

From: Adams, Devona
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2007 2:38 PM
To: 'Frank Staiger - Fraser River Fishing Lodge' <frank@fraserriverlodge.com>
Cc: Sneddon, Debra <SneddonD@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Bonnet, Terri <BonnetT@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Kotyk, Mel <KotykM@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Ryall, Paul <RyallP@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Fraser River Fishing Lodge & Resort

Mr.. Staiger,

Thank you for your letter of concern highlighting the economic importance of the Fraser River Sport Fishery.

DFO staff will be meeting with our local sport fishing advisory boards this evening to explain the seriousness of the situation at hand. The stock situation we are experiencing this year is unprecedented and we have been taking graduated steps this season to meet our conservation and legal responsibilities.

The Departments priorities are to meet conservation requirements first and then provide First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial(FSC) requirements. Aside from meeting the spawning requirements, there is currently very little TAC available to meet First Nations FSC requirements. First Nations in the BC Interior have collectively caught less than 1,000 fish.

Changes to sport fishing regulations are not taken lightly by DFO as we understand the importance of this fishery to the community and businesses which is why we are exploring options with the advisory board that will meet all of our needs.

Regards,
Devona Adams

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank Staiger - Fraser River Fishing Lodge [mailto:frank@fraserriverlodge.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2007 5:28 AM
To: Adams, Devona
Subject: Fraser River Fishing Lodge & Resort

Dear Mrs. Adams,

We are the largest guiding company/outfitter in region 2. We operate 10 different accommodations and book hotels, motels, B&B's and own and operate one of the most exclusive fishing lodges/resorts in North America. More than 80% of our bookings are based on salmon fishing. We have international film crews filming next week - salmon fishing of course, plus some high profile celebrities booked - for salmon fishing.

We have invested several Million Dollars in this area, not only in building up a world class facility, but also in our employees, as they are an integral part of our business.

We have received the last notice from DFO with the "indication" of closing the Fraser River or parts of the Fraser River for recreational fishing. We are SOLD OUT for salmon fishing with 22 direct jobs on the line. If the river is closing, we have to lay off most of our staff as a direct result.

How is it possible, that there is a FN opening at the same time when salmon returns are "low"?

DFO-169741

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Our guides are out fishing every day and there is a huge number of salmon moving up the Fraser River during the past few days with increasing numbers each day. I am talking about springs as well as sockeye. I understand, that there is politics involved, but I would like to know to whom I can send an invoice for lost business and cancellations, should the river be closed and who is taking over boat and mortgage payments of our staff and guides?

We kill a ridiculously low number of salmon per guest. On average 1 salmon per 2 guests, the rest is catch and release. The impact of a closure would be a disaster for all of us. You are aware of the statistics netfishing vs. sportfishing and I hope, that common sense will prevail.

This is my first e-mail EVER to you as I am not a typical "complainer", but this is critical.

I would urge you to make a well thought decision, as this is our livelihood. Our employees are with us for 6 years on average and it would be a shame, if they have to be sacrificed for political reasons.

Looking forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

Frank Staiger - owner
Fraser River Fishing Lodge & Resort
www.fraserriverlodge.com

cc: Randy Nelson, Paul Ryall, Jeff Grout, Paul Cottrell, Linda Stevens, Herb Redekopp