



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

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Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence
2016-501-00172

SEP 02 2016

Rod Clapton
President of the BC Federation of Drift Fishers
Spokesperson for the Fraser River Sport Fishing Alliance
rclapton@shaw.ca

Dear Mr. Clapton:

Thank you for your June 30, 2016, correspondence regarding an education and awareness program to promote selective fishing methods within the Fraser River recreational angling community.

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 requirements and treaty obligations.

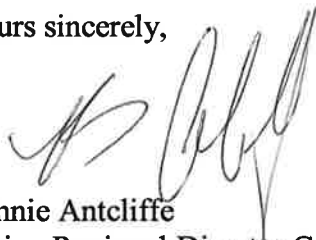
The Policy encourages selective fishing, and DFO appreciates the recreational fishing community's efforts to support and promote any selective fishing measures that reduce impacts on non-target species. I highlight that the Department's precautionary management approach is designed to ensure conservation objectives are met, and this includes consideration for potential impacts of environmental conditions on both target and non-target salmon species.

Regarding the motion passed by the Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) Main Board this spring in support of a temporary leader length regulation change, I understand that this has been discussed with the SFAB and Sport Fishing Advisory Committee (SFAC). DFO supports in principle the development of selective fishing options in recreational fisheries.

I note that new gear regulations cannot be implemented until the *Fisheries Act* is amended to permit the restriction of gear by variation order. If implemented, required regulatory changes to leader length restrictions would take approximately three years, and therefore, this change is not possible this year. 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.

Your efforts to gain voluntary compliance with selective fishing methods outside of the current regulations through education and awareness are recognized and appreciated. DFO staff have worked on collaborative education with recreational fishers for many years. The Department would be happy to review your education and awareness materials and discuss the possibility of distributing them on mailing lists. Barbara Mueller, Area Resource Manager, Lower Fraser, (Barbara.Mueller@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) would be the appropriate contact for this discussion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Antcliffe', written over a faint, illegible typed name.

Bonnie Antcliffe
Acting Regional Director General
Pacific Region