



NGOs blast Fraser River decision

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The upcoming Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery was blasted by a group of NGOs.

On Monday, the MSC announced the objections from a group of NGOs to the Fraser River sockeye salmon had been overruled by the independent adjudicator.

The Fraser River sockeye fishery does not meet the criteria of a sustainable fishery because it continues to catch endangered salmon and plans to recover dwindling fish populations are not being implemented, according to scientists at the David Suzuki Foundation, Watershed Watch Salmon Society and SkeenaWild Conservation Trust who launched a formal objection to the proposed certification last fall.

"By any definition, this is not a sustainable fishery," said Greg Knox, executive director of SkeenaWild Conservation Trust. "There is no way these kinds of endangered salmon should be considered a sustainable choice until the fisheries management system is improved and stocks given a chance to recover."

"The Fraser sockeye fishery continues to catch sockeye identified as endangered by Canadian and international scientific authorities," said Jeffery Young, aquatic biologist with the David Suzuki Foundation. "This certification could actually result in well-intentioned consumers buying an endangered Fraser River sockeye with an eco-label on it."

The three conservation organizations say certification should wait at least until federal fisheries managers have complied with recommendations anticipated from the judicial inquiry into Fraser sockeye fisheries management and the Canadian government has taken concrete steps to protect and rebuild the Fraser's stocks.

"The public should not be fooled by this suspect certification" said Craig Orr, Executive Director of Watershed Watch Salmon Society. "These are clear signs that there are serious flaws with the MSC objection process, as well as the assessment process overall."



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