of the "50 Notable Canadians" in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag. Most recently, Brian has received the 2017 Murray Newman Award in Marine Conservation from the Vancouver Aquarium; and in May, will be inducted into the Fraser River Hall of Fame at the Fraser River Discovery Centre in New Westminster.

Dr. Beamish and Dr. Riddell led an expedition into the Gulf of Alaska in 2019 and 2020 to research the offshore life stage of Pacific salmon. The research is part of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission/International Year of Salmon (NPAFC/IYS) surveys. Salmon migration to the high seas is the least understood area of their life cycle, and further research could give indications to the low abundances seen across most salmon stocks in B.C. currently. The objectives of the expeditions have been to:

- Identify the abundance, distribution, biological status, and habitat conditions of Pacific salmon in the Gulf of Alaska;
- Collect data and biological samples for stock identification (including otoliths), estimation of growth rate, condition, energy density, food supply and predators;
- Assess the applicability of integrated survey methods for testing of hypothesis on Pacific salmon mortality regulation at the high seas in winter and for improvement of fisheries forecasting; and
- Conduct Pacific salmon tagging using electronic data storage tags and disk tags.

First Nations Considerations: Indigenous Peoples make up a significant proportion of commercial fishermen in the province as well as have economic interests in tidal sportfishing and aquaculture. Additionally, First Nations have strong cultural and social ties to salmon and the marine environment consecrated in a Constitutional right to harvest fish. About 31 percent of all commercial fishing jobs, including processing, are held by B.C.'s Indigenous Peoples.

Discussion:

s.13; s.17

Summary:

- Dr. Beamish and Dr. Riddell have distinguished careers in fisheries science and are continuing to work to solve some of the outstanding questions relating to salmon survival.
- They are working on a collaborative research project that examines the distribution and survival of salmon species in the North Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Alaska during the winter.
- B.C. has supported the expeditions in providing s.13; s.17 through BCSRIF with DFO in 2020.
- AFF is eager to continue to work with Dr. Beamish and Dr. Riddell to better understand priority study areas and actions that can support salmon recovery.

Contact: Adam Batty, Senior Policy Analyst, 778-698-932

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193691

Date: March 25, 2021

Title: Minister meeting with B.C. Shellfish Growers Association (BCSGA)

Issue: Minister is requesting a meeting with the BCSGA to discuss current issues, ministry support, and specifically derelict shellfish tenure sites.

Background: In 2019, B.C. shellfish aquaculture totaled 9,730 tonnes, accounting for 35 percent of the provincial shellfish harvest, with a landed value of \$27M and a wholesale value of \$37.8M. Farmed shellfish include clams, geoducks, mussels, oysters, and scallops. Oysters represent the highest harvest volume and value with 7,800 tonnes in 2019 and landed and wholesale values of \$15.3M and \$28.3M respectively. B.C. oysters represent 59 percent of the Canadian oyster market, and over 65 percent of production is exported to international markets. There are 276 companies licensed in B.C., operating 468 tenures. However, many of these tenures are not active, without gear in the water or regular harvests. A recent survey of the industry estimated that there are currently 144 active shellfish farms.

The shellfish aquaculture industry is represented by the BCSGA, which is a non-profit organization managed by Executive Director, Jim Russell. The BCSGA represents approximately 70 percent of B.C. shellfish farmers and other related industry members including suppliers, processors, and service providers.

The Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) is responsible for aquaculture tenures under the *Land Act*, including the compliance of the tenure conditions and the policy and operational guidelines for shellfish aquaculture. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) is the lead on provincial aquaculture policy, and the federal government, through Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), holds the jurisdiction over shellfish aquaculture licensing.

British Columbia farmed shellfish sales dropped to near zero due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic and the domestic and international closure of the food service industry, the primary market for the sector. This situation has been compounded by lay-offs of workers, as the BCSGA estimates that 195 full-time jobs and 109 part-time jobs are reliant on a restart of the food service industry. The COVID-19 pandemic follows a series of outbreaks and farm closures related to food-borne illness from the consumption of raw oysters and recent losses due to oyster sudden mortality syndrome, the cause for which is unknown.

First Nations Considerations: Many First Nations groups are in support of the BCSGA, and many are active participants in shellfish farming operations along B.C.'s coast. First Nations have a long history of shellfish farming, and an expanding industry would provide opportunities for more jobs and First Nations owned businesses. Many First Nations involved in shellfish aquaculture are represented by the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association (AAA), a sectoral organization designed to assist, support, and facilitate the meaningful participation of First Nations in sustainable aquaculture development. Most recently, the Ministry provided the AAA with \$50K, through the Provincial Indigenous Funding Envelope (IFE), to review and update their strategic plan. Coastal First Nations (CFN) and B.C. finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2019, where AFF committed to providing CFN with \$150K to complete the industry assessment and development plan component of the Northern B.C. Shellfish Aquaculture Development Initiative.

