

Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC



A New Model for Public Fish Culture Programs

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Portland, Oregon

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President

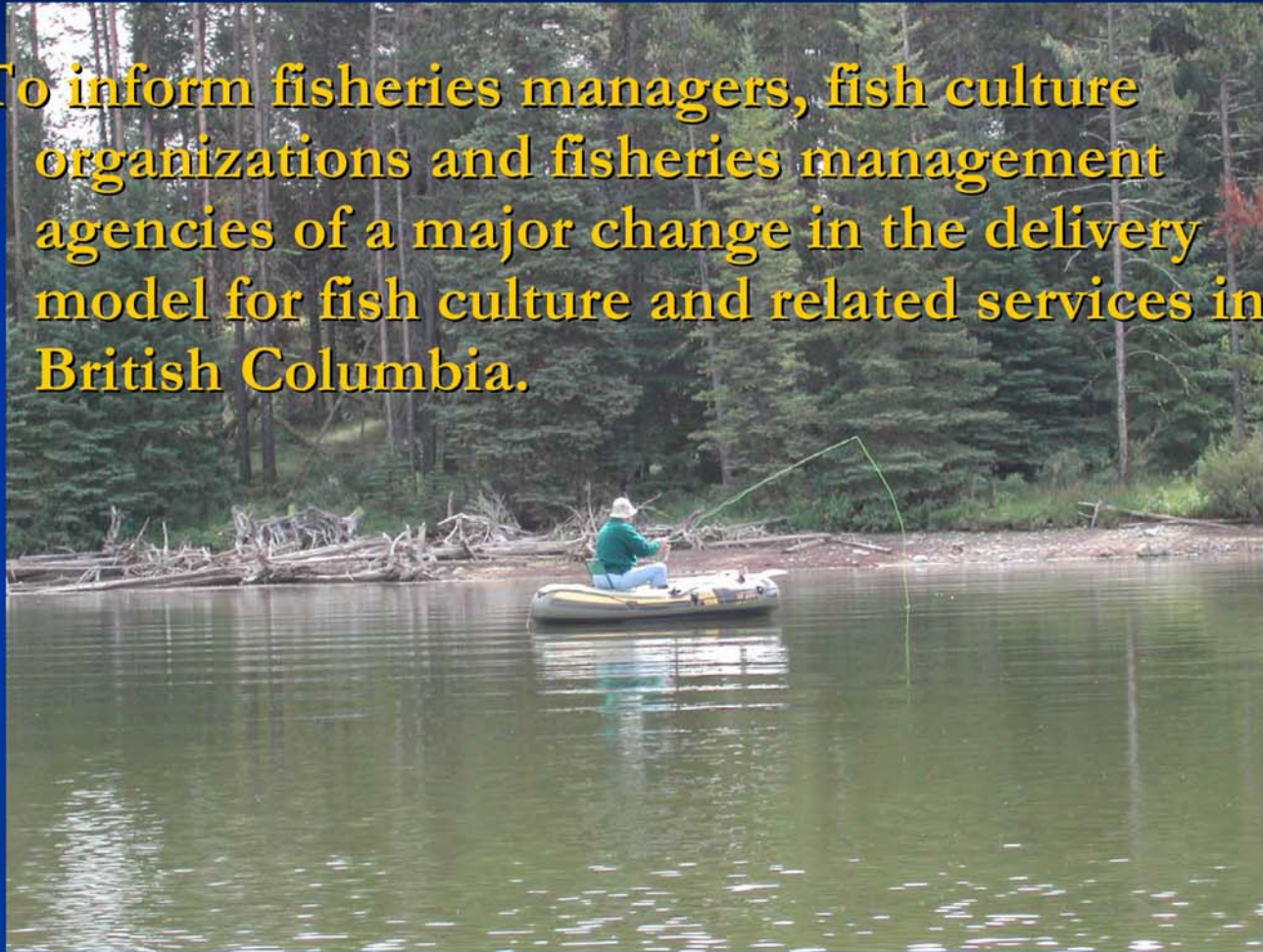
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Freshwater Fisheries
Society of BC

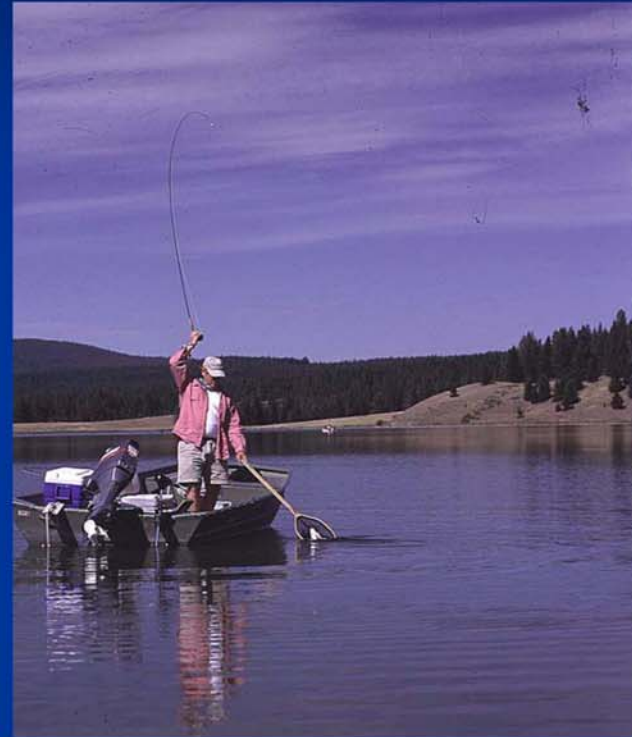
Purpose of Presentation

To inform fisheries managers, fish culture organizations and fisheries management agencies of a major change in the delivery model for fish culture and related services in British Columbia.



