

Meeting with PFRCC - Speaking Points for RDG
March 15, 2010

- Over the last 11 years, the Council has played a valuable role as an arms-length advisory body to the federal and provincial governments on conservation and environmental sustainability of Pacific salmon stocks and their freshwater and ocean habitats.
- While I realize the importance in having an independent source of advice, I appreciate the Council's efforts to collaborate with and seek the Department's views on the Council's work plan.
- We are extending the current PFRCC member's terms until March 31, 2011 and maintaining the current budget of \$500 K. This will allow the Council and Pacific Salmon Foundation to continue discussions regarding a possible merger and increased administrative support in your shared facilities.
- I understand that Mark Angelo is intending to retire from the PFRCC in May 2010, after about 12 years of dedicated service. I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to you for your future.
- Now, I would like to provide my views on your work plan in three main areas:
 - Activities that we believe are important for your work plan
 - Activities where you have specifically asked for our advice
 - Areas where your advice could assist the Department
- Activities that we believe are important for specific inclusion your work plan:
 - Consistent with good management and the Government's focus on accountability, DFO must carry out a cycle of regular audit, evaluation, and review of all programs consistent with Treasury Board policies and standards. As such, DFO targets an evaluation and audit cycle of twenty-five percent of all of its initiatives each year.
 - As in its eleven-year history, the PFRCC has never undergone such a review of its practices we need to ensure that the PFRCC is included in the next review and audit cycle.
 - To position the PFRCC to participate successfully in the standard review and audit cycle it would be helpful for the PFRCC to include plans to document financial and procurement processes, management practices, performance measurement strategies, decision-making processes and processes for tracking program effectiveness, in the 2010-11 work plan.

- This is consistent with your work plan, in that you have agreed to review your current reporting processes.
- In your work plan, you specifically ask for DFO advice on whether or not the Stronghold concept falls within the terms of the PFRCC mandate.
 - I do not believe that further development of the Stronghold concept fits within the mandate of the PFRCC.
 - The Salmon Stronghold concept has a particular focus on the purchase of property-rights (as identified in the Harrison announcement) to maintain high-productivity salmon ecosystems.
 - The PFRCC's mandate is to advise and share information on stocks of concern and to ensure that the Department meets its conservation objectives for Pacific fish populations.
 - The Department's conservation objectives for salmon focus on ensuring the sustainability of stocks by focusing on weak stock protection, and are defined through the Wild Salmon policy, Oceans Act, and Species at Risk Act.
 - The Department's conservation objectives, specifically the Wild Salmon Policy, are consistent with many of the Council's past advisories.
- Now, I would like to propose my views on activities and advice that would benefit the Department.
 - I am supportive of projects that reinforce our direction and current priorities, such as implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP). For example, the PFRCC could have a role in the review of the WSP within the framework established by the DFO Audit and Evaluation directorate.
 - I support Council completion of the Council report related to Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
 - I would be interested in the Council following up on the next steps related to past reports on the effects of climate change on salmon stocks and on water governance structures, specifically related to BC Government *Water Act* modernization and Living Water Smart plan.
 - The Department supports the Council's participation into the Public Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye.
 - I am concerned about any projects that may shift departmental resources away from current priorities.