Discussion: The global demand for farmed shellfish aquaculture products exceeds supply, and there is a strong market brand and demand for B.C. shellfish export products. However, the growth of the sector has been stagnant over the last 20 years due to a variety of operation issues and limited availability for expansion.

To address key issues related to competitiveness, the Ministry provided \$75K to support the completion of the industry opportunities assessment following a commitment made by the Minister at an industry roundtable meeting on June 13, 2019. This commitment has now been fulfilled (see Appendix I, Executive Summary and

Communication Plan, “BC Shellfish Aquaculture Opportunities Assessment”). In brief, the report provides a summary of the socio-economic status of the industry relative to national and global market comparators, and a review of the challenges and risks along the value chain (namely, seed, farming, processing, wholesale, and retail marketing).^{s.13}
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Suggested Response:

- **B.C. supports the shellfish aquaculture industry and recognizes the challenges it is facing resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the investment requirements for future production.**
- **B.C.'s shellfish industry is a significant economic, social, and cultural contributor to the Province, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries is committed to the economic sustainability of the shellfish aquaculture sector.**
- **The Ministry acknowledges and thanks the BCSGA and its Board of Directors for the work undertaken to complete the B.C. Shellfish Aquaculture Opportunity Assessment and looks forward to the work that arises out of the assessment.**
- **The Province supports DFO's initiatives to address and enforce the issue of shellfish traceability in B.C. and recognizes the severity of this issue and the threat it poses to human health and safety as well as marketing for B.C. shellfish.**

Contact: Kevin Romanin, Senior Policy Analyst. Marine Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood, 778-974-4884
Myron Roth, Team Lead Aquaculture and Marine Fisheries, FAWST, 778 698-3404

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES

BULLET POINTS TEMPLATE

CLIFF#: 193783

Client / Writer: Glen Valley Organic Farm Co-op (GVOFC)

Main issues: Organic Farm Planning, Salmon, Watersheds, BCSRIF.

Bullets prepared by: Rebecca Wardle

Date prepared: 2021-02-05

Date due: 2021-02-08

Response points for Fin Donnelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture:

- **The protection of wild salmon is critically important to B.C.'s environment, history, economy and way of life.**
- **There are many factors involved in the declining wild salmon population, and this problem requires diverse tools and perspectives to help maintain and restore current wild stocks.**
- **This is why our government has taken significant action over the last three years to protect wild salmon stocks, and we are committed to working even harder on developing strategies to further restore these iconic fish.**

Possible Responses to GVOFC's Specific Questions:

1. **What issues / challenges / risks would you flag for our attention?**
 - **Pressures will most likely increase on our watersheds in the coming years unless we start planning now to mitigate them. Our government has committed to developing a new Watershed Security Strategy which will step up protection of fish habitat. Working with partners like you will ensure that becomes a relevant and meaningful tool.**
2. **What opportunities would you flag for our attention?**
 - **I am pleased to share with you that both Minister Popham and I have been tasked in our November 2020 Mandate Letters to "Lead work with the federal government to develop new strategies to protect and revitalize B.C.'s wild salmon populations, including working to double the size of the Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund".**
 - **This commitment ensures that we can continue the important work being done to support salmon restoration. The BCSRIF is currently a \$142.85 million contribution program funded jointly by the federal and provincial government.**
 - **To date, we have supported 42 diverse projects that contribute to protecting and restoring wild salmon stocks and ensuring long-term economic and environmental sustainability.**
 - **One project that might be of interest to you is the "Promotion of Habitat Restoration and Stewardship on Agricultural Lands in the B.C. Interior". This project is led by the Farmland Riparian Interface Stewardship Program (FRISP) and delivered by the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association.**

- **We would like to see more of these of innovative projects through a renewed BCSRIF.**
3. Overall, what advice would you give GVOFC as we plan for the next 5 and 10 years?
- **All habitats within the agricultural landscape are important, but aquatic and riparian areas are especially significant to both biodiversity and agricultural production. The more we can look at these interconnects in businesses such as yours, the better chance we also have of helping fish species such as wild pacific salmon.**
 - **The Province is looking at a suite of strategies to revitalize and protect wild salmon populations and this work will be integrated with the new Watershed Security Strategy as well.**

Special Notes / Instructions:

Glen Valley Organic Farm Cooperative (GVOFC), is a community service not-for-profit Co-op in Abbotsford, British Columbia (B.C.). It is currently in the process of planning for 2021 through 2026/2030 and would like to discuss the following questions:

1. What issues / challenges / risks would you flag for our attention?
2. What opportunities?
3. Overall, what advice would you give GVOFC as we plan for the next 5 and 10 years?

