

Watershed Talk

— A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for —
fisheries representatives and their organizations

Opinion: Fraser Panel Appointments -- Should we bother?

Editor:

Why do we even bother to trouble ourselves over appointments to the Fraser Panel? An appointment to the Panel is very demanding and appointees are not well compensated.

Panel members must jump on numerous teleconference calls and attend meeting after meeting throughout the summer.

The Panel is still heavily weighted for commercial interests for an obvious reason; namely the Canada/U.S. treaty.

Be that as it may, I don't see why the majority of Panel members are not folks from both the aboriginal community and conservation groups.

And, of course, I realize appointments to the Panel are in the hands of the Minister of Fisheries, not ours.

Should we not be raising a ruckus over the proportion of commercial vs. aboriginal vs. conservation groups on the Panel?

This past season, the Panel didn't have any reason to meet except such meetings are obligatory to a degree and Panel members were keeping a death watch on Fraser sockeye runs.

And 2008 promises to be a repeat of 2007.

It seems the Panel's business has shifted from discussing sockeye run sizes and fishing opportunities to overseeing failing sockeye runs and the need to conserve.

I am almost certain commercial reps on the Panel feel their on-going participation is not required. And if they don't feel that way, they should start feeling that way ASAP.

Aboriginal leaders and conservation groups need to step up to the plate and inform DFO that a tectonic shift has occurred in the Pacific Coast fishery for Fraser sockeye.

We are no longer in an era of fisheries as much as we are now in an era of conservation -- a desperate era

Anyway, that's my take on things. I guess I should float these ideas in a political forum of some sort. I think I will.

Ernie Crey

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

WED & THURS, NOVEMBER 28 & 29: Intertribal Treaty Meetings, Kamloops

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11:
Fraser Watershed Joint Technical
Committee Meeting
Ramada Plaza, Abbotsford**

Please note that the Watershed Talk has now returned to its bi-weekly schedule, and we are looking for submissions from communities, fisheries organizations, etc. We're interested in community & project stories, historical/traditional/cultural stories, information about threats to fish, policy & legal issues, upcoming events, information about fish habitat, announcements, celebrations, workshops, public meetings, open houses, and anything else pertaining to fisheries that you think might be of interest to the Watershed Talk readership.

Landing in a processing plant is not how I would like to end my European vacation

A salmon factory worker in northwest France sent an email to FRAFS on Sunday, November 4 to inform us that he had found a fish with a small blue tag. The tag reads FRASER SOCKEYE RESEARCH and the numbers are 866-221-3444 TAG #0641. The fish was caught in the FAO statistical area 67 of the Pacific Ocean (the northeast Pacific), a major fishing area for salmon, flatfishes, cod, Alaska pollock, hake, lingcod, mackerel, Pacific herring, crabs, shrimps and oysters.

This email was forwarded to Fisheries and Oceans Canada today (Friday, November 9, 2007). We hope that DFO will get back to us soon and let us know something about the origin and history of this world travelling fish.

The Watershed Talk is available for download at www.frafs.ca

Next issue: Friday, November 23

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