

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact Person: Brad Beath  
Telephone Number: 250-713-1500  
Email Address: [brad@westcoastaquatic.ca](mailto:brad@westcoastaquatic.ca)  
Web site address: <http://www.westcoastaquatic.ca>

*January 21, 2008*

**Aquatic Management Board Releases West Coast Vancouver Island Wild Salmon Strategy**

Port Alberni, BC – The West Coast Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Board (AMB) announced today that it is actively seeking input from the public and other interested parties on its DRAFT West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) Wild Salmon Strategy.

The draft Wild Salmon Strategy was compiled by scientific experts in wild salmon recovery and renewal, and importantly the insight and traditional wisdom from WCVI First Nations. The document summarizes the current issues with wild salmon stocks on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, makes suggestions about actions for change, and identifies priorities for stronger habitat protection, changes to hatchery production, and need for a review of salmon harvest plans.

Mexsis (Tom Happynook), President of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and Co-Chair of the AMB urges the people of the WCVI to participate in the development of a final strategy. “We must work together to ensure the sustainability of our wild salmon populations” he said. “Salmon are the lifeblood of our communities, an important part of our heritage and are indicators to the health of our people, our communities and our society”.

The Aquatic Management Board is interested in hearing from people in West Coast communities and is inviting the public to review the draft and provide feedback. Brad Beath, former Department of Fisheries and Oceans biologist, will be leading the review of the strategy on behalf of the AMB and would like to receive all comments by mid-March 2008. He will be conducting outreach all around the WCVI region and welcomes participation by any interested party. Brad can be reached at [brad@westcoastaquatic.ca](mailto:brad@westcoastaquatic.ca) or 250-713-1500. The AMB will also be hosting a public session to finalize the plan and discuss its implementation. The AMB firmly believes that in order for the Wild Salmon Strategy to be successful those who are interested in wild salmon health need to be heard and need to be involved.

The DRAFT of the WCVI Wild Salmon Strategy can be found at:  
<http://www.westcoastaquatic.ca/Draft%20WCVI%20Wild%20Salmon%20Strategy%2001%20Feb%2006.pdf>

The AMB is a forum that enables coastal communities to participate with governments in the management of aquatic resources and has been the leading organization in developing fisheries that are co-managed by federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments, industry and other non-government stakeholders on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

For more information on the WCVI Aquatic Management Board please visit our website at:  
<http://www.westcoastaquatic.ca>