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Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 4:01 PM
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Cc: Backman, Clare <Clare.Backman@marineharvest.com>
Subject: Sockeye salmon health program

Hello Everyone

Earlier this week I met with Clare Backman, Director of Environmental Relations of Marine Harvest Canada (MHC). He indicated that MHC is interested in seeing some baseline juvenile sockeye salmon health work be conducted in and around the salmon farms in the Campbell River area. Clare mentioned that he met with Minister Shae in Ottawa and that she agreed that this would be valuable considering the current level of interest in the subject. He approached BC CAHS because our involvement in co-ordinated the collection and evaluation of health of juvenile pink salmon in the Broughton Archipelago in 2007 and 2008, our fish health expertise and diagnostic capacity (i.e. virology and molecular diagnostic techniques) and our independence (as a not for profit NGO). He indicated that MHC is willing to provide both in kind (boats) and a cash contribution to help with such a project.

BC CAHS would be very interested in participating in such a program however we recognize for such a program to be successful it needs to be a done in collaboration with others with expertise in fields we lack strength. I feel that the model used in the Broughton Pink Salmon health project was a very good one - it involved DFO who provided logistic and wild fish expertise and BCMAL who provided expertise in field collection and histopathology.

I think a similar multi-disciplinary, multi-year program would also work to improve our understanding of health in our wild sockeye salmon and BC CAHS can provide needed fish health expertise to such a project. I would be very interested in meeting with you to discuss this further and in hearing your thoughts on the subject.

All the best
Sonja

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