

# *Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance*

October 22, 2007

Kaarina McGivney, Acting Director Treaty and Aboriginal Policy  
Department of Fisheries & Oceans  
#200-401 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6C 3S4

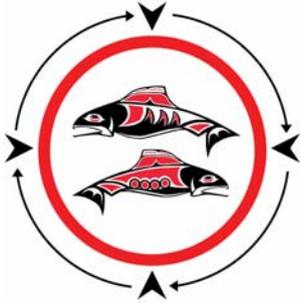
**Re: AAROM program issues.**

Dear Ms. McGivney:

On behalf of the board of directors of the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA) I would like to inform you and your policy secretariat about persistent administrative issues regarding the UFFCA AAROM program. Before getting into details about the nature of the issues, I want to be clear that this letter is not meant as a personal attack on any individual within the AAROM program, instead it is meant to be constructive so that positive change can occur.

The AAROM program has been an excellent opportunity for upper Fraser First Nations to develop the capacity to engage with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to develop strategic relationships with other Fraser First Nations, to engage in fisheries management at all levels, and to design scientific programs which meet the needs of upper Fraser First Nations. In short the program has exhibited a lot of potential in a short period of time, notwithstanding the lack of administrative support here in the region.

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The UFFCA met with FOC representatives in Prince George, August 31 to discuss issues affecting the program delivery, and seek commonly agreed to solutions, the issues discussed were as follows:

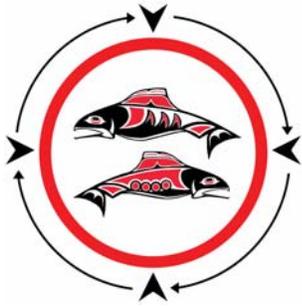
- 1. DFO bottlenecks which slow the report review process substantially**
2. Harmonization and streamlining of funding
3. Lack of First Nations and DFO interface
4. DFO staff turn over
5. Agreement amendment turn over
6. Agreement template (agreed to by both parties)
7. Treasury board guidelines and interpretation by the parties

The purpose of this letter is to deal specifically with Issue number one (***DFO bottlenecks which slow the report review process substantially***). This issue is causing the greatest level of heart burn for our agreement.

After the bi-lateral meeting between DFO and the UFFCA board a decision was made to move to a monthly reporting format supposedly designed to deal with issue number two (Harmonization and streamlining of funding), of course both issues are connected. The tone of the meeting was excellent and the UFFCA board walked away with a sense of optimism.

As of the date of this letter the UFFCA has still not received its payment for July which was sent to your file manager on, September 12, 2007. It is my understanding that the report has simply just not been given the attention it needs in order to process it in a timely manner. Furthermore, the number of administrators within FOC needed to review

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the report is overkill and inefficient. My question is, why does the UFFCA monthly report need to pass through at least four pairs of hands before a payment can be triggered? This is unacceptable. If FOC needs to meet treasury board guidelines then they should have enough foresight to hire the appropriate number of administrators to handle such an onerous task, perhaps an additional FTE or two should be considered. At the end of the day it is our organization that suffers.

The board of directors has met with your staff in good faith and we all walked away with a better understanding and a better relationship, if the bottleneck within your department is not dealt with, the relationship will only become strained, this at time when we are all trying to develop better collaborative relationships.

I am confident that we can deal with this issue in a forthright manner, the UFFCA is open to exploring options with you or your staff. I look forward to a favorable response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours;

### **UPPER FRASER CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**

Marcel Shepert  
Facilitation Coordinator

Cc: UFFCA Board of Directors  
Barry Hubert, Aboriginal Policy

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