

From: Michelle Galang [mailto:michelle.galang@bcwf.bc.ca]

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 11:59 AM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Weaver.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX; Wilkinson.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX

Cc: Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; s.22  
s.22, s.22 info@steelheadsociety.org; social@watershed-watch.org;

s.22 ; Michelle Galang; Communications; Al Martin

s.22 ; Bill Bosch - PP 12-14; George Wilson; Harvey Andrusak; Jesse  
Zeman - Resident Priority Program Manager; Les Husband - PP 98-00; Tina Coleman; Treasurer  
- Victor Skaarup

Subject: Letter from BC Wildlife Federation re Fisheries Responsibilities

Dear Sirs,

Please see attached letter from BC Wildlife Federation president Harvey Andrusak regarding fisheries responsibilities in the provincial government.

Yours in conservation,

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BC Wildlife Federation  
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February 16, 2018

The Honourable John Horgan  
Premier of the Province of British Columbia

Dr. Andrew Weaver  
Leader of the Green Party of British Columbia

Andrew Wilkinson, MLA  
Leader of the Liberal Party of British Columbia

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Fisheries Responsibilities in the provincial government**

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Today we are facing a recommendation to the Federal Government for an Emergency Listing for Interior Fraser Steelhead (IFS) by the Committee on Endangered Species Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

The BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) and affiliate fisheries organizations believe that IFS requires the protection and recovery planning afforded by provisions of the SARA that includes a comprehensive recovery plan. Based on recent history, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the federal government agency responsible for fisheries, will be hesitant to conduct open and transparent recovery planning under SARA. It is predictable that DFO will defer to the failed "stove piped" Integrated Fisheries Management Planning (IFMP) process as evidenced by lack of action on previously recommended listing of Fraser sockeye, coho and Chinook stocks. Alternatively, DFO will likely request another review on the steelhead status from COSEWIC as a delay tactic rather than implementing meaningful action. This lack of action by DFO should be unacceptable to the provincial government.

In anticipation of inaction by DFO we recommend the following actions for a more coordinated response by the province:

1. The province of British Columbia creates a political liaison for fisheries issues with the Federal Government including SARA and changes to the federal *Fisheries Act* and indigenous relations.
2. The Fish and Wildlife Branch of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) be assigned the sole agency which represents the province on issues related to steelhead, sturgeon and salmon management in consultation with the Ecosystem Protection and Sustainability Branch and Conservation Officer in the Ministry of Environment.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture be removed from their current role with DFO related to management aspects of wild fisheries including Marine Stewardship Certification. Provincial support certification must be withdrawn given status of IFS.



We believe the provincial government needs to realign itself to effectively deal with the Federal Government (DFO) not only on the endangered steelhead issue but on all fisheries management issues. In the near term for sustainability of fish wildlife and habitat the Fish, Wildlife and Water staff in programs and regions currently in FLNRO should be transferred to the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of

Environment should have the responsibility to set watershed and landscape objectives for fish and wildlife habitats and populations in order to maintain BC's natural capital.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harvey Andrusak'.

Harvey Andrusak  
President,  
BC Wildlife Federation

Copies to:

The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
The Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations,  
and Rural Development  
The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture  
Rodney Clapton, President, BC Federation of Drift Fishers (BCFDF)  
Jesse Blake, President, BC Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF)  
Brian Braidwood, President, The Steelhead Society of BC (SSBC)  
Jeremy McCall, Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Council of BC  
Aaron Hill, Executive Director, Watershed Watch Salmon Society