

August 10, 2007

**Re: Fisheries for early summer Fraser sockeye 2007**

Paul Ryall  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management  
Suite 200 - 401 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6C 3S4

Dear Paul Ryall,

It has come to our attention that DFO has licensed First Nations fisheries for Fraser sockeye from marine waters through the lower river and in upstream watersheds starting this weekend. These fisheries will harvest Early Summer, Summer, and Late run Fraser sockeye.

Given the data in hand, and the most recent estimates of likely returns of these timing aggregates these fisheries will intentionally fish into the spawning escapement objective (or total allowable mortality "floor") set out in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Early Summer run sockeye and presents a very high risk of fishing into the spawning escapement objective for Late run sockeye as well.

The Fraser River Panel adopted a further reduced run size estimate of 150,000 for Early Summer run sockeye. This is far lower than the spawning escapement objective of 240,000.

It has also come to our attention that despite a non-retention regulation for sockeye in Lower Fraser River recreational fisheries there has been numerous reported incidents of non-compliance. We must insist that given the poor returns of sockeye, and the increased availability of Fisheries Officers to monitor this fishery, DFO must diligently enforce non-retention and use prosecution where necessary.

Consistent with our letter of July 27<sup>th</sup> regarding earlier First Nations fisheries that harvested Early Summer run sockeye we must insist that conservation must come first. We urge you to postpone all fishing, including first Nations food fishing for Fraser sockeye, and ensure compliance of recreational fisheries with non-retention regulations for Fraser sockeye.

Regards,



Jeffery Young  
Marine Conservation Caucus, Salmon Committee

cc Paul Sprout  
Don Radford  
Mel Kotyk  
Hon. Loyola Hearn