Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River



Commission d'enquête sur le déclin des populations de saumon rouge du fleuve Fraser

Public Hearings

Audience publique

Commissioner

L'Honorable juge /
The Honourable Justice
Bruce Cohen

Commissaire

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("SPABC")

Aquaculture Coalition: Alexandra Morton: Raincoast Research Society:

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Tim Leadem, Q.C. Conservation Coalition: Coastal Alliance

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Lyndsay Smith Area D Salmon Gillnet Association; Area

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Maa-nulth Treaty Society; Tsawwassen

First Nation; Musqueam First Nation ("MTM")

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Nations:

Cowichan Tribes and Chemainus First

Nation

Hwlitsum First Nation and Penelakut Tribe Te'mexw Treaty Association ("WCCSFN")

Brenda Gaertner Leah Pence First Nations Coalition: First Nations
Fisheries Council; Aboriginal Caucus of
the Fraser River; Aboriginal Fisheries
Secretariat; Fraser Valley Aboriginal
Fisheries Society; Northern Shuswap Tribal

Council; Chehalis Indian Band;

Secwepemc Fisheries Commission of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council; Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance; Other Douglas Treaty First Nations who

applied together (the Snuneymuxw, Tsartlip

and Tsawout)

Adams Lake Indian Band

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council ("FNC")

Council of Haida Nation

Métis Nation British Columbia ("MNBC")

APPEARANCES / COMPARUTIONS, cont'd.

Nicole Schabus Sto:lo Tribal Council

Cheam Indian Band ("STCCIB")

Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society

James Walkus and Chief Harold Sewid

Aboriginal Aquaculture Association ("LJHAH")

Heiltsuk Tribal Council ("HTC")

Musgagmagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council

("MTTC")

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THE REGISTRAR: Order. This hearing is now resumed.

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MS. BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. The cross-examination will continue this morning, starting with Lyndsay Smith, on behalf of the Area D Salmon Gillnet Association and Area B Harvest Committee. Thank you.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. SMITH:

 Q Mr. Kowal, I'll direct this question to you, but request input from Mr. Lapointe, if you have any comments or observations. And it arises out of a question asked by Commission counsel yesterday with regard to the impact of the *Larocque* decision, and as I understood it, the question related to a 2006 Federal Court of Appeal decision. Is that your understanding?

MR. KOWAL: That's correct.

 Q All right. And basically, the import of that decision was that no longer could the DFO research be funded by the resource, by fishing; is that correct?

MR. KOWAL: That's correct.

Q And my recollection of your reply to a question asked by Commission counsel, her question was to the effect, "Has the *Larocque* decision affected your test fishery?" and my recollection of your evidence was that you replied, "Not directly," do you recall that?

MR. KOWAL: That's correct.

 Q All right. So I'm wondering if you could tell us, if it didn't -- if the decision didn't impact the test fishery directly, were there indirect consequences from the decision?

MR. KOWAL: Well, the main consequence to the decision is previous to the *Larocque* decision, the preparation for the test fishery was conducted basically by the staff of the Salmon Commission consulting with the Fraser Panel as to what test fisheries would be required, and then we would get the, you know, the order. Once the instructions were passed, then we would proceed with making all the arrangements for the test fishery to be conducted.

With the *Larocque* decision coming into play,

 it now requires that we need to -- once we have decided on the suite of test fisheries we require, we then need to negotiate with DFO through a memorandum of understanding to receive the funds necessary to proceed with the test fisheries. So there's the added administrative details that are required to make the same process happen. It doesn't directly affect the test fishery, but it's just additional administrative requirements that are required on our behalf.

- All right. Is there an attendant delay or a consequent delay in the process as a result of that?
- MR. KOWAL: Not usually. The test fisheries will start on time. We haven't had to delay any test fisheries starting. It's just an administrative process we're having to conduct.
- Q All right. Thank you. And my understanding is that there is funding set for the test fishery currently, but that it is to expire or run out at some point in the near future?
- MR. KOWAL: That's correct. The *Larocque* decision was for a five-year period, and the *Larocque* process ends after next year.
- Q All right. And my understanding of your collective evidence is that test fishing is an important part of the data collection required for proper monitoring and management of the fishery; do you agree?
- MR. KOWAL: Yes, it's an integral part of what we require.
- Q All right. So one of the things that we have to have in place is proper funding for proper test fishings; is that correct?
- MR. KOWAL: That is correct.
- MS. SMITH: All right. And Mr. Lapointe -- I'm going to ask Mr. Lunn, to put up Ex 73 on screen. This is the Synthesis of Evidence from a Workshop on the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye. And I believe it was Mr. Leadem who produced this document yesterday.
- Q And when it was first introduced, my recollection of your evidence was essentially an acknowledgment or recognition that this workshop occurred when the participants were aware that this commission of inquiry was in place and looking into some of the issues that were under consideration at this

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workshop; is that correct? 1 2 MR. LAPOINTE: Yes. The planning occurred subsequent 3 to the announcement that this inquiry would occur. 4 Okay. And at page 2 of the document, the members 5 of the Expert Advisory Panel are listed, and those 6 experts include Canadian and American 7 participants; is that correct? 8 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. 9 All right. And do you know how the experts were 10 identified for this workshop? 11 MR. KOWAL: Perhaps I can answer that. 12 Thank you. 13 MR. KOWAL: The Scientific Cooperation Committee of 14 the Salmon Commission worked to decide on the 15 members that were chosen. They were chosen for 16 their expertise in the various factors that could 17 be affecting the non return of salmon, so that's 18 how they were chosen. 19 All right. And the report that was produced at 20 the end of August of 2010, if I describe it as a 21 collective view of this panel, would that be fair? 22 That's correct. MR. KOWAL: 23 All right. And so any recommendations contained 24 in this report is, effectively, a wish list from 25 this scientific community; is that fair? MR. KOWAL: 26 These are recommendations from the 27 committee, that's correct. 28 All right. And the reason that I ask this is 29 that, Mr. Lapointe, yesterday, in response to a 30 question by Mr. Leadem about this document, my 31 understanding of your evidence was that obviously 32 no concrete reason was reached, but one of the 33 strong hypothesis is that it's the ocean 34 conditions in the Georgia Strait. 35 MR. LAPOINTE: With respect to 2009, that's correct. 36 All right. And my recollection of that statement 37 was that you followed it by saying that the ability to discern beyond the conclusions set out 38 39 in this document, Exhibit 73, was limited by 40 having the data with regard to lifecycle of the 41 sockeye; is that right? 42 That's correct. MR. LAPOINTE: All right. And when I read this document last 43 44 night, one of the occurring themes in it appears

to be a dearth of evidence. There is reference

throughout the document to the conclusions being

limited by available evidence, and that phrase is

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used throughout; do you agree with that? MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, I do.

All right. And so when I heard you testify that the ability to discern beyond the conclusions in this document is limited by the data, one of the questions that occurred to me is, what would be required to permit a further or stronger hypothesis, and when one looks at this document, for example, at page 5, there's a heading in a box, called, "Main conclusions about mechanisms", and just addressing your attention to the first paragraph:

The Panel's judgments, summarized in Table E-1, are that physical and biological conditions inside the Strait of Georgia during the juvenile life stage are very likely the major cause of poor survival of the cohort that returned in 2009.

And then dropping down to the last sentence of that paragraph, it says:

The Panel lacked certain types of information needed to identify the mechanisms more specifically (as described in Section 4) and has recommended future research that may lead to such detailed conclusions (see Section 5).

And the research that this panel suggests as being required is set out in Table E-3 in a hierarchy of priority; do you agree?

MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, that's correct.

Q All right. And so if I were to ask you, what would you need, or in the science community that you work in, need to go beyond the conclusions? Are the recommendations set out in this document basically your answer?

MR. LAPOINTE: Yes.

- Q And turning to a different point, regarding catch estimates, my understanding is that -- well perhaps I'll ask it a different way. What are the sources of information that the panel uses to make catch estimates?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Catch estimates are, by and large, the responsibility of the national sections of Canada and the United States, national sections of the

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panel, so from a Canadian perspective, catch estimates are provided to us by, largely, members of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, so we receive those estimates from them.

There was a time when PSE staff had a larger role in estimating catch in panel waters, and that was at a time when fish tickets were more of a source of that estimation, but in more recent years we turn more to using the creel surveys that are provided by DFO. Fish tickets tend to be incomplete, and so they've not been the source of — not all fish that are landed necessarily show up in a fish ticket, so we've been relying more on the governments to provide us their catch estimation.