The major activities on the farm are carried out by two farming businesses (\$650,000 in annual sales and employ 13 people during the growing season) who lease land and buildings from GVOFC. The focus is on vegetable and fruit production, which are sold via farmers markets, large Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) subscriptions, and direct sales to restaurants and wholesalers. GVOFC is a member of The Pacific Streamkeepers Federation which was initiated in May 1995 which aims to highlight how important good watershed practices are to the long-term protection of our environment.

Background on BCSRIF project 181 “Promotion of Habitat Restoration and Stewardship on Agricultural Lands in the B.C. Interior”

- Proponent: Farmland Riparian Interface Stewardship Program (FRISP) delivered by British Columbia Cattlemen’s Association
- The project was approved in 2019 and started on July 15, 2019 and is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2024.
- Total BCSRIF Award: \$550K.
- FRISP will provide key technical advisor assistance to create positive changes to the relationship between agriculture and other resource stakeholders who have a vested interest in restoring and protecting wild salmon and their habitat in the Central and Upper Fraser River Watershed as well as the Skeena. The B.C. Cattlemen's Association will hire a Program Manager and a technical support team (as required) to:
 - Promote long-term environmental stewardship and sustainability for ranching families and their community;
 - Facilitate the restoration and enhancement of farmland related to the management of watersheds and their associated riparian corridors;
 - Promote cooperative planning of riparian/fish habitat restoration activities between landowners, resource management agencies, and community groups to avoid conflict;
 - Increase awareness of the interactions between farmland use, fish habitat and other wildlife values associated with riparian and aquatic resources; and
 - Resolve conflicts that may arise between landowners and resource agencies.

- Project successes to date include:
 - A situation with a long history between a landowner and neighbours, police, regulatory authorities, politicians, and lawyers was resolved.
 - A deteriorating streambank was rehabilitated.
 - Several hundred fish successfully spawned in previously inaccessible habitat.
 - Substantial leveraged funds and materials to support the restoration of a 4-km section of Maiden Creek and three sites on the Bonaparte River totaling over 200 meters. This work also saved a property owner's private bridge and another family's sweat lodge that were at risk of being washed away due to bank erosion.

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

Ref: 193833

Date: February 17, 2021

Title: Meeting with BC Salmon Marketing Council, Steven Richards, Managing Director

Issue: Discussion about the *Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act* and marketing initiatives

Background:

The B.C. salmon fishery occurs coastwide and supports many harvesters and processors in B.C. In 2018, the wild salmon sector landed 17,800 tonnes worth a landed value of \$111.7M and wholesale value of \$235.8M. These values were significantly higher than those of 2016 and 2017 but were driven by the dominant sockeye cycle in the Fraser River. 2019 and 2020 were poor seasons for the commercial salmon industry, which have been some of the lowest returns on record. There are many stocks expected to be assessed for potential *Species at Risk Act* listing in the coming year and the forecast for returns in 2021 is no more promising. Traditionally, salmon have been the primary product for processors on the coast and represented a major source of income for harvesters. Many harvesters and processors have had to diversify to other finfish and shellfish in recent years to maintain supply and income.

There are several organizations that represent the various interests of the commercial salmon sector including, but not limited to, BC Seafood Alliance, Canadian Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Society, Unifor-UFAWU, Native Brotherhood of BC, Gulf Troll Association, Area B Seine Association, Seafood Producers Association of BC, and the BC Salmon Marketing Council (BCSMC).

The BCSMC was created in 1991 under the *Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act*. Steven Richards is the Managing Director and Dane Chauvel is the Chair. The BCSMC main goal has been to increase the value of wild B.C. salmon through marketing initiatives. Their current strategic plan includes brand development and promotion, industry engagement, consumer awareness and education, advocacy, financial stability, and effective governance to continue delivering on their goals to increase value of wild B.C. salmon. The BCSMC has also provided support for harvesters and companies to pivot their businesses to service the domestic market through the COVID-19 pandemic.

