



Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council

Conseil pour la conservation des ressources halieutiques du pacifique

22 February 2005

Minister Geoff Regan, PC, MP
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
200 Kent Street, Ottawa Ontario
K1A 0E6

Via courier

Dear Minister Regan:

Re: Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council Review of the draft Wild Salmon Policy Framework

On behalf of the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC) I am writing to provide your Council's comments on the draft Wild Salmon Policy.

The PFRCC is on record for emphasizing the importance of finalizing the Wild Salmon Policy and this remains our view. Accordingly, the Council is pleased that progress has been made; that there is an opportunity to comment on the draft; that DFO has begun consultations on the Policy; and that there is to be a Multi-Interest Dialogue Forum on the draft in early March.

The attached document outlines the PFRCC's detailed comment and advice on the Policy. DFO has produced an ambitious Policy that makes numerous commitments to improve the management of wild Pacific Salmon. However, we have also identified significant deficiencies that we believe should be remedied to further improve the Policy and the management of this important resource. As one example the definition of conservation within the Policy needs to be clarified (there are currently three definitions within the document) and that that definition should emphasize the need, when making decisions, to protect the long-term viability of the salmon resource. Also troubling is the fact that the Policy makes explicit that there will be no extra funding to implement the Policy in spite of the fact that the Policy's many facets will make the salmon management task more costly.

In concluding the PFRCC recommends that the Wild Salmon Policy be finalized with urgency taking into account our recommendations and those of others.

We look forward to participating in the Forum and to further involvement on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Fraser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

Hon. John A. Fraser
Chairman
Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council

Encl.

cc: Council Members
Mark Saunders, Team Leader, Wild Salmon Policy
Mr. Larry Murray, Deputy Minister, DFO
Mr. Paul Sprout, A/Regional Director General, DFO Pacific Region
Ms. Mary Hobbs, A/Regional Director Policy Branch, DFO Pacific Region