

**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL
UNDER THE CANADA – BRITISH COLUMBIA AGREEMENT ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC SALMON FISHERY ISSUES**

1. PURPOSE

Section 4.4 of the Canada-BC Agreement on the Management of Pacific Salmon Fishery Issues (the *Agreement*) calls for the development of joint steelhead management protocols for key stocks and watersheds. The development of such protocols will support the overall objectives of the *Agreement*, which include improved cooperation among governments along with an enhanced role for British Columbia in the management of Pacific salmon fisheries issues.

2. OBJECTIVES

In British Columbia there are a number of specific objectives related to the cooperative management of steelhead populations by the Federal and Provincial governments. Recognizing the evolving role of First Nations in the management of the fisheries resource, the objectives of this protocol, as recognized by the signatories to the *Agreement*, include:

- enhanced communication and cooperation between governments;
- improved and timely data sharing and exchange of scientific information;
- mutual agreement of interpretations of information prior to public release;
- an improved planning framework and joint development of policy, management objectives, and management tools where appropriate;
- an in-season dispute resolution mechanism; and
- improved and coordinated consultative processes.

3. MECHANISMS

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Ministry of Fisheries (BCF) agree to the following:

3.1 Appointment of a DFO/BC technical management teams.

Membership will include appropriate representatives from DFO and BC with the responsibility of jointly developing management tools such as harvest rate estimation models, selective fishery evaluation tools, and estimates of catch, escapement and mortalities. The team would also formulate and review joint research and stock assessment programs.

- 3.2 Free exchange of scientific data and related information for fisheries that intercept or are directed on steelhead.

Both governments will commit to the free and timely exchange of information relevant to meeting the objectives of the *Agreement*.

- 3.3 Adoption of a shared planning and policy development framework for steelhead.

The framework shall include, but not be limited to:

3.3.1 Pre-Season Plans

Pre-Season fishing plans, along with the conditions under which changes would be considered in-season, will be developed for fisheries where steelhead may be intercepted (e.g. Nitinat, Fraser River, Johnstone Strait, Skeena and Nass). Both governments will explicitly approve the pre-season plan by June 30 of each year. If not approved, the dispute resolution mechanism (Section 3.4) will be implemented.

3.3.2 In-Season Options

In-season options include criteria under which various options would be implemented in the fishery (e.g. clockwork approach). BC and DFO will agree to a minimum notification period if fishing plans are to be altered, unless there is conservation risk to the salmon or steelhead, in which case the notification period requirement may be waived.

3.3.3 Post Season Review

Status of the stocks will be assessed by the technical team in relation to management objectives.

3.3.4 Stock Status Framework

Stock status framework will include the characteristics of stocks, and the types of management actions which can be anticipated (e.g. complete angling closure, catch and release etc.).

3.4 Dispute Resolution Mechanism

Should a dispute arise between DFO and BC Fisheries regarding the interception of steelhead, or should a dispute arise in season, the managers will jointly develop a summary of the dispute issues for review by their respective managers (the ADM of Programs and Operations (BC) and the Regional Director of Operations Branch (DFO) in a joint process for a final decision. Should these officials be unable to reach agreement on an issue, the pre-eminent jurisdiction will be responsible for implementing decisions.

3.5 Public Release of Information

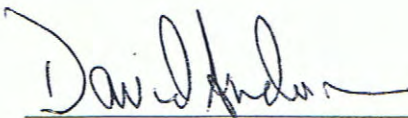
The public release of information regarding fisheries which intercept steelhead will be subject to the agreement of the technical committee or the appropriate officials. Any agreement by the two parties regarding access to information regarding steelhead is subject to the federal Access to Information and Privacy Acts and the relevant provincial legislation.

3.6 Consultations

DFO and BCF will outline the specific consultations required regarding the formulation and adoption of the pre-season plan. Both governments will move towards a multi-sector approach to consultation. BCF and DFO recognize the need and obligation to consult with First Nations.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROTOCOL

This protocol *Agreement* shall remain in effect until such time as either agency wishes to terminate this agreement. That agency will inform the other agency in writing (with an explanation /rationale for such action), of their intention, 90 days prior to the effective date of termination.



The Honourable David Anderson
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

18 May '99
Date



The Honourable Dennis Streifel
Minister of Fisheries

May 18/99
Date