Outline

- Background
- Governance Model
- Mission
- Organization
- Resources
- Funding Model
- Questions?



Background

- In BC – Province manages freshwater fisheries, Federal government (FOC) manages salmon and marine fisheries.
- Provincial hatchery program began 1937.
- Unique “wild fish culture program”
- 10 million fish of 7 species and 65 stocks.
- 1,000 lakes and streams stocked.
- Supports 50% of the \$500M freshwater fisheries
- Supports white sturgeon and steelhead recovery.

Background cont'd

- April 2002 – Government directed Ministry to find “new funding and management model”
- May – November 2002 – Independent “Recreation Stewardship Panel”.
- January 2003 – Cabinet: “move fish culture program to 3rd parties by end of March”.
- February 2003 – Review and analysis of 3rd party options completed.

Background cont'd

- **March 17, 2003** – to protect public interest, a non-profit model recommended – and approved.
- **March 31, 2003** – “Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C.” established
- **April 1, 2003** - Fish Culture Section staff temporarily assigned to new society.
- **April/December 2003** – “transition” process from government to independent organization.

“Transition”

- Land, buildings, vehicles, equipment transferred.
- 30 year contract negotiated.
- New computer, telecommunications, mail, offices, etc.
- Strategic Plan
- Independent Financial Management
- Independent Property Management
- Marketing Plan
- Staff permanently transferred.

Protecting the Public Interest

- Constitution aligned with provincial fisheries objectives.
- All land, buildings and equipment are owned but on dissolution, all assets revert back to the Province (after debts paid).
- Restrictive covenants on property – “fish hatchery and conservation purposes only”
- All staff previously part of Provincial fish culture program transferred to new Society.
- Society staff sit on Fisheries Program technical, planning and policy committees.

Governance Model

- A non-profit society under the Societies Act.
- Majority (3/5) of the Board are independent so we are outside the BC government reporting entity.
- 30 year, renewable, fee for service contract with government – also with 3rd parties.
- We are an “agent of the government of BC” (no duplication of services).
- BC retains fisheries management authority including legislation, regulation and policy.

Organization

- Board of Directors
- President
- Science, Planning and Evaluation
 - Fish Health Services
 - Biological Support Services
 - Engineering Services
- Production Services
 - 5 major hatcheries/3 Cons. programs
 - Field facilities and operations.
- Sport Fishing Development and Marketing
- Corporate and Financial Services

FFSBC Major Hatcheries



Mission Statement

“The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC delivers hatchery and technical services that enhance and promote freshwater sport fishing and support the conservation and restoration of wild fish stocks.”

Services

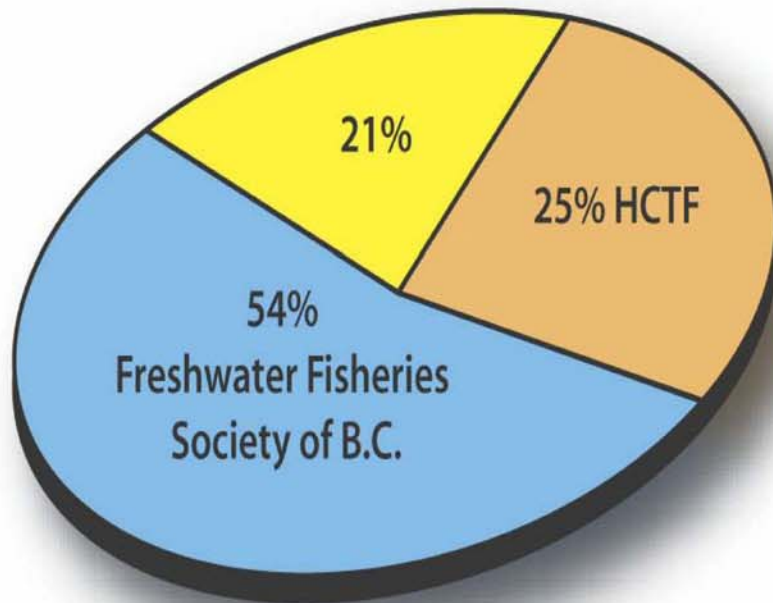
- Lake and stream stocking
- Fish health management
- Fisheries engineering
- Conservation fish culture
- Inform and educate the public
- Policy advice to government
- Developing and marketing freshwater sport fishing in BC

Funding Model

- Freshwater Angling Revenue: \$13.0M
 - Habitat Conservation Trust Fund \$3.30M
 - Services by Ministry: \$2.70M (30%)
 - Services by FFSBC \$7.00M (70%)
- FFSBC Funding
 - 70% of angling licence revenue \$7.00M (03/04)
 - Conservation funding (taxpayers) \$1.20M
\$8.20M

100% of Angler Revenue - Services

Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection



FFSBC	\$7.0 M
HCTF	\$3.3 M
WLAP	\$2.7 M
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Total	\$13.0 M

Some Advantages of the New Model

- **Financial** – reduced Ministry annual costs by \$1.8M
- **Certainty** – now in control of our own destiny.
- **New Opportunities** – independence promotes greater innovation and opportunity to “grow the business.
- **Partnerships** – success will depend on new partnerships with governments, corporations, public groups, First Nations.

Some Concerns with the New Model

- Financial success primarily dependent on angler participation and revenues – difficult to control.
- Independent Board – difficult to control.
- Maintaining integration with the Fisheries Management Program.
- While an independent non-profit – we are “neither fish nor fowl” – not government, not private sector.

The End

Questions?