First Nations Considerations:

Salmon fisheries are culturally, socially, and economically critical for First Nations communities in B.C. One third of fish harvesting jobs are in First Nation communities. First Nations community members also play a significant role in seafood processing, ownership, and membership of the BC Salmon Marketing Council

Discussion:

The BCSMC has been successful at increasing value of salmon products through their marketing initiatives since their establishment in 1991. Their main activities have focused on marketing, with several additional management priorities for 2020. The BCSMC has undertaken several successful marketing activities in 2019 and 2020 including working with Joy TV to produce features showcasing the commercial salmon sector in B.C., the annual Wild Salmon Celebration, social media growth, retail campaign, recipes for the website, fish bags, increasing their graphics library, and sponsoring local food events. The BCSMC have successfully received funds under various Buy BC and BC Agrifood and Seafood Market Development Programs to support their marketing activities in recent years. The BCSMC was able to provide social media support,

graphics and marketing assistance to harvesters and companies looking to pivot to domestic market needs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

In accordance with their establishment as a commodity development council for wild B.C. salmon under the *Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act* in 1991 (the Act), the BCSMC's main source of revenue is from a levy on salmon products with the option to be refundable to harvesters. The refundable levy and additional challenges from poor salmon returns creates an inconsistent source of revenue for the council to carry out their marketing and management activities. The BCSMC would like Ministry support to make changes to the Act so that levies are non-refundable. To make the levy non-refundable to industry, the BCSMC would need to hold a plebiscite and demonstrate majority industry support for that change. The Raspberry Industry Development Council is a recent example of successfully holding a plebiscite to make their levies non-refundable.

The BCSMC does not take a position regarding the 2019 Report of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO), *West Coast Fisheries: Sharing Risks and Benefits* ('the FOPO report) but, would like to demonstrate that much of their fleet is already owner-operator vessels. The FOPO report contains recommendations that aim to restructure fisheries licensing and quota management regimes in B.C. to align with Atlantic socioeconomic fisheries policies, which carry much controversy in a Pacific context.

The BCSMC would like to introduce the concept of a B.C. wild seafood marketing council that would expand the profile beyond just salmon products to all wild finfish and shellfish products. Many industry associations have their own marketing strategies, but this would provide the opportunity for a steadier source of revenue with industry support.

Suggested Response:

- The Ministry can continue to support BCSMC's marketing initiatives through the Buy BC Partnership Program and BC Agrifood and Seafood Market Development Program and staff support.
- In order to make levies non-refundable, the BCSMC will need to hold a plebiscite to demonstrate industry support for non-refundable levies in accordance with the *Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act*.
- B.C. is currently working with DFO on the implications of the FOPO report and expects that any changes to fisheries management in B.C. will be informed by significant consultation of the fisheries and seafood sectors.
- If there is demonstrated support for a B.C. seafood marketing council from the fishing and seafood processing sectors, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries would explore supporting the establishment of such Council through the *Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act*.

Contact: Darah Gibson, Industry Specialist, Marine Fisheries & Seafood, 250-893-0260

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193891

Date: February 19, 2021

Title: Parliamentary Secretary Fin Donnelly is scheduled to meet with Christina Burrige, Executive Director of B.C. Seafood Alliance (BCSA).

Issue: Meeting is to discuss the Northern Shelf Bioregion (NSB) Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network planning process and the provincial vision for commercial salmon fishery.

Background: MPAs are clearly defined geographical spaces that are recognized, dedicated and managed through legal or other effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. The federal and provincial governments have a variety of legislative tools for designating and managing MPAs (Appendix 1). Currently, Pacific Region MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures protect over one-third of B.C.'s oceans, making up about three percent of overall Canadian protected areas, and several areas prohibit extractive use (e.g., Hecate Strait Glass Sponge Reefs).

In 2011, the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) approved the National Framework for Canada's Network of Marine Protected Areas, which guides the national approach for marine protected area network development. Under this Strategy, the establishment of a network of MPAs serve six goals:

1. To protect and maintain marine biodiversity, ecological representation and special natural features;
2. To contribute to the conservation and protection of fishery resources and their habitats;
3. To maintain and facilitate opportunities for tourism and recreation;
4. To contribute to social, community, and economic certainty and stability;
5. To conserve and protect traditional use, cultural heritage and archaeological resources; and
6. To provide opportunities for scientific research, education and awareness.

Working in partnership, federal and provincial agencies completed the *Canada-British Columbia Marine Protected Area Network Strategy* in 2014. Consistent with the national framework, the strategy outlines network goals and principles for a coast-wide system of MPAs to help guide MPA establishment and regional planning initiatives. It identifies ecological, social, economic and cultural design principles for the creation of effective and functional networks in B.C. This includes aiming to protect key ecological and cultural values, while minimizing the socio-economic impacts to communities and user groups.

The Government of Canada, the Province (led by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development or FLNR) and the Coastal First Nations are working together to implement that strategy in the NSB, extending from the middle of Vancouver Island to the Canada - Alaska border. The MPA Technical Team (MPATT), of which FLNR and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) are involved, is one component of the broader governance structure supporting the planning process. In February 2019, a first draft scenario of potential MPAs was completed for the NSB and presented to partners and stakeholders for detailed review.

