

June 14, 2005

By Email (Originals to follow by mail)

**Re: Fraser Valley Fisheries Dialogue between First Nations and Recreational Anglers**

Dear Respected Chiefs and Directors, namely:

- Grand Chief Clarence Pennier, Sto:lo Tribal Council (and represented First Nations);
- Ken Malloway, Sto:lo Nation (and represented First Nations);
- Chief Alex Paul, Chehalis First Nation;
- Chief Roy Mussell, Skwah First Nation;
- Chief Robert Hope, Yale First Nation; and
- Chief Annette Peters, Peters Band.

This letter provides a summary of our perspectives as recreational anglers on key questions relating to fisheries issues and relationships in the Fraser Valley. We provide this summary in good faith to you as First Nations leaders in the hopes that face-to-face dialogue with us as designated angler representatives can proceed soon.

The four key questions we considered were:

1. What is our constituency as recreational anglers?
2. What are some of our key issues and concerns?
3. What expectations do we have of a process with First Nations?
4. What are some potential ways and means for resolving tensions or conflicts on the river?

Constituency:

Anglers are represented in the Fraser Valley Fisheries Dialogue process through the Upper Fraser Sports Fishing Advisory Committee (UF SFAC). The UF SFAC is structured to reflect as broad a cross section of perspectives from the angling community as possible. It is comprised of designates from angler associations, sport fishing guides and retail businesses that rely on sport fishing, such as tackle shops. Members are elected to the committee by their associations and are charged with representing their associations on the many issues related to sport fishing. We have attached a table listing the participating associations.

The UF SFAC feeds into a provincial advisory board called the Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB). The SFAB has been the advisory board to DFO on matters of importance to sport fishers since 1964. The UF SFAC is one of 17 committees that reports to the South Coast Sports Fishing Advisory Board. DFO provides secretariat support to the UF SFAC but the committee is chaired by a participating member (current Chair is Frank Kwak).

We as signatories to this letter are the designated representatives of the UF SFAC to a dialogue process with First Nations. We were designated at their semi-annual meeting in March 2005.

### Key Issues and Concerns:

Our key issues and concerns are the following:

- there is a lack of respect, understanding and communication between recreational anglers and First Nations fishers;
- escalating tension between recreational anglers and First Nations fishers could result in unsafe and/or uncomfortable fishing experiences for both groups;
- recreational anglers and First Nations do not have a common voice on issues which are of shared interest;
- insufficient numbers of fish are reaching the spawning grounds to ensure healthy, viable salmon populations for the future;
- credible fisheries data is not being collected for all sectors and that without credible data fisheries cannot be properly managed;
- illegal fisheries in all sectors are having a large, negative impact on the salmon stocks; and
- existing salmon habitat is not being protected and that further loss of habitat will lead to less salmon for all.

### Hopes and expectations:

We hope that through participating in this process that we will achieve the following:

- open direct lines of communication between our two groups;
- begin to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding;
- discuss and learn about the importance and history of our respective fisheries and our future aspirations;
- identify areas of common interest and discuss means of working together to achieve shared goals;
- identify and possibly develop cooperative fisheries projects;
- recognize positive past contributions and actions of the two groups;
- achieve safe, enjoyable and productive fisheries for all.

### Ways and Means for Resolving Conflict:

We feel that by focusing on building respectful relationships between our two groups that we will find ways and means to resolve tension and/or conflict on the river. We believe that solutions should be discussed and developed jointly to ensure they are mutually acceptable and have "buy-in" from all participants. We do not want to narrow our discussion and remain confident that we can successfully develop long term, mutually respectable relationships that will allow us to focus on what is truly important - thriving salmon stocks and safe, enjoyable and productive fisheries.

Thank you for your letter and the opportunity to provide you with some advance input. We anticipate a productive meeting and hope that it can be convened soon.

Sincerely,

Frank Kwak  
Dean Werk  
Rod Hsu  
Bill Wimpney  
Nick Basok  
Gwyn Joiner

cc.

Jim Wild – DFO,  
Emil Spitkoski - RCMP,  
Arnie Narcisse - BCAFC  
Jeremy Maynard – Chair, SFAB  
Jessica Bratty - FBC

attach.

The following table summarizes the associations represented on the SFAC.

<b>Member Association</b>	<b>Structure</b>	<b>Approximate membership</b>
BC Federation of Drift Fishers	Registered society with elected Board of Directors, regular meetings and clear lines of communication between Directors and members; Province wide body	> 1000 members from all over BC
Fraser Valley Salmon Society	Registered society with elected Board of Directors, regular meetings and clear lines of communication between Directors and members	485 members paid up for 2005; approximate 700 members total
Chilliwack Fish and Game Club	Registered society etc. (as above)	672 members comprised of both fishermen and hunters
Hope Rod and Gun Club	Registered society etc. (as above)	<100
Abbotsford Fish and Game Club	Registered society etc. (as above)	175
Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association	Registered society etc. (as above)	70 members
Sports Fishing Defence Alliance	Registered society etc. (as above)	An alliance of other sport fishing associations.
BC Wildlife Federation	Registered society etc. (as above) with charitable status.	A federation of rod and gun clubs
Chilliwack River Action Committee	Registered society etc. (as above) with charitable status	Board is membership
Chilliwack River Clean up Coalition	Loose affiliation of interested parties	~ 200 people have participated in activities
Retailer / Manufacturer Representative	No official structure; interested parties can participate	N/A
Independent Anglers	No official structure	N/A
Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society	Registered society etc. (as above) with charitable status.	X members