- Q Okay. And when I was reviewing my notes, my recollection of your evidence was that the Fraser Panel has no authorization with regards to the recreational fishery; is that right?
- MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.
- Q So does that mean that their catches are not contained in the information that is provided for the catch estimates?
- MR. LAPOINTE: No. We receive catch estimates for all fisheries that might have some potential impact on Fraser sockeye, including recreational fisheries, including fisheries in Alaska. The reference to regulation means that the panel does not exert any bilateral decision on whether or not a recreational fishery would be opened or closed.
- Q All right. And so is that answer also applicable to your reference to the Fraser Panel having no authorization of First Nations?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yeah, it's the same reference. There's no regulatory authority with respect to First Nations fisheries in Canada.
- All right. And is catch numbers from that fishery, as well, included in the catch assessment?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes.
- Q So does Canada provide the same information as the Americans provide?
- MR. LAPOINTE: It depends on what you mean by "the same". The sources of the catch estimates, the techniques used to generate the catch estimates differ between the two countries, but they both provide catch estimates.

Q All right. And those catch estimates cover all users of the fishery?

MR. LAPOINTE: Yes.

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- Q All right. And just following up on area touched on at the end of yesterday with regard to the number of 15-1/2 million fish unaccounted for in, I believe, a 16-year period, and there was discussion of high water temperature as being a potential cause; do you recall that?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes.
- Q I'm wondering, during that period, were there carcasses found by your scientists consistent with that?
- MR. LAPOINTE: We don't survey the watershed for carcasses. That would be something that would come under Canada's purview, but it's pretty well understood now, and there's actually a published paper I could probably point you to, that you don't tend to see level of bodies that you'd expect when you have a large mortality, and that's simply because sockeye carcasses don't float for very long, and so you'd have to have a pretty significant, dedicated program to monitoring a very long period of time, and even then you'd only see the ones that float.
- MS. SMITH: Thank you, those are my questions.
- MS. BAKER: Mr. Commissioner, I think the next participant who will be asking questions is the First Nations Coalition with Brenda Gaertner.
- MS. GAERTNER: Thank you. For the record, Brenda Gaertner, and with me, Leah Pence, for the First Nations Coalition.

I just wanted to start this morning with a housekeeping matter, particularly in response to Ms. Baker's comments yesterday. She suggested, on the record, yesterday, and it is true, that we all received a letter from Brian Wallace first thing Monday morning, with the proposed requirement that all the participants provide a week's notice of any documents we intend to rely upon. Now, I need, also, therefore, to put on record that the First Nations have concerns regarding this request and note that although the Commission staff, themselves, are doing a very -- doing their best and working their hardest, they have not, also, been able to manage to meet that standard as of yet in this inquiry.

There are a significant volume of documents which are already in Ringtail. There is also a very tight timeframe in which you are also trying to hold this inquiry on very complex matters. And so it is my observation, Mr. Commissioner, that relying on an adversarial process for the work that you have ahead of you is a hard enough task. Relying on increased stress and pressure on the participants in order to participate in this inquiry is not sustainable and should be dealt with in a very precautionary manner before there are cracks that start appearing in this inquiry that could be quite significant.

And this is especially true as we move into the hearings going forward that are going to be increasingly technical in nature and will require, as best we can, input from our clients on a regular basis.

And so I don't want to air any more of these concerns at this time and in this place. I've spoken to Ms. Baker this morning, and I'm suggesting that we try a management conference amongst counsel to air some of the concerns that are becoming more real as we experience this inquiry and participate in it as best we can. I don't imagine it will take too long. I would prefer, if we can, to schedule it at a time when we're already scheduled for hearings, because the down time is definitely needed for preparation.

And so if that's something, and I understand Ms. Baker is very content to take that suggestion, then I would prefer that happen, and if we can't sort some of these issues ourselves, then we'll have to return to you for some guidance.

- MR. BUTCHER: I would join in that request. I've sent a letter, or dictated a letter to Mr. Wallace with similar comments, and I think it would be very helpful for us to have a management conference at this point. It is getting very, very difficult for the participants to keep up with the pace of this process.
- MS. BAKER: I can advise, Mr. Commissioner, that we have talked internally about having another management meeting with counsel, and I let Ms. Gaertner know this morning, so it's on the agenda, and we expect to be communicating with people about that, suggesting perhaps meeting before a

hearing day an hour earlier or an hour after, whatever, but we will find some time to do that in short order, because we know that that's something that people need to talk about.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MS. GAERTNER: Thank you. Now, turning to the topic of this panel and having to listen to the evidence that had been provided yesterday and the questions of the Commission, I'm going to work very hard to stay at the 70,000 foot level and keep my questions that way and not get into the details of harvest management or the complexities associated with that, or in the causes of decline for the stocks.

I'm really trying to make sure that Mr. Commissioner and all of our working knowledge regarding how the PSC works with the parties, Canada and the U.S. and that world is clarified as best we can.

Many of the structural questions, I think, will be questions you'll be able to handle, but I note, Mr. Commissioner, that both Mr. Sprout and Barry Rosenberger, and Mr. Sprout being the former head of commissioners, and Mr. Rosenberger the present chair of the Fraser Panel, are witnesses that will be still back on the stand - if we want to use that language - later in the inquiry, and so if these are questions that are more appropriately placed to them, I'll leave it in the hands of these witnesses.

And also, I think it's important for the witnesses, and for you to know, Mr. Commissioner, that Mr. Russ Jones, who is an alternate commissioner, and Mr. Marcel Shepert, who is a member of the Fraser Panel, are part of First Nations Coalition that I represent, and I am also hoping that they will have the opportunity to provide information to you directly as a witness, and so some of the questions and issues may be more appropriately placed with them, also.

And so just with those notes of introduction, I'll begin my questions of this commission.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. GAERTNER:

I want to, first, touch on and provide some clarification around Canada's involvement in the

PSC and how the staff and the commissioners and the panel operate. And yesterday it was suggested that it's sort of like a board of directors, and I guess I have a little bit of problems with that metaphor because, really, there are equal votes between Canada and the U.S., and clearly not equal sharing of the stocks, and so there is a nuance associated, or equal responsibilities, with respect to that stock; is that a fair observation?

MR. KOWAL: If you're referring to the reference to

- Fraser stocks --
- Q Yes.
- MR. KOWAL: -- the stock proportion is not equal, although the Salmon Commission is responsible for all five species of salmon, and the sharing of other stocks is not in that same proportion, so that that -- if that clarifies that issue?
- Q Thank you, yes, that's true. And my questions are totally going to be focused on the Fraser River stocks, bear with me on that, but that's the focus of this inquiry.

Is it fair to say that one of the purposes and goals of the treaty, from Canada's perspective, is to keep the U.S. fisheries, which occur in panel waters, and in particular the Washington State panel waters, to fish, as they fish on the Fraser River sockeye, to an agreed sharing arrangement? That it's a marine fishery that occurs outside of Canada's jurisdiction, and that one of the goals, of course, in the treaty, is that through the treaty they can get to a particular share that that marine fishery will access?

- MR. KOWAL: Well, the shares are negotiated between the two countries, and that is prescribed in the treaty as it stands.
- Q But one of the goals of Canada, because they don't have jurisdiction over that fishery, and it's one of the only fisheries they don't have jurisdiction over, other than that which is accessed in Alaska, is to attempt level of certainty around the level of access and the time of access that that fishery will have on Fraser-bound stocks?
- MR. KOWAL: I would assume that would be a goal. Those discussions do take place in the Fraser Panel.
- Q And is it fair to say that through the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Annex, that there is a

- tweaking of the method by which DFO has used to 1 establish some of the measures of control over 3 that fishery over the years, a fishery which has 4 been, in the past, quite volatile and adversarial 5 in nature? 6 MR. KOWAL: I'm not sure I understand what you mean by 7 "tweaking". 8 Well, how they operate now, and I'll take you through those, perhaps, but how they operate now 9 and how they operated 20 years ago has changed. 10 11 MR. KOWAL: The operations have changed over time. 12 Now, it's fair to say Canada, in its work with the 13 PSC, and in the process, in particular, of 14 establishing the TAC, the goal, and it's 15 specifically set out in the Annex, is to establish 16 the TAC as it relates to the 16-percent share that 17 the U.S. holds, Canada is not required to fish 18 their TAC? 19 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. 20 And it's also fair, in the present management, 21 that it's only the U.S. that has overages and 22 underages? 23 MR. LAPOINTE: As described in paragraph 8, that's correct. 24 I believe it's paragraph 8. 25 And that nowadays, with respect to the U.S.'s 26 underages, it's only when they haven't caught 27 their share and they can establish that we've done 28 something directly to impact their inability to 29 collect their shares, that that applies? 30 MR. LAPOINTE: I believe that is certainly one of the 31 conditions, and that probably is contained in the 32 guidance document, the provisions for how the U.S. 33 would determine an underage, and that's one of the
 - Thank you. It's also, now, the present practice, with respect to spawning escapements, it's my understanding that it's now clear that the setting of spawning escapement targets, is a matter strictly for Canada and, in particular, DFO to do? MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.

provisions for sure.

