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Canada to build new hatchery to boost wild Pacific salmon recovery in B.C.

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By Responsible Seafood Advocate

Canadian government to build conservation hatchery in Prince George to boost Chinook and sockeye salmon recovery

The Canadian federal government has announced plans to build a new Pacific salmon hatchery in Prince George, British Columbia (B.C.).

This initiative, supported by the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI), aims to bolster the conservation and recovery of wild Chinook and sockeye salmon populations. Operated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in partnership with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and Canfor Pulp Ltd., the hatchery will be constructed this fall on federal land along the Nechako River, near its junction with the Fraser River.

"As a Nation, fisheries are central to the work we do," said Chief Dolleen Logan, on behalf of Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. "We remain committed to maintaining biodiversity in our traditional territory while enhancing salmon populations throughout the region."

Fraser River salmon have significant cultural, social and ecological importance to many First Nations and British Columbians. However, many are in serious, long-term decline, and without action, some runs



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may disappear entirely.



(<https://link.chtbl.com/aquapod>).

“With this new facility, DFO and Lheidli T’enneh First Nation are embarking on a partnership that will help address historic salmon declines and improve access to the fish that are the lifeblood of Indigenous peoples in the region,” said The Honourable Diane Lebovillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.

The new conservation hatchery will address a “critical infrastructure gap” in the upper Fraser River region. It aims to improve the survival rates of various at-risk salmon species and help address challenges in their freshwater habitat. The hatchery will also offer valuable information about Upper Fraser salmon stocks, which will aid in more effective rebuilding efforts.

“With an eye towards our shared future, we are positioned to impart traditional knowledge and opportunities on Nation youth, while developing new skills and employment opportunities,” said Chief Logan. “From training and development opportunities to strong collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), we look forward to working to advance the development and operation of a Pacific salmon hatchery in Prince George, B.C.”

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