

September 14, 2007

Dr. Chet Chaffee
Scientific Certification Systems
2200 Powell Street, Suite 725
Emeryville, CA 94608

RE: Request for comment period extension for draft MSC BC sockeye assessment

Dear Dr. Chaffee,

The Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus (MCC) has been a key contributor to the assessment process of BC sockeye salmon. We recognize the relevance of certification and request that the comment period for the draft assessments be extended to October 31st 2007.

The draft assessments represent an intensive effort to evaluate four separate units of Canadian sockeye salmon fisheries. Technical review and comment requires significant effort if it is to remain scientifically sound. The MCC is committed to providing a technically rigorous review of all four assessments. Preliminary review by the MCC, as well as our involvement in the process to date, has revealed some significant areas of concern with the draft assessments.

In addition to ensuring time for a rigorous review, more time is necessary to provide the full diversity of key stakeholders an adequate opportunity to comment. In particular, First Nations are highly dependent on sockeye salmon and this assessment is of great importance to communities throughout British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Craig Orr, Ph.D.
Salmon Committee, Marine Conservation Caucus

cc: Paul Sprout, RDG Pacific Region, Fisheries and Oceans
Christina Burridge
FRAFS
Ed Backus
Greg Knox
Fred Hawkshaw
UFAWU