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And that one of the -- and perhaps more -- I don't want to suggest that the sitting of those spawning escapement targets aren't something relevant to the Fraser Panel, because you'll agree with me that what happens is once those spawning escapement targets are set, it comes to the Fraser panel to develop preseason plans based on those

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Cross-exam by Ms. Gaertner (FNC)

1 spawning escapement targets, correct? 2 MR. LAPOINTE: It does develop the preseason plans for 3 the bilateral management. There are obviously 4 other preseason plans that go on domestically in 5 Canada. 6 And it's those preseason plans, if reached by Q 7 agreement, that will result in both parties, Canada and the U.S., in doing the annual 8 9 devolution to the Fraser Panel for the in-season 10 management that they do? 11 MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, it's the agreement on the plan that 12 results in the transfer powers to the panel from 13 the parties. 14 And that occurs annually? 15 MR. LAPOINTE: Yes. 16 And so obviously it's important for the work of 17 the in-season management for agreement of the plan 18 to be reached? 19 MR. LAPOINTE: Yes. 20 Now, I also wanted to make it clear - or help get 21 clear - I'm not going to make it clear - help get 22 it clear that around how the staff of the PSC and 23 the commissioners worked. As I understand it, the 24 staff work for the commission, they don't work 25 directly for the parties? And perhaps Mr. Kowal 26 can --27 MR. KOWAL: That's correct. 28 -- clarify my understanding there? And that the 29 commission is an independent party or body that 30 works for both of the countries? 31 MR. KOWAL: Yes. 32 And it's each country maintains a significant 33 amount of responsibility associated with the work 34 regarding Fraser River stocks and, in particular, 35 the domestic obligations associated with that? 36 MR. KOWAL: Yes. 37 That's not the work of the commission in any way? MR. KOWAL: That's correct. 38 39 And I just want to use an example of this just to 40 bring this home, not in any way as a criticism, 41 but it's my understanding that conference that you held with respect to the 2009 fisheries was 42 43 actually a conference that you were directed to 44 hold by the commissioners; that's not something

you, as staff, can independently choose to do?

Now, with that backdrop, and I think it's an

MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.

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 important backdrop, it's also fair to say that the U.S. and Canada have, through the work of the Fraser Panel, tried to become clear on the work that the commission can do to assist the parties in creating more predictable fisheries.

And I want to just make sure that I've got the basics of that down, and the basics, as I understand it, as it relates to the Fraser Panel, is that you reach the preseason plan we've just talked about based on Canada's escapement targets, and then you -- and then, if you can, by consensus, do that, you then provide in-season run-size estimates and then, in a postseason environment you provide analysis based on those first two tasks?

- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, but just to be clear, when you used the word "commission" in that context, you're talking about the commission staff; is that correct?
- Q That's right.
- MR. LAPOINTE: Okay. That's correct.
- Q That's exactly right. It's commission staff, and in these cases, it's the Fraser Panel, in particular, that are charged with these obligations?
- MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.
- Q And that those in-season run-size estimates are, first of all, very time-sensitive work? It can be something that's adjusted in any particular week, never mind just weekly?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, multiple times in the same week, potentially.
- And that once agreement with respect to those runsizes is reached by the panel, then those run-size estimates are used for all of the fisheries accessing Fraser River sockeye fisheries?
- MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.
- Q And so they're used for all of the Washington State fisheries in panel waters?
- MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.
 - Q And they're also used by Canada in all of their in-season -- in all of the domestic fisheries that they may hold, be it commercial, recreational or First Nation?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: That's my understanding.
 - Q And is it fair to say that it's an ongoing concern by Canada that if there isn't agreement with the

- U.S., that they might simply go out fishing and that that would be an ever increasing concern, given Canada's increased concerns about conservation?
- MR. LAPOINTE: I think that would be a question better directed to someone from Canada.
- Q All right. Is it also fair to say that those runsize estimates and the decisions that flow from it are just one of the pivotal decisions that are made during in-season and the management of the fisheries?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes.
- Q And it's also fair to say that the openings that are completely dependent on those run-size estimates can have significant effects all along the migratory routes that the sockeye travel?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes.
- Q And, in particular, it could have significant effects on both the sustainability of the weak stocks and the access by Fraser First Nations people up in the higher reaches of the migratory route?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes.
- Q Thank you. I want to turn, now, to some comments, and just again, to provide some, hopefully, improved clarity on the involvement of First Nations people in the commission, and by that I mean as commissioners or the panel. And I want to turn specifically to PPR-4, page 24. And while we're doing that, I just want to begin by making a distinction I make, and see whether you'll agree with this or not, between people who are First Nations, or have training in First Nations issues, and people that would carry a mandate or represent tribal matters; would you agree with that distinction?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, I would.
- Q And, first of all, it's my working understanding, and again, I'd like clarity on this, that all of the individuals you identified yesterday as First Nations are appointed by Canada to be either a commissioner or a member of the Fraser Panel, and not by First Nations; is that correct?
- MR. KOWAL: That's correct.
- Q And that, in fact, their oath of office, as a commissioner or as a member of the panel, is an oath of office to Canada; is that correct?

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MR. KOWAL: That's correct. 1 2 And would you also agree, and is it to your 3 knowledge, that none of the people that are commissioners or members of the panel, carry a 5 mandate from the tribes along the entire 6 migratory route, and that it would be misleading, 7 as suggested by the Policy and Practice Report, to 8 suggest they "represent" First Nations? 9 MR. KOWAL: That's probably a fair representation. 10 You would agree with me? 11 MR. KOWAL: Yes. 12 That it could be misleading to suggest they 13 represent First Nations? 14 MR. LAPOINTE: I've certainly heard those views 15 expressed by the First Nations' representatives on 16 the Fraser Panel. 17 Now, I'm not suggesting, and I don't want to Q 18 suggest that it's not important to have them there 19 and that they can provide some useful information, 20 I just think it's extremely important for the 21 Commissioner to know that they do not represent 22 all the tribes on the Fraser River or those that 23 access the Fraser River stocks. 24 Because you'll also agree with me that it's 25 been your experience at either the commission 26 level or at the staff level, that given the 27 breadth of the First Nations who access these runs 28 and their locations along these runs, clearly 29 their interests are not always the same? 30 MR. LAPOINTE: That would be a correct observation. 31 I'm not sure whether this is something you could 32 speak to, but I'm wondering - I definitely will 33 put it to the DFO representatives at the 34 commission - but do you think, from your working 35 knowledge at the commission and on the panel, that 36 it would be useful to have a clearly mandated 37 process where First Nations are present in those 38 scenarios with mandates from the tribes and along 39 the rivers? 40 MR. KOWAL: I think that would be a decision that the 41 parties would have to make for their own affairs. Also, then, just a couple more questions on 42 43 representation and participation by First Nations.

I just want to turn to the makeup of the Fraser

there's two from DFO and three -- two or three,

I use the panel members and the alternates,

Panel, and if I've done my calculations right, if

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- depending on how you interpret Mr. Assu from the First Nations, one from rec, and six or seven from the industry; is that your working knowledge of the makeup of the Fraser Panel?

 MR. LAPOINTE: It certainly would be what's referred in
 - MR. LAPOINTE: It certainly would be what's referred in the PPR document on page 36, I believe, so yeah, that's consistent.
 - Q And would you agree with me that that makeup is largely a fact of history and that primarily when it started and as it began, the commissioner's work and the Fraser Panel's work was largely attentive to the interests of industry?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: Partly. I think it may also be a reflection of the mandate. So the mandate of the panel does not include direct jurisdiction over First Nations' fisheries, and so that may also be a factor in the representation.
 - Q It's clear that that mandate doesn't determine which commercial fisheries will be open, either; it simply determines when there's enough available catch for Canada to determine an open fishery for the commercial fishery?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct, but there is a more direct link in terms of at least the panel water commercial fisheries in terms of regulatory control.
 - Is it also fair to say that, going forward, given the conservation concerns that Canada is working with, with respect to the Fraser River stocks, and given the challenges associated with implementing the Wild Salmon Policy, that it may actually be useful to have people from -- more people from the Fraser River, itself, then from industry?
 - MR. KOWAL: That would be Canada's decision as they proceed forward.
 - Q So you're suggesting that that's something I better -- that's better pursued with Mr. Sprout or Mr. Rosenberger?
 - MR. KOWAL: That's correct.
 - Q All right. And just turning, briefly, to the work of the technical committee responsible to the Fraser Panel. And again, we referred to -- or as referred to Mike Staley's work on the technical committee, yesterday, it's clear that on the technical committee no one is representing anyone in particular; is that correct?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.

And, in fact, the guidelines of -- the bylaw 1 2 guidelines for the PSC, for the technical 3 committee, make that a requirement? MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct as well. 5 They also make it a requirement that you clearly 6 distinguish between technical and biological 7 issues and policy issues; is that correct? 8 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. 9 MS. GAERTNER: I'm wondering, Mr. Commissioner, whether 10 or not it would be useful -- I think, going 11 forward, he's confirmed the evidence, so I don't 12 know if I need the document for his, but I think it would be useful for you to see the document. 13 14 In the Pacific Salmon Commission bylaws there is a 15 document that provides the guidance and the obligations of the members of the technical 16 17 committee, and so I'd like to tender that as an 18 I'll tender the Pacific Salmon exhibit. 19 Commission Bylaws as an exhibit, and the 20 guidelines are attached, and these are documents 21 that have been referenced in the materials to 22 date, and I don't believe should come as a 23 surprise to anybody. 24 THE REGISTRAR: Exhibit 76 25 26 EXHIBIT 76: Pacific Salmon Commission Bylaws 27 28 THE COMMISSIONER: Ms. Gaertner, are they already in 29 the system, that Mr. Lunn has access to? 30 MS. GAERTNER: Yes. He's going to bring it to your 31 attention in half a second, and then I'm going to 32 take you to page 14 of that document. 33 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. 34 MS. GAERTNER: Magic. Sorry, I'm still an old fogey 35 and rely on paper. 36 And you'll see that those are guidelines for the 37 conduct of the technical committee members. were the quidelines I was referring you to 38 earlier; is that correct? And you'll see that at 39 40 the third paragraph, under the:

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Individual Committee Members Shall Serve as Scientists, Not as Advocates For Their Respective Agency Positions

It makes it clear that they cannot represent directly, or indirectly, their clients?

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MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.

Q And that they are -- that in - in the paragraph

before it, your work is to clearly and:

5 6 7 ...carefully define and distinguish technical/biological problems and policy issues.

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MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.

- Thank you. I just want to briefly, and again, I'm not sure about your experience on this one, and if it doesn't work we'll see if we can get the right witness - I just want the Commissioner to know the contrast between how Canada and the U.S. operate at the panel. In particular, it's my working knowledge that there are four decision-makers represented within the U.S. commissioners on the Fraser Panel. There's the decision-makers representing the Federal Government, there are decision-makers on behalf of the Washington and Oregon States and Alaska and the tribes, but each of them carry obligations within their caucus and that they do absolutely require consensus amongst them in order for a position to be taken by that party; is that working knowledge correct?
- MR. KOWAL: I wasn't clear whether you were referring to the commissioners or you were referring to the panel members.
- Q Is there a distinction there?
- MR. KOWAL: There is a distinction.
- Q Could you explain that?
- MR. KOWAL: The commissioners would fit the description you did talk about.
- Q So at the commission level there are four decision-makers, and consensus amongst all of those are required in order for a position of the U.S. to take?
- MR. KOWAL: That's correct.
- Q And tell me, how is it different at the Fraser Panel?
- MR. KOWAL: The Fraser Panel basically has -- I could ask Mike to describe it, but --
- MR. LAPOINTE: Sure, I'll take it. It's just the main distinction would be the fact that Oregon is not represented on the Fraser River Panel.
- Q Ah.
- MR. LAPOINTE: So there are three.

1 Q Great. Perfect. 2 MR. LAPOINTE: But it

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- MR. LAPOINTE: But it is my understanding that those three parties; federal, Washington State; and tribal representatives, do have to reach consensus for the Fraser River Panel -- the United States section of the Fraser River Panel, to bring forward a position.
 - Thank you. I think that -- that's very helpful.

 My next line of questions is really lines of
 questions around -- I often describe them as
 proving a negative. I just want you to bear with
 me as I confirm what you don't do and you don't
 have responsibility for.

You'll agree with me that the legal responsibilities of the Canadian Crown is to recognize and reconcile Aboriginal and treaty rights and to consult and accommodate, under Canadian law, regarding the impacts of any of the commissioner's decisions or the Fraser Panel decisions, is something, to date, that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada have assumed as full responsibilities and are not the responsibilities of either the Fraser Panel or the commission?

- MR. HUNTER: I'm sorry, Mr. Commissioner, but that's a legal question. It's not really a fair question for the panel.
- MS. GAERTNER:
- Well, on an operating basis, do you operate with any obligations associated with the consultation with First Nations?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Not that I'm aware of. Only through the panel or the commission.
- Q And it's fair to say that the kind of expertise that may be required to do such an activity is not something that's found within the Commission staff or the commissioners, necessarily?
- MR. LAPOINTE: That would be correct.
- Q Yesterday, if I heard Mr. Butcher correct, he made the suggestion that given the increasing demands of fisheries management and the changing fisheries, that somehow -- that one of the ways forward would be for the PSC to assume responsibility for all of the Fraser River fisheries. Now, would you agree with me that that would -- one of the impacts of such a move would be that the U.S. would only have more involvement

in the fisheries of Canada?

- MR. LAPOINTE: To be clear, I think what the gentleman was referring to was the sentence in the document of the 1994 review where John Fraser suggested that the powers be vested within the Canadian section of the Fraser Panel, not the bilateral Fraser Panel, but I would ask the counsellor to provide that, you know, correct me if I'm wrong, but that was my understanding, he was referring to that particular document which referenced the remarks by John Fraser. So the Canadian section, of the Fraser Panel, should be vested with that power, no the bilateral Fraser Panel.
 - Well, the Canadian section of the Fraser Panel participates at the Fraser Panel level, which is at the PSC level, it's not domestic; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, but bilateral decisions can only be made by both Canada and the United States and -- Q Right.
- MR. LAPOINTE: -- I believe that Mr. Fraser's remarks were referring to just the Canadian section of the Fraser River Panel, which obviously does not have bilateral authority.
- Q All right. So maybe we'll just go with what I want to make sure is clear in the suggestion, which would be that, if it was suggested that the Fraser Panel should -- and the commission should extend their jurisdiction or responsibilities up the Fraser, that that would only result in the U.S. having more involvement in Canadian fisheries; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: That would be a fair characterization, yes.
- Q And, in fact, it might even suggest that the U.S. would have involvement in First Nations fisheries in the setting of priorities for First Nation fisheries?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Whether or not they would have involvement in priorities would depend up on what their engagement was in terms of -- I mean, they might not be involved with the regulation to meet priorities and not involved in priorities at all. So it would depend on detail and how that was implemented.
- Q All right. Now, just one final comment or question on this topic. Given the objection

already made, whether I can go this far, but
again, I just want to make it clear that it's
Canada's responsibility to respond to and, on the
ground, deal with the domestic fisheries within
their jurisdiction, including the First Nations'
fisheries, and that the commission does not hold
any direct responsibilities to First Nations, in
that regard?

MR. LAPOINTE: That would be my understanding, yes.

- MR. LAPOINTE: That would be my understanding, yes.

