

Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. – A New Model for Delivery of Government Fish Culture Programs

Donald G. Peterson, President,
Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C., Presenter
PO Box 9383 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C., Canada V8W 9M7
don.peterson@gofishbc.com 250-356-9216 (F) 250-356-7280

Purpose: To inform fisheries managers, fish culture organizations and their agencies regarding a new model for the delivery of public fish culture services.

Significant Findings: Public fish culture programs have traditionally been delivered by State, Tribal, Provincial or Federal Fisheries agencies. The Province of British Columbia has operated a provincial freshwater hatchery program as part of an integrated Fisheries Management Program for more than 65 years. In 2003 the Province made a decision to transfer all hatchery facilities, lands, equipment and staff to a newly created non-profit society – The Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C.

The new society is governed by an independent Board of Directors and is funded primarily by revenues from freshwater angling licences. The Society's mandate is to support freshwater recreational fisheries through the delivery of stocking programs; to support the conservation and restoration of wild fish populations through the delivery of conservation fish culture and other services; to inform and educate the public; and, to promote and market sport fishing in British Columbia. The new society is expected to "grow the business" by establishing new partnerships, new business areas and strategic alliances.

Conclusions: The new model of service delivery for fish culture programs that has been put in place in British Columbia is unique in North America. While early days, this new model may offer a promising alternative to the traditional approach of the management of fish culture organizations and the marketing and promotion of sport fishing.