

Attn: Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General, DFO

Fraser River Sockeye "URGENT"

Ms. Reid:

This urgent e mail is on behalf of the organizations listed below. We have grave concerns that contrary to the current salmon allocation policy, fair and appropriate recreational access to a long anticipated Fraser River sockeye fishery is not being contemplated. The policy states the need to "ensure that fishing time and opportunity are protected" once conservation needs and FSC priorities have been met.

We recognize the constitutional rights of First Nations and as you are aware we continue to work with F/N's and the commercial sector toward sharing the resource and providing safe respectful fisheries for all communities. This is primarily through the Lower Fraser River Collaborative Table (LFCT) where sensitive issues including allocation will be addressed. Our groups also participate in important venues such as the SFAB and supportive groups such as the current Lower Fraser small group meetings chaired by your lower Fraser staff.

While we understand and support FSC priorities we have concerns with illegal activities such as poaching and documented illegal sales occurring in the Fraser Valley and elsewhere. We acknowledge these illegal activities are not restricted to any one sector but have concerns that proposed reduction in our potential quota will help fuel these illegal activities.

The tremendous social and economic value of the recreational sockeye fishery cannot be over stated. We have worked respectfully with your staff and F/N's toward conservation and shared opportunities in both the Fraser mainstream and tributaries. To transfer any of our potential quota without consultation is insulting and makes a mockery of our sincere collaborative efforts with your staff and other sectors. We cannot overemphasize the growing anger within the recreation community.

We fully support the SFAB urgent requests from the SFAB executive for an emergency meeting to address this serious issue. The groups signed off below are requesting your immediate attention toward opening our fishery as soon as possible. As noted, many times the recreational sockeye fishery on the Fraser demonstrates the lowest impact on stocks while providing the maximum economic impact of all the fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated prompt reply.

Rod Clapton,

on behalf of,
B.C. Federation of Drift Fishers
Fraser Valley Salmon Society
Fraser River Sportfishing Alliance
Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association
B.C. Wildlife Federation, Region 2
Public Fishery Alliance
Kingfishers Rod & Gun Club