 Q And I guess it's remiss -- I would be remiss to complete this topic without asking you to observe some of the challenges of the Fraser Panel's work, in particular, the in-season estimates that occurs. If I heard you right, yesterday, your comment was and again, if I heard you right that one of the ways that DFO's involvement with respect to the pre-season estimates, is determined or resolved is the fact that the DFO sits as the chair of the Fraser River Panel?
- MR. LAPOINTE: I'm not sure I quite understand the comment, perhaps?
- Q That's what I heard you say, yesterday, that -- MR. LAPOINTE: Could you repeat the comment, please? I'm sorry, I'm just trying to understand what the question is.
- Q I'm going to see if I can get you come clearer notes of your -- what I heard you say, and I'm just checking this --
- MR. LAPOINTE: Okay.

- Q -- is that one of the ways that -- or the way that you ensured DFO's involvement or consensus with the in-season estimates that are determined, is because DFO chairs the Fraser Panel?
- MR. LAPOINTE: So I think the reference is probably to this part of the testimony involving whether Canada has a say over decisions made by the Fraser River Panels, or after -- subsequent to a panel bilateral decision? Is that the reference?
- Q And that there isn't any change by DFO to those preseason estimates once it's reached at the panel level?
- MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.
- Q That's correct. And so DFO's decisions, as it relates to in-season run estimates, is confirmed and determined at the Fraser Pane; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: With respect to in-season, that would be

correct; with respect to pre-season, there isn't that same mechanism.

Q Right. And I am just focusing on in-season decisions there.

All right, I have two more topics. The next topic I want to turn to is what's known as the Aboriginal exemption and its role in the Fraser River Annex. Can you confirm with me my working knowledge that the 400,000 Fraser River Aboriginal — Fraser River sockeye Aboriginal exemption was first introduced in 1985 and has not changed since then?

- MR. LAPOINTE: I believe it was 1985. There is a reference to 400,000 in the 1985 treaty. I just don't know the extent to which it was involved in the detailed calculations of TAC at that time, but I believe -- I believe you're correct.
- And is it fair to characterize the import of that 400,000 exemption as it's really a number that's taken off the top that the U.S. agreed to before the calculation of the TAC; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yeah, I think it would be fair to say that under the current arrangement the U.S. Essentially accepts a 16-1/2 percent of 400,000 deduction from its share as the acknowledgment of the importance of First Nations' fisheries in Canada.
- And that it doesn't reflect what Canada's view is with respect to the appropriate numbers for First Nations' fisheries and the need for food, social and ceremonial fisheries?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Doesn't bear any -- anything resembling -- resemblance to what that -- it has no bearing on that particular decision within Canada.
- Q And that, as far as I understand, in terms of the working part of that, in addition to the number that's taken off top, is that historically there was some disagreements with -- between Canada and the U.S. as to where that exemption could be caught and by which First Nations. Those are somewhat resolved now, but that one of the outstanding matters for negotiation is how that exemption now will apply across the stocks of the Fraser River sockeye; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Certainly there's been a change in the way -- in the way that the First Nations' exemption, in terms of application, is calculated.

It did just apply to in-river fisheries, at one point, and it now applies to in-river or marine fisheries, so that's been a change.

And the second part of your question, I'm

And the second part of your question, I'm sorry, Brenda?

- Q As I understand it, there's one item that's still listed in Exhibit 67, or --
- MR. LAPOINTE: Ah, yes.

- Q -- which is the list of outstanding issues under the Annex, and there is one item on the exemption that's listed and
- MR. LAPOINTE: Relates to the distribution, that's correct.
- Q That's correct.
- MR. LAPOINTE: Amongst the four management groups, that's correct.
- Q So that there is some discussions going on between Canada and the U.S. as to how to distribute that 400,000 off the top, over the four aggregates; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.
- Q I'm wondering if whether you would agree with this observation, that in the past and I'm not sure if it's still accurate today, although it may be that one of the indirect effects of that 400,000 was that there was often a rush to get that caught so that the U.S. marine fisheries could then access the runs; is that a fair characterization of how that happened in the past, or is that --
- MR. LAPOINTE: I really don't have any --
- Q All right.
 - MR. LAPOINTE: -- recollection of anything of that nature.
 - Q Okay. I just want to ask Mr. Kowal a couple of questions. Mr. Kowal, would you agree with me that one of the reasons informing the postponement of the substantive renegotiations of the Annex was Canada's decision to embark on the Cohen Commission and the possible implications and benefits of any recommendations that Commissioner Cohen may arrive at?
 - MR. KOWAL: I best would ask Canada that particular question.
 - Q And again, I may suspect I know the answer to this question, but I'll risk it. Are you aware of any efforts that Canada has made with respect to engaging First Nations on the renegotiations of

1 this Annex? 2 MR. KOWAL: I can't answer that question. 3 I'm wondering if you could bring forward MS. GAERTNER: 4 Exhibit 76, and, in particular, I'd like you to go 5 back to page 263, and then have ready page 261. 6 Are you talking about the bylaws? MR. LUNN: 7 MS. GAERTNER: No, I'm talking about that book that 8 went into evidence yesterday. 9 MR. LUNN: That's 75. 10 MS. GAERTNER: I'm Sorry. 11 MR. LUNN: Sorry, can you give me that page number 12 again? 13 MS. GAERTNER: Sure, it's page 263 and 261 of the book, 14 which I think is around page 281 of Ringtail. 15 Now, Mr. Lapointe, for some reason, Mr. Butcher 16 asked for your expertise with respect to that 17 chart, and so I need to ask a few more questions 18 and perhaps clarify a few things. 19 It's fair to say that you don't have any 20 direct knowledge or understanding of the historical catches of First Nations on the Fraser 21 22 River: is that correct? 23 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. 24 And would it be helpful to you, when commenting on 25 the draft, for you to see, at page 261 of this 26 book, the author of the book reflects that 27 accurate records for the early years of those 28 fisheries are lacking? 29 MR. LAPOINTE: I think when I commented on the graph, I 30 simply suggested that the graph appears to 31 represent what Mr. Butcher said. I didn't comment 32 directly on whether I thought the numbers in the 33 graph were accurate or inaccurate. 34 I see, you were just reading the graph from a 35 scientific perspective --36 MR. LAPOINTE: Yes. 37 -- and not commenting on the substance of it? 38 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. 39 All right. I'll leave this area of examination, 40 then. 41 Finally, I just want to turn very briefly to 42 the complex task ahead of us around the kinds of 43 challenges that might be associated with managing 44 for the conservation units under the Wild Salmon 45 Policy and as it relates to the four aggregates

that are managed presently under the commission's

work. First of all, would it be fair to say that

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- the U.S. will have to agree to use anything broader than the four aggregates in order for there to be more accurate conservation units to become the work of the PSE staff?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: When you say "broader" do you mean more groups?
 - More groups, that's right.

- MR. LAPOINTE: It would depend upon how that is implemented. So Canada could choose to try to meet its obligation as to a finer level either within or outside, either engage the U.S. or not engage the U.S. It would depend upon what Canada chooses to do.
- Right. But if it was to become something that the PSC staff turned their mind to, directly, we would require U.S. agreement; is that correct.
- MR. LAPOINTE: If it was going to be written into the treaty that there be a management to more groups, then the U.S. would have to agree to that.
- And is it also fair to observe that Canada would have its work cut out for them to have the U.S. agree to that, because the likely result of it could be, in some years, that the U.S. marine fisheries would be restricted?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Again, someone from Canada or the U.S. could comment as to whether or not that would be a fair characterization.
- Q That's not something from biological perspective you can comment on?
- MR. LAPOINTE: I think the question that you -- or the comment that you made was that Canada would have their work cut out for them to get the United States to agree --
- Q Well, let's unpack it.
- MR. LAPOINTE: -- so --
- Q So if you were managing for the increased conservation units, that one of the possibilities associated with that is that in some years the marine fisheries more curtailed; would you agree with that?
- MR. LAPOINTE: It would depend, again, upon the specifics about how those conservation units were being implemented. It would depend upon what the specific scenario is that Canada or the U.S., or whatever the agreement would be, the proposal, to implement that particular policy.
- Q Mr. Kowal, I wonder if you could advise whether or

not the topic of increasing from four aggregates to a more complex conservation unit has been tabled at the commissioner's work? MR. KOWAL: Not at this point. All right. Finally, I just want to ask a little bit about pre and in-season run-size estimates. just want to - and I don't mean this as a criticism by any means, I think run-size estimates is a very complicated business - but I want to see whether you will agree with me that run-size estimates are exactly that, they're estimates, they're not guaranteed numbers in the bank? MR. LAPOINTE: I agree.

