Cohen Commission

Clarification of Heiltsuk Standing Variation Ruling

- 1. On 10 May 2010, I issued a ruling in response to an application brought by the Heiltsuk Tribal Council ("Heiltsuk"). The Heiltsuk sought to vary my ruling on standing as participants for the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River (the "Standing Ruling"), which was released on 15 April 2010. In my 10 May 2010 ruling (the "Heiltsuk Standing Variation Ruling"), I decided to permit the Heiltsuk separate participation on the topic of aquaculture.
- 2. The Heiltsuk have now applied for a correction of the Heiltsuk Standing Variation Ruling, by way of letter dated 20 May 2010. These short reasons are my response to their application.
- 3. In the Heiltsuk Standing Variation Ruling at para. 5, I stated that, "I was unaware of the Heiltsuk's present concern until after my Standing Ruling". The "present concern" was that the Heiltsuk had a conflict on aquaculture with the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association ("AAA"), another member of their standing group.
- 4. Upon review of the material provided to the commission, I have concluded that it is fair to clarify the record. Mr, Donovan, on behalf of the Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society, the AAA, Chief Harold Sewid and James Walkus, wrote to the commission on 30 March 2010, advising it of the conflict between the Heiltsuk and the AAA.
- 5. I did not intend by anything I said in the Heiltsuk Standing Variation Ruling, to imply any criticism of counsel. Indeed, counsel involved have been diligent, responsive and helpful in their representations before the commission.
- 5. I note that this clarification has no impact on the result in the Heiltsuk Standing Variation Ruling.

Signed 3 May 2010

The Honourable Bruce I. Cohen Commissioner