

Friends

A Judicial Inquiry to address the dangerous decline in Fraser River sockeye was announced by the Prime Minister on November 6, 2009.

His announcement follows a year in which only 1.3 million of the forecast 10.5 million sockeye returned home to the Fraser to spawn. This disaster is underscored by the fact that due to poor returns in recent years the Fraser sockeye fishery has been closed for 6 out of the past 11 years.

By establishing this Inquiry, the Prime Minister shows he is committed to protecting our Fraser sockeye and ensuring that they will be there in abundance for future generations.

At the request of the Prime Minister I assisted in the drafting of the terms of reference for the inquiry and the selection of Justice Cohen to head it up.

As you will see from the attached news reports, many believe that if similar action had been taken two decades ago when there were clear warning signs of a cod disaster on the East Coast, there might still be cod fishery in Newfoundland. Instead the cod fishery was disseminated and the communities that depended upon it are silent. There is little hope of recovery in our life time.

The judicial inquiry announced by the Prime Minister will work to prevent a repeat of the Atlantic cod fiasco on the Pacific coast.

To support our fight for your interests in Ottawa we need a strong, effective election-ready local Conservative organization.

Help us by renewing your membership and making a donation to assist our efforts.

Thank you for your continued support.

John Cummins

JUDICIAL INQUIRY NETS SUPPORT COAST TO COAST

Finally a Canadian prime minister is doing what none of his predecessors had the guts to do: Ask why Fraser River sockeye are going the way of the Atlantic cod.

Conservative MP **John Cummins** of Delta-Richmond East - never one to hold back criticism of Canada's fisheries policies, even when it's his own government at the helm - heaped praise on Stephen Harper for his recent "gutsy" decision to order a judicial inquiry into the collapse of the Fraser River sockeye. Cummins himself deserves considerable credit. He has been working behind the scenes in Ottawa to make this inquiry a reality.

***Plenty of Questions to Answer
in Fish Inquiry
Burnaby Now
November 18 2009***



An inquiry was never held into the destruction of the 500-year-old East Coast groundfish fishery. Not a single DFO employee was reprimanded or fired for the decisions that gutted the fishery and threaten a culture; not a single politician was taken to task for what was (and may still be) the biggest layoff in Canadian history. But this isn't about retribution or blame.

This is about how to heal, how to rebuild, how to start again.

The federal government was right to call an inquiry into the disappearance of B.C. salmon stocks.

**A Tale of Two Fisheries
St. John's Nfld. Telegram
November 14 2009**



There have been inquiries into salmon stocks before but they were initiated by DFO itself, with no oversight to ensure all witnesses and documents were provided.

This time, the letter calling for Justice Bruce Cohen to hear evidence on the case of the missing fish comes from the Prime Minister's Office. The judge will have the authority to compel witnesses to testify under oath. There's a very real possibility that this will make public management decisions that have had nothing to do with protecting stocks.

Whatever comes of the inquiry, it appears the alarm has been sounded. This should be good news for people everywhere who want to see Pacific salmon protected so they don't go the way of Atlantic cod.

**Accountability is Always Good
Alberni Valley Times
November 12, 2009**



The key point here is that unlike previous inquiries into the decline of Fraser River sockeye stocks, this one has real teeth.

And full marks to the Prime Minister for having the fortitude to order such an inquiry. In all likelihood, it will uncover some very nasty-looking warts in one of his government's departments.

Adds **John Cummins**, the Conservative MP (Delta-Richmond East) and a former commercial fisherman who was instrumental in launching this inquiry: "The consensus is that DFO is dysfunctional and that it's time to turn the spotlight on what it's been doing."

Brian Lewis
The Province
November 8, 2009



Find out what happened.

That was the advice East Coast cod fisherman had Friday for those affected by the collapse of the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery this year. Some affected by the collapse of Atlantic cod stocks in the early 1990s say that just might avert the kind of

upheaval that washed over the East Coast.

Nfld. Fishermen Offer Advice
Truro Nova Scotia Daily News
November 7 2009



Alex Rose, author of *Who Killed the Grand Banks: The Untold Story Behind the Decimation of One of the World's Greatest Natural Resources*, said an inquiry could help reshape DFO and alter the fate of B.C. salmon.

"I applaud Mr. Harper on this decision," he said.

"It's long overdue and I hope we get the chance to look at the failed mechanisms in DFO, a department I consider intellectually bankrupt."

Harper Launches Judicial Inquiry to Save Salmon
Globe and Mail
November 6, 2009





**Delta - Richmond East Conservative
Electoral District Association**
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\$550	\$375	\$175
\$1100	\$592	\$508

**Delta – Richmond East
Conservative
Electoral District
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