- Q And that those estimates are becoming more and more difficult to rely upon, given the variables that are affecting the salmon in present climate conditions and river conditions; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: There's certainly a perception that they're becoming more variable. I haven't actually looked at the data to determine if they are becoming more variable, but there certainly is a perception that they're becoming more variable.
- Q And is it fair to say that in any particular year that you can have up to 25 to 30% adjustments that occur at the end of the year, two-year in-season estimates?
- MR. LAPOINTE: In certain circumstances they certainly have had postseason run sizes differ from inseason run sizes by that amount, at that order of magnitude, sure.
- Q And it's also fair to say that in years of scarcity that that kind of error can be quite significant for long-term sustainability; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Certainly it's conceivable, depending upon the decisions that are made, you know, with respect to the run sizes that are -- that occur in those years.
- Q And again, I think it's because of the increased variables you're working with that are not in the control of humans, necessarily; is that correct?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Again, I know that there is a perception that there is a greater variance in the run-size estimates, but whether that is, in fact, correct or not, you know, certainly our impacts, potential impacts of changing conditions on the survival of fish and -- but, you know, to some extent those

have occurred in history all along. I think part 1 of it is we're just a little bit more in 3 perception, in tune to these changes, now, perhaps 4 because, you know, more folks are involved, or the 5 complexity has changed, and so forth. 6 And it's also fair to say that our marine 7 fisheries and the abilities to catch those fish 8 have been developed over time, also, and we can do 9 -- we can access a fair bit of the run in one or 10 two days of openings now; is that correct? 11 MR. LAPOINTE: Certainly the potential is there in a 12 derby-style fishery, if that was to occur, to 13 access a larger fraction of the run. In the last 14 few years there's been a move away from that and 15 marine fisheries is more towards quota-based 16 fisheries, in which case the risk is much less, 17 because you can determine the exact quota that the 18 particular fleet might be fishing to. But the 19 power, the fishing power is certainly there. 20 And really, what I'd like to suggest to you is 21 nothing more than, again, in this ever-increasing, 22 changing world, even all of the work we've done on 23 preseason and in-season estimates, it's something 24 that, given the changing conditions, we need to 25 take care with and be cautionary about; is that 26 correct? 27 MR. LAPOINTE: We have to be aware of all the sources 28 of uncertainty in both the in-season and the 29 preseason estimates. And to the extent we can 30 change the way we do things to decrease that 31 uncertainty, it certainly would be desirable. 32 Thank you very much. Those are my MS. GAERTNER: 33 questions. Ms. Gaertner, just before you close 34 THE COMMISSIONER: 35 off, there were just -- just from, again, the 36 general context of your asking it, but I might 37 The witness mentioned that, I'm sorry, just ask: 38 the catch estimates he - this may have been just 39 prior to your questioning - catch estimates were 40 provided by DFO and then, when you were examining 41 the witness, he talked about the spawning

escapement targets, that are also provided by DFO.

to all of those within the commission that require

I just wonder if we could just get some sense of

the timing of receipt, and without drilling down too deeply, just how this information is supplied

this information? So timing of receipt --

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- 1 Sure I'd be happy to pursue that --MS. GAERTNER: 2 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much. MS. GAERTNER: -- kind of detail. 3 4 MS. GAERTNER: 5 Mr. Lapointe, I think this is the matter in your 6 hands. As I understand it, the preseason spawning 7 escapement targets are a preseason discussion that 8 occurs in order for planning preseason; is that 9 correct? 10 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. 11 And that most of Canada's work with respect to 12 that is now being done by FRSSI, the new 13 initiative on setting preseason targets; is that 14 correct? 15 MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, Fraser River Sockeye Salmon 16 Initiative. 17 Thank you. And that's something that I anticipate 18 the Commissioner will hear much about in the weeks 19 to come with respect to harvest planning; is 20 that --21 MR. LAPOINTE: I understand it's on the calendar, yes. 22 Thank you. And then, the catch estimates are something that occurs in-season and postseason; is 23 24 that correct? 25 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. 26 And so those catch estimates are done differently 27 for every one of the fisheries; is that correct? 28 MR. LAPOINTE: There are probably some that are done 29 similarly, but there are different methodologies 30 for different fisheries. 31 And again, those are something that is really in 32 the purview of Canada's responsibilities? 33 MR. LAPOINTE: On the Canadian side, that's correct, 34 yes. 35 That's right. And it's fed in weekly to the 36 Fraser River Panel? 37 MR. LAPOINTE: More frequently than weekly. Usually 38 within a short duration after the closure of 39 fishery, sometimes in less than 24 hours we would 40 have initial catch estimates, and then they are 41 refined over the course of time. But it's very
- Gaertner. 46 MS. GAERTNER: All right. 47

frequent

MS. GAERTNER:

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MS. SCHABUS: Mr. Commissioner, Nicole Schabus,

THE COMMISSIONER: It is, thank you very much, Ms.

Is that helpful, Mr. Commissioner?

representing joint participant groups Sto:lo Tribal Council and Cheam. I have an indication 1 3 from Commission counsel that I should indicate to you I'm going to be 20 minutes or more, and so I'm 5 in your hands regarding the break. 6 THE COMMISSIONER: If it's convenient for you, we could 7 take the break now, and then, when we come back, 8 you can complete your examination. Is that 9 convenient? 10 MS. SCHABUS: It's fine with me. THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much. 11 12 THE REGISTRAR: The hearing will now recess for 15 13 minutes. 14 15 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED FOR MORNING RECESS) 16 (PROCEEDINGS RECONVENED) 17 18 THE REGISTRAR: Order. The hearing will now resume. 19 MS. SCHABUS: Gentlemen, the questions are basically to 20 both of you. 21 THE REGISTRAR: Name, please. 22 MS. SCHABUS: Sorry. Again, Nicole Schabus, S-c-h-a-b-23 u-s, first initial N., counsel for participant 24 group 18, Sto:lo Tribal Council and Cheam Indian 25 Band. 26 27 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. SCHABUS: 2.8 29 So generally my questions are going to be for both 30 of you. Feel free to answer accordingly, although 31 I think the first questions are going to be more 32 for Mr. Kowal. 33 Yesterday, I think it was actually Mr. 34 Lapointe who said it, but you indicated that the 35 chair of the Canadian caucus to the Fraser River 36 Panel has always been a person from DFO. And I 37 just want to point out, for the U.S. it has 38 actually been a Tribal representative; is that 39 correct? 40 MR. KOWAL: No; the representative for the U.S. changes 41 each year.

Q Correct. And what I'm just trying to establish is that sometimes it actually has been a Tribal representative, namely, Lorraine Loomis, fisheries

representatives and the government.

And it rotates between the Tribal

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Yeah.

MR. KOWAL:

1 manager for the Swinomish Tribe, right? 2 MR. KOWAL: That's right. 3 And she has been -- she is currently the co-chair 4 of the Fraser River Panel, and she also chairs the 5 U.S. caucus? 6 MR. KOWAL: That's correct. 7 And she also chaired the Bilateral Fraser River 8 Panel before? 9 MR. KOWAL: She has. 10 Now, you can tell, from the U.S. Tribal 11 participation in the Pacific Salmon Commission, 12 that they re trying to implement co-management of 13 the fisheries with the tribes? 14 MR. KOWAL: A lot of the change in the chairmanship for 15 the U.S. Fraser River Panel is based on the Boldt 16 decision. 17 And you are seeing them implementing that, 0 18 actually, also, at the level of participation in 19 the Pacific Salmon Commission and under the 20 treaty, right? 21 MR. KOWAL: Yes. 22 And the U.S. has made substantive efforts to 23 implement that decision in their work under the 24 commission? 25 MR. KOWAL: Correct. 26 Now, under that decision, the tribes have direct 27 participation in management decisions and are 2.8 entitled of up to 50 percent of harvestable runs 29 in usual and accustomed fishing areas, right? 30 MR. KOWAL: That's correct. 31 MR. LAPOINTE: Excuse me, the current chair arrangement 32 within the United States, with respect to Fraser 33 sockeye, I believe, is two-thirds of the catch 34 goes to the tribes and one-third goes to non 35 Indians. 36 Okay. Now, the Pacific Salmon Commission has 37 directly interacted with U.S. tribes, conducting 38 programs together, for example, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, correct? 39 40 MR. LAPOINTE: I'm sorry, could you repeat the 41 question?

