



May 26, 2008

To: Ms Amy Mar, Wild Salmon Policy Coordinator

From: Neil Todd, Operations Manager

Fraser River First Nations Wild Salmon Policy Forum

Dear Ms Mar:

Thanks very much for the comprehensive update on the status of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP).

Taking the risk that I may be telling you something you are already familiar with, a quick introduction: the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) is funded through the AAROM program and is guided by an Executive Committee (EC) consisting of DFO representatives and First Nation members. FRAFS has two primary mandates:

1. to provide communications services to Fraser River First Nations (among the First Nations, and between DFO and First Nations);
2. to provide technical support to Fraser River First Nations in order to assist them with understanding of, and ability/capacity to deal with, the myriad of fisheries policy and management issues and interactions with DFO that surround the management of Fraser River salmon.

Fred Fortier, a First Nation member of the FRAFS EC, reported on the WSP Forum at last month's EC meeting. He noted that the focus of the WSP in going forward with implementation seems to be highly inclusive (not a bad thing) but that given the special relationship between First Nations (who are not stakeholders), their fisheries resources, and their associated aboriginal rights, there needs to be a special emphasis placed on the First Nations role in this effort.

As you are likely aware, Fraser First Nations played a significant role in the consultation process during development of the WSP over a number of years. The meaningful engagement of First Nations in implementation is a pre-requisite to the future success of the WSP. To that end, the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat would like to request that you (DFO) sponsor a Fraser River First Nations WSP Forum as a part of your communications, engagement, and implementation strategies that are outlined in your email of May 22.

FRAFS would be pleased to assist with the planning of the Forum program, and assisting with venue arrangements and Forum notification.

We look forward to your response.

Regards,

Neil Todd, Operations Manager

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