



Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council

Conseil pour la conservation des ressources halieutiques du pacifique

30 May 2005

Minister John van Dongen
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Room 137, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via Courier

Dear Minister Regan:

Re: Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council Report on our Public Consultations on Hatcheries and Enhancement

On behalf of the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC) I am writing to provide you with a copy of the PFRCC's latest report entitled, **Perspectives on Salmon Enhancement and Hatcheries: What the Council Heard**. This report is based on feedback the Council received last year in a series of public consultations and meetings with key stakeholders to get their views on what should be done to improve salmon enhancement.

We found that British Columbians believe that salmon hatcheries and enhancement activities are needed to protect wild salmon stocks but also to maintain jobs, the sport and commercial fishing industries and a sense of community in many areas of the province. They think habitat loss and excessive fishing are to blame for salmon problems and that enhancement is the only thing actually working to protect wild salmon.

Regarding the potential negative impacts of hatcheries participants strongly believed in science's ability to provide solutions to any negative impacts that hatcheries and enhancement activities might have on wild stocks.

In due course our Council intends to write an advisory on hatcheries and enhancement related to interactions with wild salmon. The advisory will utilize all information available to the Council including scientific and technical reports as well as the feedback from the public consultations and stakeholder meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Paul LeBlond
Interim Chairman
Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council

Encl.

cc: Council Members
Bud Graham, ADM, MAFF