**From:**"Rod Clapton" <rclapton@shaw.ca>
**To:**"Ralph Sultan" <ralph.sultan.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, "Jackie Tegart" <jackie.tegart.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
**Cc:**"Greg Burrows" <burrowsg57@gmail.com>
**Sent:**Friday, October 25, 2019 3:22:27 PM
**Subject:**"URGENT" Fwd: Thompson Steelhead Update

Please see attached graph & info below. Your assistance as co-chairs of the Liberal S/H Caucus is desperately required to save these fish. The estimated  #'s below indicate virtual extinction due to potential predation & incidental catch in nets of these miniscule #'s. . Years ago Barry Penner then Liberal Environment Minister realized the potential extinction of Cheakamus s/h due to the CN chemical spill. Following an independent review it was determined that the only viable immediate  solution to prevent potential extinction was to institute "Emergency Fish Culture Intervention" to ensure the maximum return from the remnants. We strongly suggest that 39 &86 fish respectively the Chilcotin & Thompson be candidates for the same recovery option as the are well past point of any natural recovery. We appreciate there is opposition to fish culture programs thus an unbiased independent review would be appropriate.

The wording of an intervention in the "Provincial Steelhead Mgt Plan" established in 2014 is a follows:

"Where the requirements for a Recovery Plan (under the Accord for the Protection of a Species at Risk or he Species at Risk Act) is identified for a steelhead stock or stock group, then it will be undertaken according to provincial policy and procedure. The use of conservation fish culture designed to conserve with in-stock  genetic diversity is an acceptable short-term option (one generation)if it is part of a provincially approved recovery plan."

It further states:

"Conservation fish culture is a specialized and experimental form of hatchery intervention designed to prevent the extinction of a population or species while the root causes of population decline ate ascertained & addressed. The primary focus of conservation fish culture is to protect the natural genetic integrity of he population. Such a program requires a carefully designed breeding plan and release strategy to mimic what would happen in the wild. . These programs are designed to be temporary usually lasting for one generation. A conservation fish culture program differs significantly from the hatchery production program where the main objective is to provide for angling opportunity"

We suggest the Thompson/Chilcotin Rivers qualify under the above criteria & our organization & many within the angling community support the above as perhaps the only current immediate option to prevent extinction of these B.C. icons. Traditional recovery plans could work once we get the numbers past point of extinction. Your support & that of the Liberal party is absolutely vital to ensure this priceless B.C. resource is saved & enjoyed by future generations.

We have a very limited opportunity so your consideration of an immediate reply is greatly appreciated.

Rod Clapton

President, B.C. Federation of Drift Fishers

SFAB Main Board Member

PAAT Main Board Member

Past Co Chair of BCIT Steelhead Summit

Past Co Chair of Fraser River Sport Fishing Alliance