



STÓ:LŌ TRIBAL COUNCIL

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July 28, 2008

Mr. Paul Sprout
Regional Director General
Pacific Region, Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 3S4

Dear Sir:

Re: Fraser Sockeye Runs


I understand that the estimate for Fraser River Early Summer sockeye run plummeted from 500,000 to 400,000. And the forecast of 1.8 million Mid-summer sockeye now stands at 1.1 million. This striking decline in sockeye returns significantly alters the outlook for any pre-season strategies contemplated by DFO fishery planners.

Obviously, this sudden drop in sockeye numbers means that the DFO will need to close down commercial sockeye fisheries and reverse its plan for a sport fishery for sockeye. Giving a 48 hour period of grace to anglers in the sockeye fishery is not acceptable to us. The sport fishery does not enjoy any special status or legal protection. Along with the industrial sockeye fishery, the sockeye sport fishery should be shut down immediately.

All remaining Fraser River sockeye is required to both replenish the spawning beds and to meet the food, social and ceremonial needs of the 94 First Nations of the Fraser River Watershed. The aboriginal fishery, as you well know, enjoys a constitutionally protected status that comes second only to conservation, but ahead of the industrial and sport fisheries. The DFO has no choice but to honor the foregoing order of priority in the summer of 2008.

I want to be kept apprised of any plans and decisions the DFO has in mind for the remainder of the summer.

Yours truly,


Clarence Pennier
President Sto:lo Tribal Council

c.c. Chiefs & Councils
BC First Nations Fisheries Council
Fraser River First Nations

Xeytl' sqe'qo'qetset kw'es xyolhmet ta wayeles
Let's work together to make a better tomorrow