



COMMUNIQUÉ

Public Consultations to Begin on: Making Sense of the Hatchery Debate

March 8, 2004, Vancouver – The Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council is pleased to invite the public to attend a consultation related to interactions between enhanced salmon and wild salmon.

The council has commissioned a report to identify available information on the impacts of salmon hatcheries and other enhancement activities on wild salmon and steelhead in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. It explores the opinions and arguments surrounding the impacts of salmon enhancement on wild salmon, and explains the various concepts, theories, practices and research in this field. The report concludes that, while there have been obvious positive outcomes from the enhancement program; the risks also need to be considered when considering net benefit. That report can be obtained on our website at www.fish.bc.ca.

The PFRCC wants the public's views, knowledge and experience related to the subject. Comments received and the consultant report will be considered by council and will be important input to an advisory to government and the public, which we hope will have an impact on future decisions at the federal and provincial levels.

Dates, times and locations of the consultations are:

March 20 – Prince Rupert

HOWARD JOHNSON HIGHLINER PLAZA HOTEL
815 1st Ave. West
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

March 27 – Nanaimo

THE GRAND HOTEL NANAIMO
4898 Rutherford Road
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

March 28 – Chilliwack

RHOMBUS HOTEL
45920 First Avenue
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

We would welcome your presence and if you plan to attend, please let us know at either info@fish.bc.ca or phone (604) 775-5621 in order for us to plan logistics. If you cannot

attend you are welcome to write us with your comments by April 8th, 2004. (Our mailing address is: Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, 590-800 Burrard St., Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2G7.)

The Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council was established in 1998 to provide advice to the Governments of Canada and British Columbia and the public on matters dealing with the conservation of Pacific fish populations, specifically salmon and steelhead, and their freshwater and ocean habitat.

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TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE REPORT AND THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, GO TO:
www.fish.bc.ca

For more information contact:

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