

From: Sneddon, Debra <Debra.Sneddon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 4:20 PM
To: Grout, Jeff <Jeff.Grout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Ryall, Paul <Paul.Ryall@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Rosenberger, Barry <Barry.Rosenberger@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Trager, Diana <Diana.Trager@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Bonnet, Terri <Terri.Bonnet@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Cc: Adams, Devona <Devona.Adams@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Brahniuk, Randy <Randy.Brahniuk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Jantz, Lester <Lester.Jantz@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Brahniuk, Randy <Randy.Brahniuk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Wall, Adrian <Adrian.Wall@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Subject: Recreational Chinook Fishery

Folks, I need to express my concerns again regarding a short notice closure of the Fraser River to no fishing for salmon. We have an industry here that has the potential of 20-30K anglers. It is impossible to reach that level of participants in less than 24 hours. Although I have been putting the word out that we are going to a "no fishing for sockeye" restriction I am limited in the audience that I can reach. My contacts are the members of the local SFAC's (approx 60 members) and tackle shops. They do forward my emails out and post them in the shops and at various websites but it is unlikely that they can reach that wide an audience in the time frame discussed on today's conference call.

As I stated we need to give them time to react to this news. As you know, they have not done anything wrong so far as we have allowed the catch and release fishery to be open this entire time. We had planned to release a Notice to Industry today (although it is already 4:15 and it hasn't been sent out) and we have always allowed for at least 48 hours prior to implementing changes. The notice states that we will take action but we must give this time to filter out to the industry. This is in recognition of the large geographical and numerical audience we have. One of the many difficulties we have with this type of issue is the edict of not doing proactive media, if we were allowed to send our notices to the local papers we could get the word out more quickly and to a wider audience.

With regard to the estimate I have just spoken to Jason Mahoney and there are a couple things to keep in mind when looking at the estimate of releases:

- estimates are normally done on a monthly basis to account for variations in angler effort which generally peaks on weekends
- the estimate Stad provided had 9 days in it, 5 w/e days and 4 weekday days. All the w/e days were sampled and only 2 of the weekdays are. This could result in an estimate that is biased high
- this is a very preliminary number that is subject to change

There was an overflight today, I do not have the results as of yet but as far as providing additional overflights we are limited in the availability of helicopter/planes due to fire situation in BC. Stad staff are attempting to secure a plane however we will not know if one is available until tomorrow. The earliest flight would likely be Thursday.

I just want to go over the #'s as well once more. According to the PSC information today the total catch in Canada of sockeye is 42,650. Even if we use a 10% mortality of the preliminary estimate of 15K released of 1.5K that is still only 3% of the total impact. If we use the in-river coho mortality rate of 3% it is even less or last years study results of 1% then the impact is less than 1%. Even with a no fishing for sockeye restriction it will be difficult to see how we can reduce an impact of less than 1%.

Resource Management staff will be on the water tomorrow and Thursday handing out copies of the NTI and talking to anglers about the need to fish selectively.

Finally, the recreational fishery is an extremely valuable contributor to the economics in the lower mainland and a short notice closure like this will devastate the industry. As pink salmon are already showing up in the river combined with the anticipated increase in Thompson river chinook, both stocks that can be fished selectively, we need to consider the value these provide to the recreational community.

Debra Sneddon
Fisheries Manager, Recreational Fisheries
ph: 604-666-6509
fax: 604-666-7112