

# NECHAKO FISHERIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

A Joint Program of the Government of Canada, Alcan and the Province of British Columbia

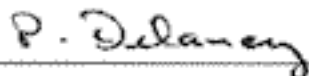
## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: April 26, 1996

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### Decision Record (1996/97-1)

1. Based on monitoring of ice conditions in the Nechako watershed and the timing of the juvenile chinook emergence in the Nechako River, the Technical Committee has decided that the change in releases at Skins Lake Spillway to the scheduled spring flow should proceed. Therefore, Alcan will be instructed to increase Skins Lake Spillway release flows to approximately 49 m<sup>3</sup>/sec on April 27, 1996.



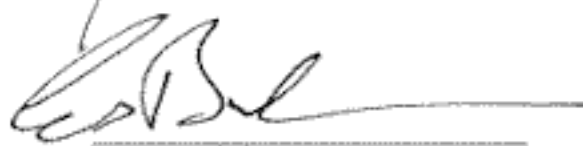
P. Delaney

  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Hay



A.C. Mitchell



E. Bonham

# NECHAKO FISHERIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

A Joint Program of the Government of Canada, Alcan and the Province of British Columbia

## NECHAKO FISHERIES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Monday, September 30, 1996

PLACE: Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
555 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, B.C.

ATTENDEES: D. Hay (Independent Member)  
P.W. Delaney (Federal Crown)  
J. Hwang (Federal Crown)  
E. Bonham (Provincial Crown)  
K. Conlin (Provincial Crown)  
A.C. Mitchell (Alcan Aluminium)  
W.O. Rublee (Alcan Aluminium)

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### Decision Record (1996/97- 2)

2. a) Following the summer temperature management program, the release from the Skins Lake Spillway was decreased from 170 m<sup>3</sup>/s (6,000 cfs) to 14.2 m<sup>3</sup>/s (500 cfs) on August 19, 1996. On September 3, 1996 the release from the Skins Lake Spillway was increased to 32.4 m<sup>3</sup>/s (1145 cfs) to fully utilize the annual water allocation specified in the Settlement Agreement.
- b) Alcan have advised that Nechako Reservoir levels are higher than normal for this time of year and that, to bring these closer to the reservoir operating curve, a spill of surplus water will be necessary in order to minimize the risk of a forced spill in the spring. As referenced in Section 2.1A(c)iv of the Settlement Agreement, Alcan is to notify the Technical Committee regarding proposals to release flows in excess of the Short Term Water Allocation and follow such directions deemed necessary by

the Technical Committee with respect to the timing of the release unless otherwise directed by the Water Comptroller of B.C. In this regard, Alcan has proposed that a release of up to 226 m<sup>3</sup>/s (8,000 cfs) be made for at least a month to achieve this goal. This would include an immediate increase in the spill to 56.6 m<sup>3</sup>/s (2000 cfs) and a subsequent increase to 226 m<sup>3</sup>/s (8,000 cfs) pending direction from the Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee has reviewed Alcan's request and, contingent on the following criteria being met, agree that the spill would not have a significant effect on fish production in the Nechako River:

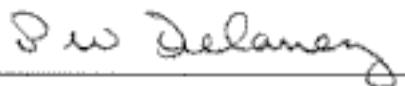
- the winter flow should not be less than 50 % of the maximum flow in the Nechako River below Cheslatta Falls during the chinook spawning period to limit any potential effects to incubating eggs from possible re-distribution of spawners due to the increased flows. The spawning period typically ends on 8 October but the Technical Committee would consider advancing that date subject to field monitoring indicating that at least 95% of the spawning was complete; and,
- any subsequent ramp down meet the KCP down ramping guideline of 25 to 60 mm/hr to minimize the potential for stranding of juveniles in back/side channels.

Subsequent to accepting these criteria, Alcan proposed that the Skins Lake Spillway release be increased on September 20, 1996 to 113 m<sup>3</sup>/s (4000 cfs) and later to 226 m<sup>3</sup>/s (8000 cfs) at the end of chinook spawning in the Nechako River. The Technical Committee approved this proposal.

