

From: Gillis, Dave <Dave.Gillis@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2009 3:40 PM
To: James, Heather <Heather.James@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Saunders, Mark <Mark.Saunders@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Cc: Calvert, Barbara <Barbara.Calvert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Rashotte, Barry <Barry.Rashotte@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Qs and As for meeting with the FCC on Oct. 29.
Attach: MECTS-#973762-v1-2009_ESD_FPS_QP_Fraser_Sockeye_Return.DOC

Mark, I am going to the Fisheries Council of Canada (Burridge, etal) meeting this week. Can you scan the proposed answers on sockeye estimates issue and correct as needed? I just added the red.

Heather I am out of here tomorrow noon but can get these on BB. I also have the attached QP note for reference.

Dave

From: James, Heather
Sent: October 26, 2009 5:41 PM
To: Gillis, Dave
Cc: Calvert, Barbara; Rashotte, Barry
Subject: FW: Qs and As for meeting with the FCC on Oct. 29.

Dave: How do you want to collaborate on the Pacific salmon Q&As. There are obvious concerns about the forecasting and evaluation of marine survival which fall to Science. Some of the science q's might be along the following lines.

Q: Why was the forecast wrong/high? The forecast is based on modeling of survival factors observed in the past and projecting those forward. Based on what we knew prior to this season, the forecast might not have been high. It seems more likely something unprecedented happened. We don't yet know exactly what, but clearly a very unusual event or combination of events have affected the survival of the 2007 sea entry year cohort of many sockeye salmon populations on the West Coast.

Q: What will you do to fix it? The first job is to understand better what happened, then move on to the question of whether and how it might be fixed.

Q: What was the cause of the low return? A: It appears to be poor marine survival, but the specific cause has not been determined. A science workshop was held recently to consider various hypotheses and evaluate which are the more likely explanations and what further work needs to be done to assess the cause of the poor returns.

Q: Did sea lice have an impact? Interactions with aquaculture is one of the factors being analysed, along with many others. However, there does not appear to be anything immediately obvious that would point to that.

Q: If not sea lice, what else? Many other factors are being considered, including those that would affect salmon survival at all stages of their migration from the river to the sea and back.

On Fisheries Management; I propose the following. (Feel free to suggest some more FAM questions.)

Q: How were the Fraser sockeye fisheries managed this year?

A: Fraser sockeye fisheries are managed in accordance with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. In-season management of Canadian and US fisheries targeting Fraser sockeye are delegated to the Pacific Salmon Commission and are managed bilaterally through the Fraser River Panel. Management of the fisheries is based on in-season assessment of fisheries (not on the pre-season forecast). When it became apparent that returns were much lower than forecast, the advice from the Commission which was accepted by both Canada and the United States was not to open fisheries targeted on Fraser sockeye. There were no commercial or recreational fisheries for Fraser sockeye, and First Nation fisheries were restricted. It was fairly widely accepted as a tough but necessary decision. The fisheries were managed to put as many sockeye on the spawning grounds as possible.

Q. What is the impact on spawning escapements?

A. The assessment of spawning escapement is currently under way and the final results won't be available until the new year. At this point, it looks like conservation goals have been met for most Fraser sockeye stocks.

Q: What are the prospects for the fishery?

A. DFO is committed to the conservation and sustainable use of Canada's ocean resources. The most effective way to conserve and ensure the long-term survival of Fraser sockeye is through careful management of the fisheries. In 2009, the low sockeye return has meant that fisheries we had expected, remained closed.

Q. What kind of external review is proposed to examine the cause of the low returns ?

A. There will, of course, be the normal post season review of fisheries through the Pacific Salmon Commission. Those reports are provided at commission meetings in February, after the spawning escapement estimates are complete.

The Minister has met with harvesters and conservation interests on the west coast to hear their views on the 2009 season and how we should respond. A decision has not yet been made on the next steps.

Q. Noting that compensation has already been provided for the lobster fishery on the east coast, will there be compensation for commercial salmon harvesters who have had no access to Fraser sockeye for three years?

A. The situation on east coast is different in that relief was provided in the lobster fishery to address economic hardship arising from a decline in prices. With Pacific salmon, stock levels fluctuate every year, and fishery closures are a regular occurrence. The Department has not provided financial support in these circumstances.

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From: Rashotte, Barry
Sent: October 26, 2009 4:38 PM
To: Stanfield, Max; James, Heather
Subject: Fw: Qs and As for meeting with the FCC on Oct. 29.

See what's required and noon deadline

From: Elliott, Robert
To: Gillis, Dave; Moore, Wayne; Rashotte, Barry; Pearson, Michael; Bouffard, Nadia
Cc: Bloom, Mitch; Brose, Natalie; King, Matthew; Campbell, John P.; Balfour, David; Beaupre, Guy; DeMaio-Sukic, Alejandro; Collister, David; Elliott, Robert
Sent: Mon Oct 26 16:35:29 2009
Subject: Qs and As for meeting with the FCC on Oct. 29.

Hello...

After the meeting with Matt on prepping for the FCC meeting, the following are the 6-7 tough questions that could be asked by FCC members and for which a Q and A should be prepared. I have noted leads for the Qs and As...Please let me know if I have erred or overstepped. As well, if you think there are other Qs and As that should be included, please send those along too.

I would appreciate receiving your input by noon tomorrow. These are not QP notes...just simple Q and A format is fine.

Please give me a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks.

R

1. Commercial Fishing Licence Fees (EAS - Robert)
2. Seals (EAS w input from FAM - Robert, Barry)
3. NAFO (International Affairs - Micheal)
4. Oceans - management of closures in MPAs, interaction with fisheries (OHSAR - Wayne)
5. Support for Science (Science - Dave)
6. Pacific Salmon (Science w input from FAM - Dave, Barry)
7. Funding for lobster vs. other fisheries (FAM - Nadia)

Robert Elliott

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