

## CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

**RE: SALMONID ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2005 March 08, received and adopted the *attached* report reviewing the impact of the 2005 federal budget to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's (DFO) Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP). The Committee noted that core SEP funding has not been impacted by the budget. The Committee advised however, that overall DFO resourcing was impacted by the budget, through a program called "Habitat Modernization Initiative." This program will reduce the number of habitat resource officers and fisheries enforcement officers, as DFO seeks to streamline project review and enforcement focusing attention on major projects, and reducing resources to "lower risk" work. The Committee will continue to monitor this issue and report back to Council as implications unfold.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino  
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Redman  
Member

COPY – CITY MANAGER  
DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULTURAL SERV.  
CITY SOLICITOR

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2005 March 2

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: PL 31000 - 01

*Ref: Stream Protection-Regulations*

SUBJECT: SALMONID ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To review the impact of the 2005 federal budget to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Salmonid Enhancement Program.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Committee forward this report to Council for information.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At the January 11, 2004 Environment Committee, staff were requested to report on the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's (DFO) Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP), and respond to concerns about potential budget cuts in the 2005 federal Budget. The following report outlines the program, and notes that it received no cuts during the 2005 budget brought down on February 23, 2005.

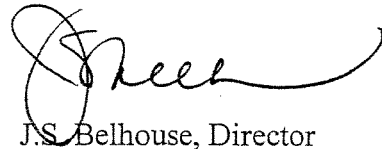
**2.0 SALMONID ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

The Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP) is a partnership program run by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) since 1977 to arrest and reverse the decline in salmon populations. The program includes operating major hatcheries (e.g., Capilano hatchery), coordinating fish culture and volunteer hatcheries (e.g., Sapperton Fish and Game Club), supporting watershed stewardship initiatives (e.g., Byrne Creek stewards), and running education and fish release programs (e.g., Salmonids in the Classroom). In 2004, the budget for the program was \$24.9 million for British Columbia, with \$5 million allocated to the Lower Fraser region. These funds include core national funding and additional supplemental funds provided by the region.

**3.0 2005 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

In late 2004, some groups had expressed concern that the SEP program may be severely cut in the 2005 federal budget. Review of the 2005 federal budget and discussions with the DFO resource allocation staff indicate that the core SEP program funding has not been impacted by the budget. DFO regional staff expect total SEP 2005/6 funding to remain at around \$25 million for the Province, of which \$5 million is allocated of the Lower Fraser Region.

It is worth noting, however, that overall DFO resourcing was impacted by the budget, through a program called the "Habitat Modernization Initiative". This program will reduce the number of habitat officers and fisheries enforcement officers, as DFO seeks to streamline project review and enforcement - focusing attention on major projects, and reducing resources to "lower risk" work. Nationally, the initiative is projected to reduce DFO budgets by \$7million per year by 2007/8. The implications of the program for local DFO resources, City works and the City's environmental review process are as yet unclear. Staff will continue to monitor this issue in conjunction with local DFO staff and report back to Committee and Council as implications unfold. This report is provided to Committee and Council for information.



J.S. Belhouse, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RW/jc

cc: City Manager  
City Solicitor  
Director, Engineering  
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

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