The Pacific Salmon Commission has been directly

together with the Northwest Indian Fisheries

employees of the Northwest Indian Fisheries

Commission, as an example?

MR. LAPOINTE: Yes.

interacting with U.S. tribes conducting programs

So, for example, there are

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- Commission that are, in fact -- well, the chair of the U.S. Tech -- Fraser River Panel Tech Committee, Gary Graves, is an employee of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.
 - Q And you also have programs like tagging, monitoring programs with them? Or you've had them?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: There probably are circumstances where maybe the southern fund has funded programs that are conducted by that group, but I'm not aware of the details.
 - Now, the U.S. tribes conduct the test fishery, or some of the test fishery, right?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: There is a test fishery in an area called Neah Bay, which is out on outer Juan de Fuca Strait on the United States side, that is conducted by the Macah Tribe.
 - Q In Canada, there's no test fishery conducted by First Nations, correct?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: There is involvement of First Nations in a number of test fisheries. There's Brian Assu is a test fisherman for us in Area 13, so Southern Johnstone Straits. See if I can get all the other names. Gordie Wasden is a test fisherman in Northern Johnstone Straits. And Norman Stauffer is another test fishermen who is Northern Johnstone Straits. So there are test fishermen who are conducting that are affiliated with Aboriginal groups that are part of the test fisheries in both countries.
 - Q Now, regarding the test fishery in Canada, it's contracted out, right?
 - MR. KOWAL: That's correct.
 - Q SO it's not conducted by DFO vessels, or anything like that?
 - MR. KOWAL: Not the ones that are prosecuted on behalf of the Salmon Commission.
 - Q In the past, they were able to sell their catch to cover costs and more. It could be that they would actually recover more than cost, right?
 - MR. KOWAL: Well, if they're under contract to us, the proceeds from the sale of the fish would have come to us.
 - Q Now that it's funded by DFO, what happens with the catch?
 - MR. KOWAL: The catch -- that depends on the particular contract. I mean, the contract for us, the catch,

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- which is usually small, which is based on numbers of fish that are harvested mainly in gillnets, which are dead on -- after they are harvested, or used for scientific purposes, those are then sold by the Salmon Commission.

 You say small amounts, but overall it is a
 - You say small amounts, but overall it is a substantive amount of fish that comes to -- that is caught that way, like over 100,000 fish in test fisheries on an annual basis, right?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: That number is consistent with a level of harvest we've seen in some recent years.
 - Now, the treaty does not take into account the principle of priority resource allocation?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: I'm not sure what you mean by that.

 There is a priority established in the treaty, as reflected in paragraph 10, so -- but I'm not sure what you mean by "priority of allocation," I'm sorry.
 - Priority resource allocation, giving priority to Aboriginal fishery, especially for food, social and ceremonial purposes.
 - MR. LAPOINTE: That would be covered under the domestic allocation objective in the treaty, so it would be up to Canada to ensure that its domestic priorities were achieved under its domestic allocation.
 - Q But there is no such principle set out in the treaty, right?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: Under domestic allocation it would be whatever principles apply to that particular country, so there --
 - Q As the third objective or third priority?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: As the third objective, that's correct.
 - Q Who provides the preseason run-size estimates?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: Canada, thru DFO.
 - Yeah. Now, these preseason run-size estimates are used to making management decisions until certain in-season estimates become available?
 - MR. LAPOINTE: There are very few fisheries that are opened or closed based on preseason forecasts. Typically, it takes some sort of an in-season update to open a fishery. There would be potentially some limited food, social and ceremonial fisheries that might be open prior to an in-season update, and occasionally there are small level catches, for example, the commercial fishery in Area 5 in the United States, small

travel fishery, might be open prior to an inseason update, but primarily there's -- I wouldn't
know a fraction of the catch, but I would suggest
probably, you know 90 percent of the catch might
be taken following an in-season update, something
like that. It's a very fraction of the total
requiring some sort of an update.

Now, regarding early estimates overall, and I

- Now, regarding early estimates overall, and I think we've already established that there is problems, and I'll go into more detail with that with in-season estimates, but there have been situations in recent years where you had higher estimates, including in-season estimates, for returns that later had to be adjusted, to the detriment of in-river fisheries?
- MR. LAPOINTE: We've certainly had years where inseason estimates were higher than postseason estimates, and we've also had years when in-season estimates were lower than postseason estimates. In both directions we've had deviations.
- Q 2009?

- MR. LAPOINTE: 2009, I don't think the postseason estimates were actually substantially different from the in-season estimates. We knew we had a very small run right from the beginning, and the panel took action accordingly.
- Now, I'd like to take you back to Exhibit number 74. I hope that is the Fraser Panel Report 2005. And we've already -- and specifically to the issue of difference between estimates, and I think that's important to point out. And I'd like to take you specifically to page 62 in report, or 64 -- 68 on the pdf.
- MR. LUNN: Thank you.
- MS. SCHABUS: And this is dealing with in-season estimates. I'm going to have you have to zoom in on the first third of page.
- MR. LUNN: Certainly.
- MS. SCHABUS:
- Q And I'll just briefly ask you about the issues that you have encountered with in-season estimates and reliability of in-season estimates, that you have seen an increasing problem regarding predictability in that regard; you'd agree with that?
- MR. LAPOINTE: With respect to the predictability that in-season estimates provide of what is estimated

- MR. LAPOINTE: So with respect to, as outlined yesterday, with respect to differences between this potential spawning escapement number shown in this table and the spawning escapement number which generates this difference, as was outlined yesterday, those differences have increased over time.
- Q And like especially for the in-season applicability, there is an issue with attributing it to the appropriate species, right? There are some problems with that?
- MR. LAPOINTE: On pink salmon years, we do have challenges in terms of trying to estimate the proportion of sockeye and pink, and that's used to partition out the Mission total to sockeye and pink.
- So I'd like to briefly take you to that summary paragraph that we see on the screen.

In 2005 there was a substantial difference [of] (4,690,000 fish) between the estimates of potential spawning escapement (Mission escapement minus catch upstream...) and arrivals on the spawning grounds,

Right?

MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.

Q And you were taken to that issue, specifically, regarding 2005, yesterday. Now, on the postseason analysis:

...suggest that approximately 60% of this difference can be attributed to biases in species composition assessments obtained from in-river gillnet test fisheries that were applies to Mission acoustic estimates to [determine] total sockeye passage.

Correct?

- MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct.
- Q So you would agree with me that that is obviously a very substantive gap?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, on pink salmon years.
- Q Correct. And then it runs through the remaining percentages that were expected, and basically the

remaining seven percent of the difference is 1 unexplained, so that's really what we're dealing 3 with? MR. LAPOINTE: In the case of post-season accounting, 5 it would be - and somewhere in this appendix it 6 probably gives a number - but so this is 7 explaining the difference that we observed in-8 season? 9 Q Yes. 10 MR. LAPOINTE: The numbers that I think that were being 11 referred to in the table yesterday - and I don't 12 know exactly which page it was - where what's 13 remaining is not accounted for by the bias. So 14 enroute losses at one million fish, that would 15 still be a --16 No, and --17 MR. LAPOINTE: -- that would be still be part of the 18 difference -19 Of course. 20 MR. LAPOINTE: -- that ends up in the accounting. 21 I understand that. 22 MR. LAPOINTE: Right. 23 But it's actually the difference between in-season 24 accounting and the issues that you have with in-25 season predictions and postseason estimates. 26 Now, so I take it you agree with the 27 conclusion that is set out in the panel report 28 here? 29 MR. LAPOINTE: I agree that we were able to explain the 30 difference, 4.6 million, in the manner that's 31 outlined in Table 1. 32 And it shows a couple of things, that what we are Q 33 dealing with and what you've correctly referred to 34 as the Mission estimates, especially for the 35 species specificity are very much estimates, 36 right? 37 MR. LAPOINTE: Yes, that's an estimate. 38 And there is especially problems in ensuring that 39 they are attributed to sockeye salmon, 40 specifically? In this case, pink would have been 41 counted as sockeye, right? 42 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. Hydroacoustic estimates 43 just estimate total targets. There's no ability 44 within the technology of the method to distinguish

species based on hydroacoustics, so we rely on

Now, there are no management adjustments, or DBs

test fishing to partition those estimates.

