

UNCLASSIFIED

2008-502-00106
EKME # 799526

MEMORANDUM FOR THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL

**CULTUS LAKE SOCKEYE AND SAKINAW
LAKE SOCKEYE CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

(Decision Sought)

SUMMARY

- Draft Cultus Lake sockeye (CLS) and Sakinaw Lake sockeye (SLS) recovery strategies, consistent with *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) requirements were prepared prior to the decision to not list CLS or SLS under SARA.
- The draft recovery strategies have been converted to conservation strategies consistent with the Interior Fraser Coho Conservation Strategy and the Wild Salmon Policy, and will provide the basis for the conservation and recovery of CLS and SLS.
- Approval of the CLS and SLS conservation strategies are recommended.

Background

- In 2003-05 recovery strategies were developed for Cultus Lake sockeye (CLS) and Sakinaw Lake sockeye (SLS) in anticipation of listing these populations under SARA.
- The recovery strategies were developed by recovery teams established for each population. The teams were comprised of Departmental, Provincial, non-governmental and First Nations members. Broad consultations with the public were also conducted.
- In January 2005, a decision was made to not list CLS or SLS under SARA. As a result the Recovery Team were disbanded. Although not listed, extensive measures have been put in place under the *Fisheries Act* and the Wild Salmon Policy to conserve and recover these populations. The National SARA funding program allocates approximately \$800K on an annual basis to recovery activities for these populations including Interior Fraser coho.

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- The CLS and SLS recovery strategies have since been converted from documents that conform with the SARA requirements to more broad-based Departmental conservation strategies consistent with the approaches under the Wild Salmon Policy. The goals, objectives and approaches remain unchanged from the previous versions.
- A recovery strategy developed for Interior Fraser coho under the same process was also converted to a Conservation Strategy. The Coho Conservation Strategy was approved in 2006 and is posted on the DFO website: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species/salmon/InteriorFraserCohoCS/default_e.htm.

Analysis / DFO Comment

- Changes to the documents were limited to the removal of SARA requirements with respect to recovery strategies and terminology specific to SARA.
- A process to implement these conservation plans has not been formalized. Science has established a Cultus Lake Sockeye Conservation Team to coordinate activities and develop an implementation plan. No such processes have been established for Sakinaw Lake sockeye or Interior Fraser coho.

Recommendations / Next Steps

- Approve the documents as conservation strategies for the conservation and recovery of CLS and SLS.
- A regional strategy for implementation of recovery activities for non-listed species, including accountabilities, is required.


Susan Farlinger


MAY 15 2008
I concur,
Paul Sprout
Regional Director General

Attachments (2):
-Conservation Strategy for Sockeye Salmon, Cultus Lake population
-Conservation Strategy for Sockeye Salmon, Sakinaw Lake population

C. Eros / P. Ryall / S. Farlinger

So, in approving this approach, it is with the understanding that we have already developed an implementation conservation strategy for Sakinaw, Cultus + Interior coho. We will need to develop a more formal process for decisions in future cases.
Pm