



Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council
Conseil pour la conservation des ressources halieutiques du pacifique

02 March 2006

By courier

Minister Loyola Hearn
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Government of Canada
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Hearn:

**Re: Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council Report:
“Selection and Use of Indicators to Measure the Habitat Status of Wild Pacific Salmon.”**

On behalf of the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, it is my pleasure to provide you with a copy of our Council's report related to the selection of indicators to measure the habitat status of wild Pacific salmon. This report is in support of strategy 2 of the Wild Pacific Salmon Policy (WSP). This report recommends specific indicators that can be utilized to describe habitat status. It makes further recommendations including that of undertaking pilot implementation to learn as we go.

Later this March, Council will be holding a dialogue session with a wide range of stakeholders so as to gather additional information from the public on their views relevant to the implementation of such a program. Council considers this key as, in the past, many US and Canadian reports have proposed scientifically useful indicator systems but these reports have sat on the shelf rather than being utilized by fisheries agencies. Council will examine information obtained from our meeting combined with our technical report and own observations to draft an advisory with specific and practical advice, for your consideration, on the implementation of a habitat indicator program.

This past year the Council considered the release of the WSP to be a significant and very positive development and accordingly undertook to provide implementation assistance leading to the production of this report. We are also working on an ecosystem indicator report to assist in implementing strategy 3 of the WSP.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul LeBlond
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: PFRCCouncil Members
Paul Sprout, RDG Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region
Mary Hobbs, A/RD Policy Branch