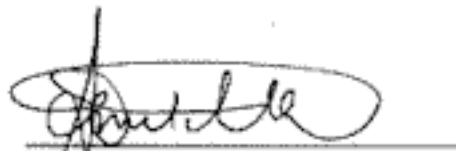
If the 226 m<sup>3</sup>/s (8,000 cfs) release were to start on October 8, Alcan proposed that the release continue to November 8, 1996. The Technical Committee reviewed this proposal in the light of fish values in the Nechako River and found it acceptable. It then reviewed the options for ramping down the flows to a minimum winter flow of 56.6 m<sup>3</sup>/s (2000 cfs). All options met the down ramping criteria and therefore the Alcan proposed option of changing the release from 226m<sup>3</sup>/s (8000 cfs) to 56.6 m<sup>3</sup>/s (2000 cfs) was accepted as the buffering effect of Murray and Cheslatta Lakes would ensure ramping rates on the

Nechako below Cheslatta Falls were acceptable. The Technical Committee further decided that additional monitoring should be added to the regular fall chinook monitoring project to allow the monitoring of fish usage in side channels that may go dry during the proposed ramp-down. Based on the results of this monitoring program, additional monitoring work may be required at selected locations as the flows ramp down.

**Nechako Fisheries Conservation Program  
Technical Committee**



P. Delaney  
Federal Crown



A.C. Mitchell  
Alcan Smelters and Chemicals Ltd



D. Hay  
Independent Member



E. Bonham  
Provincial Crown

# NECHAKO FISHERIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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## NECHAKO FISHERIES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 7, 1996

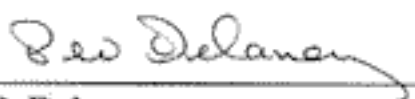
PLACE: Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks  
780 Blanshard Street  
Room 302  
Victoria, B.C.

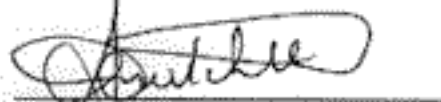
ATTENDEES: D. Hay (Independent Member)  
P.W. Delaney (Federal Crown)  
J. Hwang (Federal Crown)  
J. Heinonen (Federal Crown)  
E. Bonham (Provincial Crown)  
K. Conlin (Provincial Crown)  
A.C. Mitchell (Alcan Aluminium)  
W.O. Rublee (Alcan Aluminium)

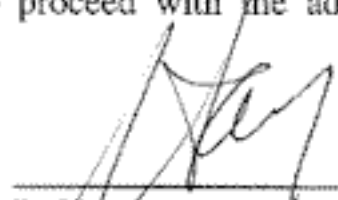
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### Decision Record (1996/97- 3)

3. On November 7, 1996, the Technical Committee received a request from Alcan to extend the period of the release of 226 m<sup>3</sup>/s (8000 cfs) at the Skins Lake Spillway from November 8, 1996 to November 15, 1996. The rationale given was that the additional release period was needed to ensure that Alcan met the goal of creating sufficient reservoir storage to accomodate spring inflow. The Technical Committee reviewed the request from the perspective of chinook conservation and agreed that Alcan should be permitted to proceed with the additional release period.

  
P. Delaney  
Federal Crown

  
A.C. Mitchell  
Alcan Smelters and Chemicals Ltd

  
D. Hay  
Independent Member

  
E. Bonham  
Provincial Crown

# NECHAKO FISHERIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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## NECHAKO RIVER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (97-1)

**DATE:** March 13, 1997

**PLACE:** Simon Fraser University (downtown campus)  
Room 400 (Lower Concourse)  
555 W. Hastings Street, Vancouver

### ATTENDEES:

#### Steering Committee

H. van der Toorn (Alcan Aluminum Ltd.)  
J. Walker (Provincial Crown)  
L. Tousignant (Federal Crown)

#### Technical Committee

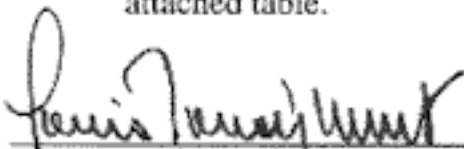
A. C. Mitchell (Alcan Aluminum Ltd.)  
K. Conlin (Provincial Crown)  
P. Delaney (Federal Crown)  
D. Hay (Independent Member)

W.O. Rublee (Alcan Aluminum Ltd.)  
J. Heinonen (Federal Crown)  
D. Bouillon (Alcan Aluminum Ltd.)

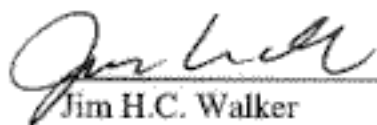
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### Decision Record

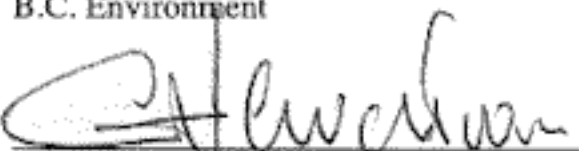
1. The Steering Committee approves the 1997/98 program and budget as set out in the attached table.



Louis Tousignant  
Director General  
Department of Fisheries & Oceans



Jim H.C. Walker  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Fisheries, Wildlife and Integrated Management  
B.C. Environment



Han van der Toorn  
Director of Seal  
Maison Alcan