



Fisheries
and Oceans

Pêches
et Océans

Pacific Region
Suite 200 - 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 3G4

Région du Pacifique
Pièce 200 - 401 rue Burrard
Vancouver (C.-B.)
V6C 3G4

Your file / Votre référence

Clus file / Notre référence

JAN 25 2005

Mr. Neil Schubert
Chair, Cultus Lake Recovery Team
c/o Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Lower Fraser River Division
#100 Annacis Parkway, Unit 3
Delta, BC, V3M 6A2

Dear Mr. Schubert:

I am writing in response to your letter of November 19, 2004 sent on behalf of the Cultus Sockeye Recovery Team (CSRT) and to concerns the team raised at a meeting with Dr. John Davis on November 15, 2004. I apologize for the delay in my response.

At the outset, I would like to thank you and the other members of the CSRT for your valuable work in support of Cultus Lake sockeye. Your efforts have been instrumental in guiding the significant recovery efforts over the past two years and will help guide the actions that will be taken in the future.

You note in your letter that the socio-economic review is beyond the mandate of the CSRT but indicate that the team can contribute to the development of biological assumptions used in such analysis. I agree that recovery teams can play a constructive role in helping to establish key biological parameters in support of socio-economic analysis. That said, it is essential that the legislated timelines be adhered to and that biological models be available for use during critical stages of the decision-making process. In this context, your letter refers to a peer reviewed model developed by the CSRT as a potential tool to support the SARA listing decision for Cultus Lake sockeye. However, the biological model developed by the CSRT was not complete as of the October 8, 2004 meeting involving a number of CSRT members and RHQ staff -- just two weeks before the Minister of Environment posted on the Canada Gazette an order proposing that Cultus sockeye not be listed. To enhance the utilization of such models in the future, it will be essential to ensure that they are developed and operational well in advance of such postings.

Canada

DFO-233511[01-03]

\\svbcanfp01\Cohen-Comm\Personal_Drives\Science\J
eremy Hume\Email01\Cohen Commission - Jeremy Hume\
Archive Folders to 2005\2005\

CAN198641_0001

You have made suggestions about how to improve the process related to socio-economic analysis. Many of the recommendations in your letter, including seeking input from First Nations and stakeholders, conducting peer review of methodology and expert review of analysis are being acted upon and will enhance our analytical capabilities. Our experience in conducting analysis on Cultus and Sakinaw sockeye is, in fact, helpful in preparing socio-economic analysis of Interior Fraser Coho, Bocaccio and White Sturgeon.

Now, turning to the meeting held with John Davis, I understand that the primary concerns of the CSRT in addition to those discussed above include: the commitment to continued recovery funding for Cultus Lake sockeye; what a non-SARA implementation process would consist of in terms of structure and function; and, what the recovery team role would be in this context. On the first point, the department is committed to continuing funding for recovery work on Cultus Lake sockeye with a funding level in 2005/06 similar to the previous two years. This has been reinforced by statements by the Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment Canada in recent announcements. The department is also committed to completing and implementing the recovery strategy that the team is working so hard to produce, even though the Cultus population was not legally listed.

With respect to action planning and the role of the recovery team, the CSRT terms of reference allow for a term up to three years to accomplish its main objective of producing a recovery strategy as the vehicle for providing advice on the measures required to recover the population. Development of the recovery strategy was funded over a two year period and is due to be completed by March 31, 2005. I encourage you to complete the recovery strategy on schedule.

Once the recovery strategy is finished, I believe that the primary mandate of the CSRT will be concluded. In the meantime, the department is reviewing its overall approach for addressing COSEWIC recommendations and legal listing decisions. In that context, the region will operate consistent with national direction and seek to improve the effectiveness of regional processes. I will be working with my colleagues to ensure that we have a consistent and effective process to guide future activities in support of Cultus Lake sockeye and other stocks for which a recovery plan is developed. I believe that all recovery processes must place a priority on public input. Accordingly, you can be assured that there will be an opportunity for interested parties, including individuals you are currently working closely with, to provide input in the future but potentially through a new process.

I sincerely hope this response satisfies some of the concerns expressed by the Cultus Lake Sockeye Recovery Team. In closing, I would like to express my thanks for your contribution to Cultus Lake sockeye.

Yours sincerely,



D. D. Radford
A/Regional Director
Fisheries Management

cc: J. Davis
P. Sprout
M. Hobbs
P. Ryall
S. Wright