

## NTA HOSTS 4<sup>TH</sup> INTER-TRIBAL FISHING TREATY MEETING

By Aimee Arsenault, FRAFS Communications Coordinator, NTA ITFT Planning Committee

On June 18 & 19, 2008 the Nicola Tribal Association hosted the fourth Inter-Tribal Fishing Treaty (ITFT) meeting at the Merritt Civic Center. Close to 100 leaders and fisheries representatives from throughout the Fraser River watershed came together to demonstrate their commitment to this process.

The treaty in its current incarnation aims to unite First Nations along the Fraser River with the goal of reclaiming control over the aboriginal Fraser salmon fishery. The treaty was originally signed in 1989 in the wake of diminishing salmon stocks, but was suspended upon the introduction of the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy (AFS) by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in 1992. This year's attempt to re-institute the treaty could not have come at a better time; salmon stocks have been on a serious decline, in recent years reaching alarmingly low numbers. Spawning levels were so low in 2004 that many feared a complete closure of the aboriginal fishery in 2008. While fishing has been open in the Nicola Valley throughout the month of June, fish are scarce and will likely fail to meet the dietary needs of those who rely on Fraser salmon for food. In spite of waning stocks, it is felt by many that First Nations' constitutional right to the fish, as determined by the Sparrow SCC decision in 1992, is not being upheld by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

One of the primary goals of the ITFT meetings has been to amend the treaty document to bring it up to date. The group has been working with legal representatives to make important changes, rendering the document more inclusive and more relevant to the current state of the fishery. NTA Chairperson Jim Billy has indicated that he hopes the document will be ready for ratification by the next ITFT meeting, scheduled to take place in Takla in August.

The Nicola Tribal Association would like to thank the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat, BC Hydro, NVIT, the Fraser Basin Council & Pacific Salmon Commission, Cook's Ferry Band, Pearl Hewitt, Judy Chillihitzia and her catering team, all vendors who donated door prizes, Elder Mike Bob, and participating hand drummers. Thank you also to the NTA planning committee and the ITFT working group, who worked hard to put this event together. Most of all, thank you to all meeting participants for your commitment to protecting the fish.



A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for fisheries representatives and their organizations

## ATTENTION FISHERS:

### Important Information RE: 20098 Tagging Studies

#### TAGGED SOCKEYE, CHINOOK, COHO AND CHUM SALMON, 2008

If you catch a fish with a colored spaghetti tag, please give the tag to the monitor when you land your fish. The monitor will ask you how many fish you caught, and how many tags you found, by species.

Individuals who provide their tags and catch data to the monitoring program will have their names entered into a lottery for one of two \$500 prizes.

The tagging study is being conducted by the Pacific Salmon Commission, in conjunction with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and LGL, from June-October 2008. Up to 5,000 salmon will be marked with spaghetti tags this summer to evaluate the capture efficiencies for the lower Fraser fishwheels. Information obtained through your cooperation will directly contribute to improved management and conservation of Fraser River sockeye, chinook, coho and chum salmon.

#### REWARD FOR RETURNED RADIO TAGS

If you catch and keep a Fraser sockeye with a blue anchor tag and with a hole in the adipose fin, remember to look for an antenna coming out of the mouth. Remove the internal transmitter and the blue anchor tag and contact LGL at once at the TOLL FREE phone number listed below.

Individuals returning transmitters to LGL along with information on time and place of capture will be sent the complete tracking history of the fish and their name will be entered into a \$500 lottery once for each transmitter returned.

The tagging study is being conducted by the Pacific Salmon Commission, in conjunction with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and LGL, from June-November 2008. Approximately 100 sockeye will be radio-tagged in the Lower Fraser River to assess the detection efficiencies for summer-run sockeye passing the Qualark hydroacoustic arrays. Detailed temperature data will be obtained from each transmitter recovered from fisheries or spawning areas. Information obtained through your cooperation will directly contribute to improved management and conservation of Fraser River sockeye.

If you have any questions related to these studies, please call **1-866-221-3444**; OR, you can enter your tag recovery information online at [www.lgl.com/tag](http://www.lgl.com/tag)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND COOPERATION!**

## HA HA HA!

A couple of young guys were fishing at their special pond off the beaten track when out of the bushes jumped a conservation officer. Immediately, one of the boys threw his rod down and started running through the woods, and hot on his heels came the officer. After about a half mile, the guy stopped and stooped over with his hands on his thighs to catch his breath, and the officer finally caught up to him. "Let's see your fishing license, boy!" he gasped. With that, the guy pulled out his wallet and gave the game warden a valid fishing license. "Well, son," said the officer, "you must be about as dumb as a box of rocks! You don't have to run from me, you have a valid license!" "Yes sir," replied the young fellow, "but my friend doesn't."

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"Give a man a fish, and you can feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you can get rid of him for the whole weekend."

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"Three Men And A Baby": What you get when four men go fishing and one comes back with no fish.

## IN-SEASON UPDATE CONFERENCE CALLS

FRAFS Biologist Mike Staley will be hosting weekly conference calls Thursday afternoons at 4:00pm to discuss technical fisheries issues.

The first call of the season will be on Thursday July 10th, and will take place every Thursday until early September.

**Call in: 1-877-385-4099**  
**(604-899-2339 in the Vancouver area)**  
**Access code: 3196930**