

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for fisheries representatives and their organizations

Vacant First Nations Seat on Southern Panel, Seeking Nominations

Please see below the letter from DFO regarding an opening for a First Nations person to sit on the Southern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission. FRAFS encourages Nations and tribal groups within the Fraser Watershed to put forward their nominees as specified in the letter. Please note the deadline of November 5, 2009 for receipt of names.

October 13, 2009
Dear Mr. Neil Todd:

As you know, the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) was established by Canada and the United States in 1985 to develop procedures aimed at meeting the objectives of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). In addition to the Commission, which provides the overall direction in implementing the Treaty, the PSC is supported by four bilateral panels and a number of advisory and technical committees. Together, these bodies are responsible for providing technical and regulatory advice to the Commission, including recommendations on the management of salmon stocks and fisheries subject to the PST.

Canadian membership on the PSC panels includes DFO, First Nations, the recreational and commercial harvest sectors, and environmental interests. Effective representation and participation on the part of these groups is a vital part of the PSC process.

While Canadian Commissioners are appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, other appointments to the PSC (including the panels and technical committees) are made by the Department. These appointments are based, to a large degree, on nominations and advice received from the First Nations and a variety of interests and organizations across BC and Yukon, including organizations representing the recreational and commercial harvest sectors.

DFO is continuing to review and update Canadian membership on the panels to ensure they are well-positioned to support the interests and objectives of Canada in the PSC process. To support this process, we are seeking advice from your organization, the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat. Specifically, we request the secretariat provide a minimum of three (3) nominations for the following panel, as outlined below, preferably from different geographic areas throughout the Fraser Basin:

- Southern Panel: nominations would be considered for one seat, previously held by a First Nations representative, Grand Chief Saul Terry (Intertribal Treaty Organization).

These nominations, along with any supporting information you wish to provide (biographical information, other considerations, etc.) will be considered by DFO in making appointments to the PSC panels.

To help inform your discussions and consideration of potential nominees, the Department has also identified a number of key elements or considerations. These include:

- the ability of individuals to represent, broadly, the interests of Canada (not solely the interests of the sector or interest group they represent);
- the experience, technical and/or traditional ecological knowledge, communication skills and team-work required to successfully fulfill the role of panel member;
- the importance of diplomacy and good judgment (e.g. respect for the interests and views of others);
- the ability to compromise to seek common solutions to complex issues;
- the ability to regularly attend meetings and contribute to the work of the panel; and
- the nomination process and ability of an individual to represent a group that has an accountability process among its members.

Recognizing that the nomination process will require discussion within your organization and its constituents, we would like to request that you

provide any nominations to me, by mail or email, by November 5, 2009. We are also seeking nominations from the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) and will be considering nominations put forward by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat and the FNFC. We encourage you to coordinate your nomination efforts if possible.

In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact me at wellsley.hamilton@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or by phone at (604) 666-9525.

We appreciate your advice and support in continuing to strengthen the PSC and PST process.

Sincerely,
Wellsley Hamilton
DFO, Pacific Salmon Treaty Coordinator

MEETING NOTICES

October 26, 2009:
PST Fraser Annex Renegotiation Consultation
Start time: 12:00 noon SHARP
Best Western Rainbow Country Inn,
Chilliwack BC

October 27, 2009:
Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Forum
Start time: 9:00am
Best Western Rainbow Country Inn,
Chilliwack BC

October 28-30, 2009
First Nations Fisheries Council Assembly
Chehalis Indian Band
For more information please visit
www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca