

From: Craig Orr <corr@telus.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2007 2:11 PM
To: Sprout, Paul <SproutPa@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Cc: HearnL@parl.gc.ca; Ryll, Paul <RyllP@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Radford, Don <RadfordD@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Kelly Doug <dougkelly@stolotribalcouncil.ca>; Grout, Jeff <GroutJ@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Kotyk, Mel <KotykM@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Purdon, Rita <PurdonR@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Bevan David (BevanD@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) <BevanD@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Subject: Marine Conservation Caucus response to Fraser River Panel invite

July 18, 2007

Paul Sprout
Regional Director General
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pacific Region

Dear Mr. Sprout:

Thank you for your letter of July 6 offering observer status to the Marine Conservation Caucus (MCC) salmon committee on the Fraser River Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission. We consider this opportunity an important step along the often-bumpy road to making fisheries decision-making more accountable, representative and transparent.

As you know, it is our long-standing position—in keeping with the commitments of a succession of federal fisheries ministers and senior Fisheries and Oceans officials—that the MCC should be afforded a full-status stakeholder role in all Fisheries and Oceans decision-making and advisory functions (alongside industry representatives).

The need for an enhanced conservation presence—which also applies to the Pacific Salmon Commission and all its panels and committees—has never been so urgent, given current environmental change and uncertainty, recent overfishing events, and the heartening but still-tentative progress of the integrated fisheries dialogue table.

Consequently, we are pleased to accept your suggestion for the MCC's involvement with the Fraser River Panel for the 2007 fishing season, as an interim measure, leading to equal status with other stakeholders.

We also accept your proposal on the understanding that for 2007, unlike other stakeholders, the MCC will be afforded observer status in bilateral sessions, but will be involved as full participants in the Canadian caucus.

However, we do have one request, as well as a recommendation.

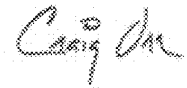
In the interests of equity with other stakeholders, and also in light of resource constraints within the MCC, we request that the MCC be granted two observer positions, i.e. an "official" observer and an alternate—to ensure that we can contribute effectively, efficiently and consistently.

We also strongly recommend that one of our biologists be afforded the opportunity to participate directly in the work of the Fraser Panel's technical committee.

We look forward to working with you and your officials during the 2007 season, and also look forward to reviewing our involvement in the functions of the Pacific Salmon Commission prior to the 2008 fishing season.

Sincerely,

Craig Orr

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Craig Orr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marine Conservation Caucus

Cc

Paul Ryall
Don Radford
Jeff Grout
Mel Kotyk
Rita Purdon
Doug Kelly
David Bevan
Fisheries Minister Loyola Hearn