



Date: January 15, 2001

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: SALMON STREAM JOINT OPERATING PLAN**

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A) *THAT the Board receive the operating plan outlined in this report as information.*
- B) *THAT the Board approve the use of the old bear grotto as a publicly accessible demonstration salmon hatchery to support the salmon stream in Stanley Park.*

## BACKGROUND

The Board approved the development plan for the salmon stream in July 1996 as part of the overall redevelopment of the old lower zoo area in Stanley Park.

The project was completed in late October 2000.

Summer 2001 will see the first operational season for the stream. As a display and learning facility, it will have programmatic requirements which go well beyond an ornamental stream in the landscape.

## DISCUSSION

The salmon stream also represents the first major partnership undertaking with the Aquarium. This joint project is in keeping with the strategic alliance direction of our Strategic Plan.

We have taken a passive design feature and with funding and expertise from our project partner, created a programmatic element in the park. As such, it requires management and hence an understanding of our mutual operating responsibilities. These will generally fall under the following categories:

### Program Operations:

- (a) The Aquarium is responsible for all graphic interpretation material, which must be pre-approved by the Park Board. The signage is currently in place. Paper handouts will generally be limited to the Park Board information kiosk except for some conservation specific messages.
- (b) The Aquarium will provide human interpretation through unstructured information giving to the general public by volunteer guides and organized free stream tour sessions to schools and similar groups.
- (c) Events, sponsored by the Aquarium in the park, will be reported in advance to the Park Board staff, and depending on the scale and nature of the event, the Park permitting process will be used.
- (d) Major events or celebrations will be jointly planned and sponsored. These will be reported to the Board for information well in advance of the event.

### Site Operations:

- a) The Aquarium will be responsible for all maintenance and operation within the stream to the outer edge of its banks, from the Stone Bridge to Coal Harbour.
- b) The Park Board will be responsible for all maintenance and use of the landscaped areas abutting the stream, including lookouts and pathways.
- c) The Aquarium is responsible for all the mechanical and electrical equipment related to the stream operation between the Stone Bridge and Coal Harbour including the mechanical/electrical plant in the bear grotto.
- d) The Park Board is responsible for the mechanical/electrical systems related to the stream circulation between the Farmyard concession and the Stone Bridge.

### Fish Operations:

- a) The Aquarium is responsible for all fish rearing/return activities in the stream areas. This includes water quality and volumes, rearing, capture and handling of the fish.
- b) The Park Board and the Aquarium will jointly address issues of predation and vandalism to develop responses which will be formally accepted by both parties.
- c) The intention of the salmon program is to hatch and rear the fingerlings on site to expand the interpretation of the salmon cycle from birth to death. Hence the story of the stream will be complete. This interpretive element must be readily presentable to the general public and tour groups on a free basis.

A small demonstration hatchery is proposed as an adjunct to the stream to showcase and explain the commencement of the salmon cycle. A significant part of the salmon story is human efforts to make good the damage and losses to spawning habitat, e.g. small hatcheries and stream restoration.

Park Board staff support the hatchery concept in the old bear grotto for the following reasons:

- a) It is already a structure in place. The overgrown public face of the structure has an attraction

- as an architectural masonry ruin in the landscape. (It would be very costly to demolish all the poured in place concrete). Also the adaptation and reuse of the structure is a fitting symbol of the Board's progressive thinking of its role in support of natural history.
- b) The structure already houses the mechanical systems for the stream. This removed the need to create a new structure in the park to house the controls.
  - c) The location is very good in terms of general public access and being between the lower salmon stream and the spawning area. It is to be a free education site, separate from the pay-to-view Aquarium buildings.
  - d) The site has the ability, within the confines of the existing grotto, to grow from a look through the glass doors and tour facility to an "open" display in the old moat areas, which will be an attraction to even the casual passer by. The current moat overlook design, when shallowed up, provides an excellent information/education site related to fingerling rearing. The emphasis will be, free, accessible, and a demonstration of a scale and detail that will meaningfully add to the stream story. Hence, this will be staged over a period between two to five years to reach full effect.
  - e) The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, who have been part of the consultative, advisory process since the salmon idea was introduced to the stream, are very strong advocates of the need to generate egg hatching capacity on site, within the same water flows, as opposed to annually "importing" smolts for stream release.

## CONCLUSION

The "salmon story" including the stream and the hatchery, are a fitting successor to the old zoo in Stanley Park. It conveys the Board's commitment to environmental education and provides an opportunity to showcase survival issues to the millions of Park visitors each year. There are no costs to the Board to provide these programmatic enhancements to the stream.

Prepared by:  
J. Lowden  
Stanley District  
Board of Parks & Recreation  
Vancouver, B.C.  
JL/slg