



SEP 18 2017

Jesse Blake  
President  
BC Federation of Fly Fishers  
< [gregsgordon@icloud.com](mailto:gregsgordon@icloud.com) >

Dear Mr. Blake:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 15, 2017, regarding Interior Fraser River steelhead.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is committed to managing fisheries in a manner that supports conservation and sustainability using precautionary guidelines as articulated in the Sustainable Fisheries Framework.

With respect to steelhead, both federal and provincial officials make decisions on how these fisheries are managed. DFO collaborates closely on these decisions with the Province of British Columbia, meeting regularly to advance policy and planning objectives and initiatives to support overall conservation. Coordinated approaches to steelhead management in the Interior Fraser River are also considered. Additionally, the Department has been engaging with the Province and First Nations through the Thompson Steelhead Working Group.

The Department opens First Nation, commercial, and recreational fisheries only when the fish populations returning to a river system are judged to be sufficient to ensure the long-term sustainability of the stock. DFO is not considering changes to existing fisheries management measures currently.

DFO is committed to continuously improving existing fisheries planning and to ensuring the availability of best information for fisheries management decisions. At this time, DFO is working to develop a model of assessment to measure the exposure of Interior Fraser River steelhead during commercial chum fisheries, when there is concern about steelhead bycatch in gillnets. DFO plans to share this new model with the Province, First Nations, and stakeholders in advance of the 2018 fishing season to allow sufficient time for discussion regarding fisheries' implications in steelhead management.

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I trust that British Columbia's Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development will give due consideration to your views regarding trout and trout release.

Thank you for writing. I hope that the information provided is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. LeBlanc', written in a cursive style.

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

c.c.: The Honourable Doug Donaldson, M.L.A.  
British Columbia's Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and  
Rural Development