

This note outlines a process to address: 1) Cultus and Sakinaw sockeye following the decision to not list these two stocks under SARA, and 2) Interior Fraser coho during the period of the listing decision-making process.

1. Cultus and Sakinaw Sockeye

Recovery Teams were formed for each of these stocks for the specific purpose of developing recovery strategies. These recovery strategies are almost completed and are currently going through final edits. Once the recovery strategies are finished, the mandate of the Recovery Teams will be concluded. I would like to thank the Recovery Teams for their instrumental role in guiding the recovery efforts over the past two years and in providing direction for actions that will be taken in the near future to address the concerns for these stocks.

The department is committed to implementing recovery actions and continuing to fund recovery work in 2005/06 at a level similar to the previous two years. Recovery is expected to be implemented through the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) process. The development of the IFMP will be informed by the recovery strategy. The Lower Fraser and South Coast Areas will take the lead for Cultus and Sakinaw sockeye respectively to ensure fisheries recovery measures that receive funding are incorporated in the IFMP and to implement the other programs for recovery work where feasible and funding permits. The Lower Fraser and South Coast Areas will also develop a process, project timelines and long term objectives, and identify coordinators to meet this responsibility. Input from the public will be important and consultations will be carried out through the existing IFMP process. Final 2005/06 SARA funding amounts to carry out the work has been requested and will be confirmed in the spring, 2005.

2. Interior Fraser Coho

The Recovery Team is expected to finish the recovery strategy by April 30, 2005 pending the completion of the allowable harm assessment. Once the recovery strategy is complete, the mandate of the recovery team will be concluded. Again, I would like to thank the Recovery Team for their substantive efforts to prepare the recovery strategy.

The development of the 2005-06 IFMP will be informed by this new recovery strategy. Additionally, some of the key recovery projects identified in the recovery strategy are expected to be funded and implemented as planned for 2005/2006, pending SARA final budget approval. The B.C. Interior Area will take the lead for the IFMP planning and project implementation.

If coho is listed, action planning consistent with SARA will be initiated.