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News Release

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REVIEW LOOKING AT IMPACTS OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PACIFIC SALMON REVITALIZATION PLAN

-Governments Appoint Review Panel and Agree to Terms of Reference-

VICTORIA/OTTAWA -- The governments of Canada and British Columbia today announced that the review of the impacts and possible improvements to the Pacific Salmon Revitalization Plan is now under way - with the selection of the three panel members leading the review completed, and the agreed upon terms of reference in place.

The announcement was made today by Glen Clark, Premier of B.C., Fred Mifflin, federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and Corky Evans, B.C. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

As set out in the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the two governments, the review panel will include a representative from each government and a third, independent member. The government of Canada is represented by Michael Francino, special advisor to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The British Columbia representative is Bill Lefeaux-Valentine, provincial representative on the Pacific Salmon Commission, while the third independent member is John Fryer, visiting professor of public administration at the University of Victoria, and former General Secretary of the BC Government Employees Union.

The focus of the review will be the plan's impacts on individuals and communities both in the

short and long-term, and possible improvements to the plan. It is intended to complement a separate review taking place concerning the roles and responsibilities of the two governments in the management of the Pacific salmon fishery. The two reviews, both falling under the government's recent MOU, are intended to provide a co-operative basis for conserving and enhancing the salmon resource - so as to ensure a sustainable and viable fishery for the future.

"The panel will be reviewing thoroughly the impacts of the plan, in consultation with interested groups, including stakeholders, clients and communities," said Mifflin. "The review will provide us with the necessary information to respond appropriately to the needs of those affected, and enable us to make improvements if required."

"The revitalization plan has been a contentious issue in BC," said Evans. "Now the people who depend on the fisheries resource for a living will be able to provide constructive input to a review of the plan's impacts, and help build a sustainable fishery on which they can plan their future."

"This is a matter of highest priority to me and I appreciate the support of the Prime Minister in advancing this initiative," said Clark. "I am pleased that the MOU between the two levels of government is now in full swing. Consultations with BC's fishing community on jurisdictional responsibilities, and now, on the impacts of the plan have begun - with a hard look being taken at how the fisheries resource in BC is managed."

Consultation is a key element of the review. Accordingly, the three-person team will consult broadly with affected stakeholders. The final report resulting from this review of the impacts of the plan is scheduled to be completed before the end of November 1996, and will include:

- an assessment of the short and long-term impacts of the plan on coastal communities, individuals and corporate concentration;
- recommendations for determining appropriate adjustment measures; and
- proposals for improvements to the plan.

The review will take into account the work commissioned by the Provincial Job Protection Commissioner, and the federal government's ongoing impact analysis provided by Human Resources Canada and Western Economic Diversification.

Editor's Note: Terms of Reference available upon request.

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