



Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance

July 24, 2008

Grand Chief Saul Terry
St'át'imc Nation
P.O. Box 1420
Lillooet, BC
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Via email

Re: Fisheries management decision on, Early Summer run sockeye.

Dear Saul

On behalf of the people of the upper Fraser River I wanted to acknowledge your progressive approach to conservation and the respect you demonstrated by allowing passage of, Early Summer sockeye, by closing your fishery for an additional week, even in the face of growing pressure by fisheries managers and scientists to open fisheries.

Your actions demonstrate a growing awareness and concern for conservation in the upper reaches of the, Fraser and Thompson Rivers, which are biologically rich thanks to many small runs like, Scotch, Seymour, Nadina, and Bowron etc...it also demonstrates respect for our rights to access food, social, and ceremonial fish during lean times. The management decision to open commercial and recreational fisheries targeting, Early Summer sockeye is very risky and will likely lead to shortages of fish for the people of this region, and more critically, for the people of the upper Thompson.

I have been frustrated with the pace of change in the fishery and with processes like the, Fraser Panel and IHPC; I can only hope, the increased First Nations participation in the Fraser Panel process this year, leads to First Nations being better prepared for next season; it should be a busy pre-season planning season ahead, i.e. 2009 and beyond. The focus for Fraser First Nations must be the renewal of the, Fraser Panel Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty scheduled for renegotiation during, 2010.

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