



MUSQUEAM INDIAN BAND

6735 SALISH DRIVE
VANCOUVER, B.C.
CANADA V6N 4C4
TELEPHONE: 604 263-3261
FAX: 604 263-4212

March 29, 2021

Honourable Bernadette Jordan, PC, MP
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Via email: min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear Minister Jordan,

Re: New Chinook Fishing Proposals Starting April 2021 for recreational fisheries for Chinook Salmon in South Coast BC waters.

Musqueam is very concerned and disappointed that any consideration is being given by your department to proposals from sport fishing interests to increase recreational fishing on the endangered Fraser River Chinook stocks. Musqueam holds a proven Aboriginal Right to harvest these fish, subject only to conservation concerns. There is no doubt that wild stocks that will be killed in any of these 'selective' fisheries as proposed by the sport fishing industry. Furthermore, we are entitled to priority access to these fish if there are any available after conservation concerns are addressed. If approved, these proposals will increase the fishing mortality on these endangered stocks, while DFO regulation of our food, social, and ceremonial fishing continues to infringe our right to harvest these same Chinook stocks.

Furthermore, the consultation with Musqueam has been rushed to serve the special interest of the sport fishing business. Any consultation to date has been totally inadequate and falls short of the standard of deep and meaningful Consultation. We demand a full and comprehensive engagement prior to any consideration of or decision regarding these proposals.

Musqueam has developed selective harvesting methods of our own to protect these same wild stocks, without the same level of associated mortality. To date we have had little or no support from your staff, other than to reject our innovative proposals. Meanwhile, an inordinate amount of time and resources from your staff have assisted the sport fishing industry in developing its proposals; this contrast does not go unnoticed.

You are in receipt of a letter supporting the sport fishing industry proposals of the Sport Fishing Advisory Board signed by many of the BC Members of Parliament. In that letter the MPs refer to the benefit to Indigenous fishers in the SFAB proposal, but these MPs do not speak for us. There is not one MP who mentions the impact these proposed fisheries will have on our communities and our proven rights to harvest these same endangered Chinook stocks in a responsible manner. This oversight of our established rights and our place in the salmon fisheries in BC, by mainly opposition MPs, stands in stark contrast to the work we are doing with your government to reconcile our relationship with Canada.

We urge you to reject these proposed 'selective' fisheries and work with Musqueam respect our established rights and protect and rebuild these precious Chinook stocks of the Fraser River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief Wayne Sparrow".

Chief Wayne Sparrow
Musqueam Indian Band

cc: Terry Teegee, Regional Chief, B.C. Assembly of First Nations; regionalchief@bcfn.ca

Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General, Pacific Region; Rebecca.reid@dfo-mpo-gc.ca

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President, Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs; president@ubcic.bc.ca

Chief Don Tom, Vice-President, Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs; vp@ubcic.bc.ca

Cheryl Casimer, Political Executive, First Nations Summit; ccasimer@fns.bc.ca

Robert Phillips, Political Executive, First Nations Summit; rphillips@fns.bc.ca

Lydia Hwitsum, Political Executive, First Nations Summit; lhwitsum@fns.bc.ca

Colin Braker, Communications Director, First Nations Summit; cbraker@fns.bc.ca

Maureen Buchan, Senior Policy Advisor, BC Assembly of First Nations; Maureen.buchan@bcfn.ca

Andrea Glickman, Policy Director, Union of BC Indian Chiefs; andrea@ubcic.bc.ca