The commercial fishing industry has coordinated itself, in part, through the establishment of a Marine Planning Team (MPT). Throughout 2019, the MPT presented the draft scenario to all fisheries sectors in the area and received extensive feedback. The MPT, with administrative support from the BCSA, received \$75K from a Stakeholder Support Fund established to support the process. AFF supported the sector by funding a contractor to complete a socioeconomic analysis on the potential impacts to commercial fishing and processing as a result of the initial draft scenario and the revised scenario put forward by the MPT. This contract was valued at \$35K and completed on February 1, 2020. The findings have been used in discussions

of Scenario 1 revisions, and MPT communicated sector responses and proposed changes to MPATT during a February 2020 stakeholder forum.

The partners have received considerable input from all stakeholders on a first draft MPA network scenario and are now incorporating feedback into a revised version that will describe a phased approach to implementation. The aim is to have a revised design scenario, along with the results of socioeconomic analyses, for further review and broader public engagement in the fall of 2021. In the interim, MPATT will be conducting meetings with individual sectors to better understand aspects of their feedback, discuss options, and further refine the design. The end goal of the planning process is to produce an MPA Network Action Plan by June 2022, in time to be released and announced at the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) held in Vancouver. Implementation would then follow in phases, timed to align with the federal government's commitments to protect 25 percent of the ocean by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030. The Network Action Plan is expected to be accompanied by collaborative governance agreements with First Nations, to support future implementation.

First Nations Considerations: The process involves 17 First Nations governing partners, while dozens of other Nations are non-partners. First Nations make up a significant proportion of B.C.'s commercial fishers as well as have economic interests in the marine economy. About 31 percent of all commercial fishing jobs, including processing, are held by B.C.'s Indigenous Peoples. In most cases, fishing restrictions in the MPAs still allow First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial fishing, which is a contentious point amongst harvesters.

Discussion: ^{s.13}
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Additionally, AFF staff and other representatives from First Nations and the commercial salmon fishing industry are participating in DFO's Small Working Group for Commercial Salmon Fishing. This group was struck by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Deputy Minister (DM) Tim Sargent, and led by DFO Regional Director of Fisheries Management Andy Thomson, after a joint request from BCSCA, the Union of Fisheries and Allied Workers, and the Commercial Fishing Caucus in B.C. The purpose of the group is to look at reasonable options for the future of commercial salmon fishing in B.C., in light of declining stocks, over-supply of licenses, and demographics of the fleet.

Suggested Response:

- We thank BCSCA/Ms. Burrige for the meeting and the opportunity to discuss their thoughts around the development of an MPA network in the Northern Shelf Bioregion and commercial salmon fishing.
- B.C. remains committed to the development of an MPA network for the NSB and to implementing the joint policy we developed with Canada (i.e., Canada-BC MPA Network Strategy). However, we know this process must respect the socioeconomic needs of the fish and seafood sector.
- B.C. is also participating at the Small Working Group table for commercial salmon fishing, and we look forward to working together on reasonable options for the industry, including how they may integrate with a provincial wild salmon strategy.

Contact: Tyson Carswell, Senior Policy Analyst - Marine Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood, 778-698-4056

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Appendix 1. Protected Area Legislation

Government of Canada Legislation

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- a "marine protected area" established under the **Oceans Act S.C.1996, c. 31;**

Parks Canada

- a "national marine conservation area" or "NMCA" established under the **Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act S.C. 2002, c. 18** and includes an NMCA reserve where there are unresolved Aboriginal rights claims that have been accepted for negotiation by the Government of Canada;
- a "national park" with marine components established under the **Canada National Parks Act S.C. 2000, c. 32** and includes a national park reserve where there are unresolved Aboriginal rights claims that have been accepted for negotiation by the Government of Canada;

Environment Canada

- a protected marine area (known as a marine wildlife area) or "wildlife area" (known as a National Wildlife Area) established under the **Canada Wildlife Act R.S.C. 1985, c.W-9;**
- a "migratory bird sanctuary" established in the marine environment under the **Migratory Birds Convention Act,1994 S.C. 1994, c.22.**

Government of British Columbia Legislation

Ministry of Environment

- a "park", "recreation area", or "conservancy" established in a marine environment under the **Park Act [RSBC 1996] c. 344 or the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act [SBC 2000] c. 17;**
- an "ecological reserve" established in a marine environment under the **Ecological Reserve Act [RSBC 1996] c. 103 or the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act [SBC 2000] c. 17;**
- a "protected area" or "conservation study area" established in a marine environment under the **Environment and Land Use Act [RSBC 1996] c. 117;**

Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations

- a "land reserve" or "notation of interest" established over Crown land and water in a marine environment under the **Land Act [RSBC 1996] c. 245;**
- a "wildlife management area" established in the marine environment under the **Wildlife Act [RSBC 1996] c. 488.**

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 194041

Date: March 16, 2021

Title: Accessibility initiatives for people with disabilities and fisheries conservation

Issue: Rick Hansen would like to provide an update on accessibility initiatives for people with disabilities in B.C. and have a discussion regarding sturgeon and salmon conservation, fisheries, and aquaculture.

