

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

Director, Salmon Management and Client Service  
Pacific Region  
Suite 200 - 401 Burrard Street, Vancouver BC V5C 3S4

Dear Mr. Clapton:

Thank you for your August 9, 2017, correspondence to Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General, regarding Fraser River recreational chinook fisheries and your follow-up messages of August 15. I have been asked to respond on her behalf.

Fisheries and Ocean Canada continues to be guided by the Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon, which establishes clear priorities for fisheries management. The Policy confirms that the primary objective in fisheries management is the conservation of Pacific salmon stocks, followed by government obligations to provide harvest opportunities for First Nations food, social and ceremonial (FSC) requirements and treaty obligations.

Decisions for fisheries management actions for Fraser chinook are strongly tied to Fraser sockeye in-season information. At this time, the very low abundance of Fraser sockeye returns continues to be a key constraint in fisheries directed on chinook, and the overall number of chinook salmon returning to the Fraser River also appears to be below expectations to date.

Continuation of the closure of Fraser River recreational fisheries is a result of this year's extremely poor in-season returns of Fraser sockeye and the extremely limited sockeye impacts available to date, and the need to provide for priority access to chinook for First Nations FSC harvest opportunities. First Nation fishing opportunities this season have been and continue to be severely constrained, and their harvest of both chinook and sockeye are well below harvest targets.

We appreciate that some anglers choose to fish selectively; however, where regulations are not in place, DFO Conservation and Protection (C&P) staff are unable to take enforcement action, and C&P must manage staff resources to ensure monitoring and enforcement of existing regulations is prioritized.

I also advise that there have been ongoing discussions between DFO and members of the Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) Chinook/Coho Working Group to provide weekly updates on in-season management status and provide an opportunity for continued dialogue.

The Department will continue to review and monitor in-season information on a regular basis to inform future recreational fisheries management decisions. Further information on possible recreational fishery opportunities will be included in weekly Fraser River Panel (FRP) updates.

With respect to the question on recreational data for 2015 and 2016 in your most recent correspondence, I will follow up via a separate letter as it will take some time for follow-up.

We acknowledge the very challenging circumstances this year and appreciate your efforts to help communicate our current situation with the recreational community.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Nener  
Director, Salmon Management and Client Service  
Pacific Region

cc: Rebecca Reid  
Angela Bate

On behalf of Jennifer Nener  
Charis Hon  
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