

March 23, 2009

Diana Trager
Area Manager
Lower Fraser River
Fisheries & Oceans Canada
100 Annacis Parkway, Unit 3
Delta, BC
V3M 6A2

Dear Ms. Trager:

Re: Chinook Fishery

I write to remind the DFO that the constitutionally protected Aboriginal Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) fishery comes second only to conservation and ahead of both the commercial and sport fisheries. I am not convinced that the DFO is honoring the legal priority accorded our fishery by the courts. For example, a review of the 2009 DFO Chinook Plan shows that right now there is an on-going sport fishery for Chinook, except for certain waters off Victoria, BC. And this fishery is open to both foreign and Canadian anglers. How does DFO reconcile the continuing closure of our FSC fishery with the presence of a fishery for anglers? Kindly explain the DFO rationale for denying Chinook fisheries for the Sto:lo while authorizing a Chinook fishery for hobbyists.

I understand that communal license to fish Chinook may have been issued to the Musqueam First Nation this past weekend. I ask that any of our communities wanting the same opportunity be given the same consideration.

My colleagues and I would be happy to discuss the aforementioned issues with you in the very near future. In this regard, I ask that you contact me at 1 604-798-1509 in order that we can set a mutually acceptable time and date to meet. I view this as an urgent matter and therefore, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours truly,

Tyrone McNeil
Vice President
Sto:lo Tribal Council