Background: Rick Hansen is the founder of the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) and a passionate supporter of people with disabilities in Canada. Rick and his team are dedicated to raising awareness, changing attitudes, helping create accessible spaces, and liberating the potential of people with disabilities. Conservation of sturgeon and salmon ecosystems have also been a strong priority for Rick throughout his life. For over 20 years, Rick has been an advocate of environmental stewardship and has worked closely with government, scientists, enforcement, academics, and fishermen to ensure that these species have a healthy future. To ensure conservation of Pacific sturgeon and salmon species, he formed the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society (FRSCS) and the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society (PSEFS). Rick is the founding and current Chair of the FRSCS, past board chair of the PSEFS, past board member of the Living Rivers Trust Fund Advisory Group and helped lead the establishment of the Rivers Inlet Salmon Initiative.

The PSEFS was created in 2001 to manage a \$30M endowment fund. The Society is an integral part of the Pacific Salmon Foundation's (PSF) ability to maximize the impact of donor dollars as its support covers much of the Foundation's capacity and core costs. As a result, 90 percent of donations are allocated to fund grants and science-driven conservation projects.

The FRSCS brings together a diverse community of stakeholders with a focus on priority areas, including mortality, habitat erosion, in-river fishery technology and recruitment of juvenile sturgeon. They have award-winning, volunteer-driven monitoring and assessment programs that track the population health and provide critical data for resource management. FRSCS also conducts public relations, communication initiatives and offers a curriculum-based FRSCS Sturgeon Education Program.

First Nations Considerations: Rick Hansen is an Honorary Patron with the B.C. Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (1995–Present). First Nations make up a significant proportion of commercial fishermen in the province, as well as have economic interests in tidal sportfishing and aquaculture. Additionally, First Nations have strong cultural and social ties to salmon and the marine environment consecrated in a Constitutional right to harvest fish. About 31 percent of all commercial fishing jobs, including processing, are held by B.C.'s Indigenous Peoples.

Discussion: Mr. Hansen would like to provide the Minister with a brief update on the RHF's accessibility initiatives for people with disabilities in B.C. which will likely include conversation around better access for disabled people to go fishing. It is expected that the focus of conversation will be regarding sturgeon and all aspects of salmon including conservation, fisheries, and aquaculture. So far in 2021, Mr. Hansen has already met virtually with several representatives from the Province including Deputy Minister Lori Wannamaker, Assistant Deputy Minister Eric Kristianson, Parliamentary Secretary Finn Donnelly, and Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR), Katrine Conroy. He has also requested a meeting with Premier John Horgan, to which Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries' (AFF) staff are preparing a briefing note.

Sturgeon:

As a freshwater species, sturgeon are a provincial responsibility (FLNR lead). However, the Province can only manage the portion of the population above the Mission Bridge as below that they are in the area designated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as "tidal", and the Province does not have jurisdiction. DFO is currently conducting a *Species At Risk Act* (SARA) listing review on Upper Fraser and Lower Fraser Sturgeon with participation from the Province. The Province has conducted several studies on impacts to juvenile sturgeon

recruitment including spawning location data and the importance of substrate on juvenile sturgeon development. The knowledge gained from these studies will help inform future habitat restoration efforts.

The gillnet fishery has the largest impacts on sturgeon. Gillnet fishery is conducted through both commercial and First Nations fisheries which is regulated by DFO. Set-nets, gillnets and large-scale seine nets are believed to be the highest risk for mortality due to bycatch. The currently approved catch-and-release recreational sturgeon fishery provides approximately \$30M to the local economy annually and is regularly reviewed as it must not undermine recovery goals. In spring 2019, the Province established regulated fishing closures on the three highest-value spawning sites with no catch-and-release fisheries allowed.

Pacific Salmon:

Mr. Hansen has expressed to provincial ministry staff his vision for a third party (non-government) to lead salmon recovery efforts, likely the PSF, and may advocate this vision to the Minister. The overall outlook for most Pacific salmon stocks in 2021 is expected to be very poor and similar to 2020 returns which was one of the lowest on record. Salmon returns will be highly variable, with an overall continued trend of reduced productivity, especially for southern salmon populations and chinook in all areas. Key factors include the poor conditions for ocean survival and impacts to rivers during freshwater rearing years. AFF has been in discussions with DFO regarding the provincial role in salmon hatcheries including mass marking of hatchery-reared salmon which would increase identification of hatchery fish and advance hatchery technologies to help mitigate risks to wild salmon.