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Q.

1 calculated for pink salmon? 2 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. 3 Because there are actually, no estimates -- you 4 don't have the estimates required for such a 5 calculation; the abundance plus Mission cannot be 6 accurately assessed, and spawning ground 7 numerations are not conducted, right? 8 MR. LAPOINTE: That's correct. And so you actually still can't give us reliable 9 10 numbers of how many fish that went through Mission 11 were pink and how many were sockeye? 12 MR. LAPOINTE: We can provide a reliable estimate of 13 the sockeye; we can't provide a reliable estimate 14 of the pinks. 15 The changes in migration patterns either early or 16 late migration caused significant problems for the 17 in-season estimation? 18 MR. LAPOINTE: You mean upstream migration? 19 Yeah. 20 MR. LAPOINTE: When the late run began migrating 21 upstream early, in that case, their behaviour at 22 Mission also created problems for us, initially. 23 They would mill at the site, meaning they would 24 pass by our hydroacoustic estimates more than 25 once, and with the older technology we couldn't 26 distinguish direction of travel, but now we can, 27 and that's been in place since about 2000 or so, 28 2002, so that behaviour creates less of a problem 29 for us now than it did, say, five, six, seven, 30 eight years ago. 31 But you'd still agree that changes in migration 32 patterns combined with the problem in actually 33 predicting species composition, caused serious 34 problems for in-season predictions? 35 MR. LAPOINTE: Yeah, so on pink years, which, in case 36 folks are not familiar, pink salmon run into the 37 Fraser every odd year, not every year, so it's 38 only in odd years, the change in the migration 39 pattern of the sockeye has resulted in more of the 40 migration of sockeye overlapping with the pinks 41 and, in fact, the pinks have also changed their 42 migration, and they're coming in earlier as well.

And le's just specify: for 2005, the issue was actually the pinks were early; the sockeye were

together than there used to be.

So there's more time in the Fraser River when our

programs are operating when pinks and sockeye are

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1 late? 2 MR. LAPOIN

- MR. LAPOINTE: That's right; the pinks were very early and the sockeye were extraordinarily --
- Q Were very late.
- MR. LAPOINTE: -- late. Extraordinarily late.
- Now, there is no independent indigenous -- there was no independent indigenous participation in the negotiation of the treaty?
- MR. LAPOINTE: I'm not aware of who was participating in the negotiation of the treaty.
- Q Sorry?
- MR. LAPOINTE: I'm not aware of the details of who was participating in the negotiations of the treaty and --
- Q Okay. And I understand you -- neither of you were around then, but you were around when the new agreements -- one of you might have been -- actually, just 2009 you were both around, right? But there was no consultation with indigenous peoples from Canada at the -- and from -- with indigenous peoples from Canada directly at the level of the Pacific Salmon Commission, right?
- MR. KOWAL: When the negotiation is on between the parties, it's between the parties that are -- the discussions take place.
- Sure. But I'm going to put it to you that under, for example, multilateral environmental agreements, they have caucuses for indigenous peoples where such are recognized as rights holders and they have independent standing of the parties and can, as such, participate in those negotiations. That is not the case for the negotiations for the Pacific Salmon Treaty, correct?
- MR. KOWAL: I'm not sure who are part of the Canadian delegation and the national caucuses for these negotiations.
- Q But there is no -- and I agree with that, and we've already spoken about nationally appointed members and that they are appointed by Canada, but what I'm trying to point out is there's no independent indigenous participation, no indigenous caucus, where indigenous peoples have an input as rights holders with separate standing?
- MR. KOWAL: No; the negotiations are between Canada and the U.S.
- MS. SCHABUS: Those are all my questions.

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PANEL NO. 5
Re-exam by Ms. Baker

MS. BAKER: Mr. Commissioner, I have one point of clarification coming out of the evidence, and I just want to make sure the evidence is clear.

RE-EXAMINATION BY MS. BAKER:

- Q Mr. Lapointe, when Mr. Leadem was asking you questions, he put it to you that -- he asked you whether a member of the PSC sits in on the Fraser River Panel, and you replied, "Rarely," only if the topic was with respect to renegotiation of some issue and it would be very rare. I just wanted to clarify: Did you understand that question to refer to commissioners or commission staff of the PSC?
- MR. LAPOINTE: When I hear PSC, I generally assume Pacific Salmon Commission and commissioners. So it helps, for clarification, if people are asking about "staff", to use the word "PSC staff", and I think that is a very consistent, potential point of confusion, so thank you for clarifying that.
- Q So in your answer, was your answer referring to commissioners or to staff?
- MR. LAPOINTE: To commissioners.
- Q Okay. And do staff of the PSC have an involvement at the Fraser River Panel?
- MR. LAPOINTE: Of course.
- MS. BAKER: Okay. There was two other housekeeping matters. Mr. Butcher referred to a document, which is the 1994 Fraser River Sockeye Problems and Discrepancy Report, but it wasn't marked as an exhibit, and for the record we probably should have that marked as an exhibit. It's been pulled up on the screen by Mr. Lunn.

THE REGISTRAR: Number 77.

EXHIBIT 77: Fraser River Sockeye 1994 Problems and Discrepancy Report

MS. BAKER: And one final pure housekeeping point, in the Policy and Practice Report there is a typographical error that needed -- I meant to correct and I forgot. So if you turn to the Appendix II to the report, which is actually -- the correction needs to happen on page 33 of the document, itself. Appendix II sets out chapter 4 from the Annex 4. And there's a --

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THE COMMISSIONER: Which exhibit are you on? 1 2 MS. BAKER: It's the PPR, page 33. It's on the screen. 3 You'll see, at the top, where it has (c) as the 4 sub -- it says (c) is "Achieve domestic 5 objectives" - no, don't move it - then right below 6 is an "(a)"; that should really be an "11" and the paragraph below should be a "12", and the 7 8 paragraph below that should be a "13", so that's 9 just a typographical error. But if we're 10 referring to this document at some point in the 11 future, we should make that correction so it 12 accurately reflects the language of chapter 4 from 13 Annex 4 of the treaty. 14 THE COMMISSIONER: I now have that on my screen. Can 15 you just repeat that, please? 16 MS. BAKER: Yes, (a), the sub (a) which you see sub (a) reads, "The Fraser River Panel shall manage its 17 18 fisheries," that really should be 11, paragraph 19 11, and the paragraph which is 11 should really be 20 12, and 12 should really be 13. So that record 21 should be corrected. 22 Mr. Commissioner, unless there is anything 23 arising out of the questions and answers given, 24 those are -- we're finished with these witnesses 25 for today. 26 THE COMMISSIONER: Is there anything arising from 27 participants' counsel? 28 Just a couple of brief matters. I may have 29 missed it, Ms. Baker, but I'm not sure if we have 30 all Commission counsel on the record as yet, but 31 perhaps we can just -- your colleagues --32 MS. BAKER: Yes, I think I did identify them on the 33 first day, but I can do that again. It's Maia 34 Tsurumi and Line Christensen. 35 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. I thank Ms. Gaertner and 36 Mr. Butcher for raising a point, and I'm confident 37 Ms. Baker will take that back to senior Commission 38 counsel and steps will be taken to address your 39 comments, and I thank you for that. 40 I take it, Ms. Baker, that the issue of the 41 test fisheries will come back when the matter 42 resumes with regard to some of the details 43 surrounding the --

MS. BAKER: Yes, all of those details --

MS. BAKER: -- will be brought out in later evidence,

THE COMMISSIONER: Right.

absolutely.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, Mr. Kowal and Mr. Lapointe, thank you very much for making yourself available yesterday and today. I think, Mr. Lapointe, you are probably going to see more of this room than you would like to, but I gather you are going to be back at some point.

MR. LAPOINTE: I believe that's correct, sir.

THE COMMISSIONER: So I thank you for yesterday and today. And do I understand, Ms. Baker, that we are now adjourned until Tuesday morning of next week; is that correct?

MS. BAKER: That's correct.

THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Then thanks to counsel. We will now adjourn until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November the 16th. Thank you very much.

THE REGISTRAR: The hearing is now so adjourned.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 11:39 A.M. TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2010, AT 10:00 A.M.)

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true and accurate transcript of the evidence recorded on a sound recording apparatus, transcribed to the best of my skill and ability, and in accordance with applicable standards.

Karen Hefferland Registered Court Transcriber