

**Summary of  
Minister Shea's Pacific Region Visit  
Sept 11, 2009**

**Synopsis:** The regional visit included a round table with various client groups as well as several private meetings with clients which departmental staff did not attend. Overall the meeting was cordial and respectful; a number of points were raised, however, all participants expressed concern over the low numbers of returning sockeye and many proposed a post season independent science forum to clarify what happened and why. The Minister made no decisions during the meetings attended by staff. The Minister gave several interviews during her time in Pacific Region related to the salmon stocks, however, there was some negative press related to one First Nation's representative who was not invited to the Round Table session.

**1. Salmon Round Table Meeting**

**Attending:** See attached list

**DFO:** Minister G. Shea, Minister G. Lunn, R. Kamp, D. Cody, K. Purchase, P. Sprout, L. Richards, A. Webb

- Representatives from diverse groups were appreciative of the opportunity to meet with Minister Shea to discuss their concerns related to the salmon fishery in the Fraser River and throughout British Columbia
- The tone of the meeting was constructive and centred on the following themes:
  - Request for a Science Forum to improve understanding of full life cycle of salmon with the intention of isolating factors affecting survival (including examination of both freshwater and marine life stages). Clients specifically were focused on a science based forum. The results of this forum could suggest additional research and/or priority areas for research that could be undertaken;
  - Request for additional budgets to support science research for salmon as well as salmon enhancement, habitat and fish management related programs such as catch monitoring. There was strong support that existing DFO budgets needed to be augmented rather than reallocated. Many participants noted that DFO funding has been reduced over time and the capacity of various programs, specifically science has been eroded. At this time, given the gravity of the situation for sockeye salmon in the Fraser a number of participants recommended that science budgets need to be augmented to support additional research;
  - Forecasting was also of concern to participants who were interested in discussing this area in further detail and considering the use of technology to improve accuracy;
  - Relief for fishermen was raised by the commercial representatives who were concerned about the repeated low harvest opportunities over the past several years as well as future opportunities. Concerns were noted regarding DFO's reluctance to consider licence fee relief in the past due to the national review which has now been put on hold. Fishermen are looking for some compensation

due to their increased investment because of the positive forecast. The comparison with the support given to East Coast lobster fishermen was raised. Processors also had similar concerns;

- First Nation representatives also expressed concern related to lack of opportunities for food, social and ceremonial fisheries. Barriers to licencing were raised which had impeded First Nations opportunities to fish and share fish across First Nations;
- Salmon farms and sea lice were raised by conservation groups as a possible factor affecting mortality for wild salmon. More research was requested by DFO in this area and consideration of this interaction as a legitimate concern;
- Other comments related to continued strong support for the Wild Salmon Policy and precautionary approach;
- Many participants supported DFO's actions to close the fisheries to protect the salmon stocks. DFO staff were acknowledged for their efforts to conserve and protect salmon; and
- Various participants noted that concerns are not limited to Fraser River sockeye, but extend to other species and systems throughout BC.

Minister Shea ended the meeting by thanking all the participants for their input. She noted that the issue was much larger than the Fraser River and there is a need to do things differently than in the past. She also commented that she had heard unanimous support that science resources need to be augmented.

**Follow-up Action:** Minister Shea to consider comments from participants. No specific action was provided.

## **2. Private Meetings in Afternoon**

Several private meetings took place in the afternoon which DFO staff did not attend. To date, no updates have been provided from these meetings. The Minister and her staff had intended to meet with Kathy Scarfo, Area G Troll regarding Pacific Salmon Treaty Mitigation, Joy Thorkelson, United Fisheries and Allied Workers Union, and Pacific Salmon Foundation representatives including Brian Riddell.

**Follow-up Action:** None to date

**LIST OF ATTENDEES – MINISTER'S  
SALMON ROUND TABLE – Sept 11, 2009**

**NGO**

Brian Riddell	PSF
Ned Pottinger	PSF
Mark Angelo	PFRCC
Bob Purdy (on behalf of David Marshall)	FBC

**Commercial**

Peter Sakich	CSAB
Chris Ashton	Area B Seine, Fraser Panel

**Processors/Industry**

Don Macleod	CANFISCO
Christina Burrige	BCSFA

**Recreational**

Gerry Kristiansen	SFAB
Frank Kwak	SFAB
Patti MacAhonic	BCWF

**Conservation**

Craig Orr	Watershed Watch
Don Lowen	SEHAB
Jeff Young (on behalf of Bill Wareham)	David Suzuki Foundation (DSF)

**First Nations**

Doug Kelly	BCFN Fisheries Council
Ken Malloway	Sto:lo
Saul Terry	Lillooet chief and PSC commissioner

**Other**

Don Kowal	Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC)
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**Province of BC**

Al Martin	Director, Oceans and Marine Fisheries Division, MOE
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