Pacific salmon have been further impacted by the 2019 Big Bar rockslide which has impeded natural fish passage for several salmon species in the Fraser River. There has been tremendous collaboration between provincial agencies, DFO, First Nations and others in the work done at the landslide site, and B.C. will continue to play a strong collaborative role on this issue until its resolution.

The Province's \$42.85M investment in the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) is the largest provincial financial contribution to protect wild salmon in the past 20 years, and the Province recently announced its commitment to work with the federal government to double the size of the of this fund. BCSRIF is providing support for many wild salmon initiatives in B.C. with focus on high impact areas and priorities that align with the report from the B.C. Wild Salmon Advisory Council. To date, 41 projects have been approved totaling \$68.8M of funding with diverse locations, scale, and proponents, and all contribute to protecting and restoring wild salmon stocks and creating a more sustainable future for local communities and workers. B.C. and Canada are currently in the process of finalizing the next batch of proposals that are anticipated to be approved and funded by spring/summer 2021.

Suggested Response:

- **We appreciate all the work organizations such as the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society and the Pacific Salmon Foundation do on behalf of wild Pacific salmon and sturgeon and for B.C. We all share a common goal and interest in protecting B.C. wild fish stocks.**
- **I appreciate and share your concern for wild salmon and sturgeon stocks in B.C. They are iconic species that provide tremendous opportunities for British Columbians, and this government will work to ensure those opportunities are maintained.**
- **The B.C. government is committed to protecting wild Pacific salmon and working with the industry, First Nations and DFO to ensure harvest is carried out in a sustainable way.**
- **We are committed to helping restore abundant wild salmon stocks through development of a salmon strategy and look forward to working with key partners like the Rick Hansen Foundation and other key provincial partners.**

Contact: Kevin Romanin, Senior Policy Analyst for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood 778-974-4884

SM MT ADM JLM DM TE

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 194145

Date: March 11, 2021

Title: Meeting with Jay Ritchlin from the David Suzuki Foundation to discuss fisheries and aquaculture in British Columbia.

Issue: The David Suzuki Foundation prepared a briefing note discussing various fisheries, oceans and aquaculture issues in the province and offering their expertise and support in finding solutions.

Background: The David Suzuki Foundation (DSF) was founded in 1990 and is a national non-profit organization headquartered in Vancouver, with offices in Toronto and Montreal. DSF works on issues related to conservation and protection of the natural environment and works to create a sustainable Canada. DSF conducts evidence-based research, education and policy analysis and collaborates with non-profit and community organizations, all levels of government, businesses, and individuals.

The DSF prepared a briefing note (Appendix 1) on their work on fisheries related issues and requested a meeting to discuss the issues. The DSF briefing note identifies several areas where they have knowledgeable staff and have done extensive work in areas including wild salmon recovery, salmon hatcheries, aquaculture, marine planning, fisheries, and natural infrastructure-based solutions. DSF has offered the support of their staff to provide advice or participate in any provincial committees or work on salmon and fisheries related to these issues.

DSF has been a vocal supporter of wild salmon and staff have participated in past B.C. initiatives such as the Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (MAACFA). John Werring, DSF's Senior Science and Policy Advisor, was invited by B.C. to participate at that table.

Since the completion of the Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC) report, B.C. has taken bold action to support the recovery of wild salmon through the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF).

First Nations Considerations: Many of the issues raised in the DSF briefing note intersect with First Nations concerns given the importance of fisheries to many First Nations. One-third of fish harvesting jobs are in First Nations communities, and salmon are of critical cultural and socioeconomic importance. In B.C.'s four largest salmon farming companies, 30 percent of the jobs are staffed by First Nations. However, many other First Nations in B.C. are vocal about calling for the transition of the salmon aquaculture industry to land-based closed containment or ending entirely. Several First Nations operate or are partners in community hatcheries as part of DFO's salmon enhancement program.

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – DSF Briefing Note

Suggested Response:

- **We appreciate your offer of support and expertise for the important fisheries and marine planning and look forward to engaging DSF as we continue to work on these important issues.**
- **We agree that small-scale community hatcheries can provide great value in B.C. for conservation and education, and the provincial focus is on supporting these small-scale efforts.**
- **BCSRIF has provided funding for 42 diverse projects with \$71.3M of funding; each project contributes to protecting and restoring wild salmon and creating a sustainable future for communities.**

Contact: Adam Batty, Senior Policy Analyst, 778-698-9326

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Appendix 1 – DSF Briefing Note

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 194150

Date: March 15, 2021

Title: Meeting with Washington State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

Issue: On March 25, 2021 Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly will have a call with Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator of the Washington State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

Background: In the early 1990s, the United States Government began listing Pacific salmon species as endangered under the *Endangered Species Act*. By 1999, some salmon populations had disappeared completely, and listings affected nearly three-fourths of Washington state's salmon. Today 10 of the 14 species of salmon and steelhead in Washington are listed as threatened, endangered, not making progress, or in crisis under the federal *Endangered Species Act*.

