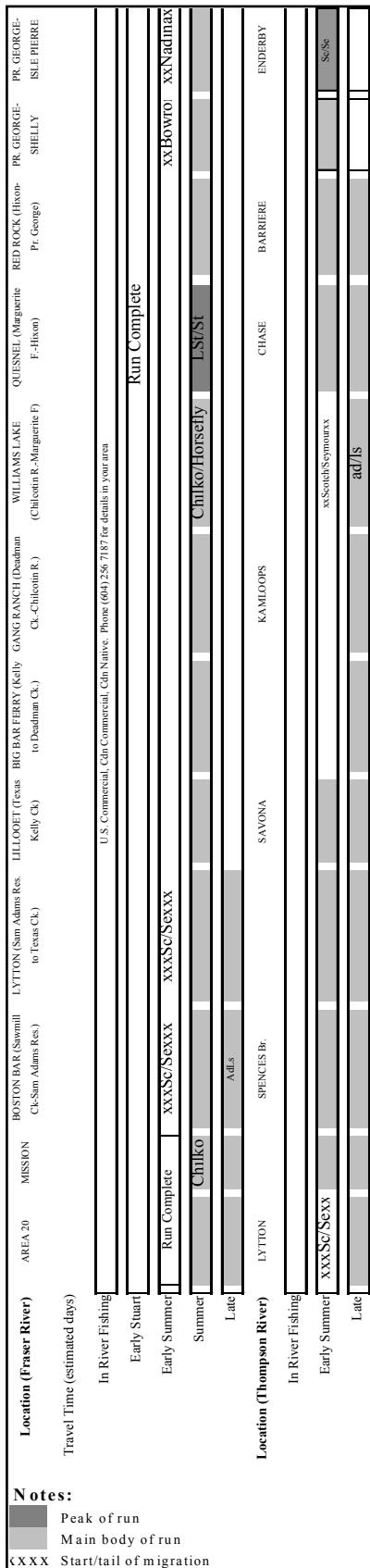


August 29, 2003

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Watershed Talk

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations



August 27, 2003

RE: WHO IS THE SURVIVAL COALITION EXACTLY?

Dear Editor;

With the amount of publicity being generated by the survival coalition these days, it appears that Mr. Eidsvik has become a one man wrecking crew. I wonder for whom this man speaks, and who is paying his expenses? Perhaps its just a few misguided rednecks that don't read, and love to live in the past; a past when commercial fisherman ruled the roost, a past when Aboriginals were kicked to the bottom of the fisheries pecking order. If this is the case, then I have no real concern. However, on a more cynical and darker side, what if the survival coalition was being supported by key industry players, what if it was learned that money was being funneled to support Mr. Eidsvik and his racial smear campaign? This would be reason for concern.

On the face of it, I can't see industry wanting anything at all to do with this reactionary group. The industry would be better suited trying collaboratively to build a consensus structure that manages the resource in a sustainable, and stable manner. If you look at the problems in the lumber industry "stability" is the key buzzword, so why wouldn't the fishing industry want anything less? It doesn't make sense to partake in a scheme that destabilizes the industry by playing the race card and driving deep divisions within the different sectors. To attack the pilot sales fishery is one thing, but to continue pushing to reduce the food fishery is quite another. When Mr. Eidsvik begins attacking Aboriginals in such a blatantly racist way, and then cloaking his attack under what he calls "equality" smacks of a backlash! To his credit, he has twisted a **rights**-based fishery i.e. sec (35) of the constitution, into a **race**-based fishery, in the minds of some British Columbians. I want to know the extent, if any, the commercial

salmon fleet is involved in this kind of a sustained attack; someone is paying for the survival coalitions legal fees, office space and expenses, and presumably a salary for Mr. Eidsvik to live.

I am curious whether industry leaders are willing to distance themselves, publicly from Mr. Eidsvik and his ilk, and to stand up against his sustained barrage? I ask industry leaders to let Aboriginal people know where they stand when it comes to the survival coalition's position against Aboriginal rights-based fishery. First nations in this province may want to engage with other organizations, and allies to look at possible strategies for raising consumer awareness around the globe with respect to the unsavory, and racist propaganda being spread by coalition supporters whom ever they are.

Contact: Marcel Shepert, Executive Director, Fraser Watershed Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat
Phone: (250) 562-6279, Cell: (250) 612-7393 or mshepert@cstc.bc.ca

SALMON DONATIONS MUCH APPRECIATED

By Pat Matthew, pmatthew@snfc.ca

The Secwepemc Fisheries Commission would like to thank those communities that donated salmon to our Secwepemc people during the wildfire crisis in the Kamloops area this August. In particular, the Cook's Ferry, Shxw'ow'hamel, and Musqueam Bands provided much needed salmon during the evacuation period. During the evacuation hydro was off causing many people to lose salmon and many other traditional foods. Thankfully, most of the fire danger is over and people can get back to fishing and hunting. Thanks again for thinking of us in times of need - your efforts are well appreciated.

Everyone have a safe long weekend.