The 1998 *Salmon Recovery Planning Act* (ESHB 2496) was passed to help restore wild salmon and provides a framework for developing restoration projects. It established a funding mechanism (Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration fund, \$124.5M) for local habitat restoration projects and created the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. The office's primary purpose is to coordinate and assist in the development of salmon recovery plans as well as prepare State of the Salmon Reports. The 2020 State of Salmon report identified the following priority areas of work:

1. Adapt land-use and other regulations to accommodate salmon and other natural resources.
2. Reduce Predation.
3. Fully Fund Salmon Recovery; and,
4. Build the Next Generation of Leaders.

Salmon recovery in Washington focuses on: habitat (Washington State's population has increased by 55% since 1990 and 50-90% of land along waterways has been lost or extensively modified by humans), harvest, hydropower, and hatcheries, as well as more recently, climate change, predation by pinnipeds, birds, and other fish. Regional recovery organizations lead implementation of the federally approved salmon recovery plans. Located across the state, these seven organizations are governed by local boards and work with salmon recovery partners, "Indian tribes", and state and federal agencies to coordinate activities and ensure progress towards recovery. Implementing habitat-related elements identified in regional salmon recovery plans for 2010-2019 has been estimated at \$4.7 billion in capital costs. As of 2020, only \$1 billion has been invested. This approach and the funding to date will be reflected in the updated version of the 2000 "Statewide Salmon Strategy—Extinction is not an Option" document which is expected sometime in 2021 and will set a strategic path forward for salmon and Washington.

Many businesses in Washington State, such as bait and tackle shops, hotels, and charter fishing companies, rely on the Pacific salmon. Today, commercial, and recreational fishing are estimated to support 16,000 jobs and \$540 million (USD) in personal income. This is compared to 1996 when sport fishing contributed more than \$704 million (USD) to Washington's economy. Fishing has declined almost 50% since the 1970's for Chinook and 80% for Coho (wild and hatchery).

The state of Washington has the largest system of salmon hatcheries in the world, raising more than 200 million juvenile fish at more than 100 facilities each year. Hatcheries are used selectively around the state to augment natural salmon runs and boost the number of fish statewide. They are operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the 22 "treaty tribes" located in the area, and non-governmental organizations. Mass-marking has played a key role in salmon management since the mid-1990s. Today, virtually all coho and Chinook salmon produced in Washington are mass-marked by clipping adipose fin and this is used to set out rules regarding Mark-selective fisheries (MSF), which require all recreational fishers to

release any unmarked salmon or steelhead. There is interest in expanding this rule to commercial fisheries on the Columbia River under a broad-based reform measure jointly approved by Oregon.

First Nations Considerations: First Nations in the United States have strong cultural and social ties to salmon and the marine environment consecrated in a Constitutional right to harvest fish. In Washington all salmon are protected by treaty with various federally-recognized “tribes” as a result of the 1974 Boldt Decision which confirmed the right for tribes to control 50% of all fisheries resources in the state.

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Suggested Response:

- The protection of wild salmon is critically important to B.C. and Washington’s shared environment, history, economies, and ways of life.
- There are many factors involved in the declining wild salmon population, and this problem requires diverse cross-border tools and perspectives to help maintain and restore current wild stocks.
- This is why our government has taken significant action over the last three years to protect and restore wild salmon stocks while creating a more sustainable future for local communities and workers and why we are looking to build upon these efforts and prepare a B.C. Salmon Strategy.

APPENDIX: 1. Possible questions for Mr. Neatherlin

2. Washington State Wild Salmon Jurisdictional Review

Contact: Rebecca Wardle, Senior Policy Analyst, 236-478-2417.

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Appendix 1 Possible Specific Questions for Mr. Neatherlin:

- When do you anticipate the public release of the updated “Statewide Salmon Strategy–Extinction is not an Option” 2000 document, that aims to set a strategic path forward for salmon and Washington?
 - Are there any findings you can share at this time?
- We noted that the House passed bill 2SBH117 on March 2nd, 2021 regarding requiring public work projects benefit salmon and have a “net ecological gain” when do you anticipate this being referred to the Senate committee?
- Has implementation of MM and MSF been considered successful in providing certainty for harvest sectors?
- How can British Columbia be of even greater assistance to you in your salmon recovery efforts?

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