

CLEARANCES		Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned To
Orig. Dept.:	County Council	4/30/97		5/6/97	Natural Res / Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Budget:					
Executive:					

**SUBJECT:**

Resolution support sharing Fraser River sockeye salmon between U.S. and Canada

**ATTACHMENTS**

Proposed resolution

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Related County Contract #: n/a	Should the Clerk schedule a hearing? (Y/N N Requested Date:
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This resolution strongly urges the appropriate state and federal agencies to support a return to a sharing arrangement for the harvest of the Fraser River sockeye by U.S. fishers agreed to by Canada in 1985 of 28 percent.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION (for final action):**

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN**

1997 - 161 5/6/97: Approved 7 - 0. Res. #97-023

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):

Res. # 97023

**SPONSORED BY:** Nelson

**PROPOSED BY:** Nelson

**INTRODUCTION DATE:** 5/6/97

**RESOLUTION NO. 97-023**

**SUPPORTING A SHARING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA REGARDING FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON**

**WHEREAS**, the annual U.S. harvest of Fraser River sockeye salmon is vital to both treaty and non-treaty fishermen for the economic well-being and stability of related industry, and communities of this county; and

**WHEREAS**, joint conservation and rebuilding efforts by the U.S. and Canada have increased the size of the Fraser River sockeye salmon runs to levels not seen since the early part of this century, creating more fishing opportunity for both countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed U.S. share represents a return to the status quo of the agreement reached by the parties when the treaty was signed. It reflects properly the special circumstances and history of this unique fishery which has been jointly developed and utilized cooperatively by the two countries for over 60 years; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. commercial fishers are expressing outrage and disgust as they experience financial hardships resulting from the reduction of the U.S. share of the Fraser River sockeye salmon harvest from its historic pre-treaty level of 50 percent. Despite the fact there has been a 20% increase in Fraser River sockeye salmon stocks, the allotment has decreased over the years to a level of 14%, which has led to further hardship for the U.S. commercial fishing communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the present stalemate in resolving outstanding differences has gravely jeopardized the future of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Furthermore, in order to maintain any international agreement it is essential to maintain public support and confidence in the agreement.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Whatcom County Council that it is now incumbent upon the U.S. to take a forceful position in a diplomatic initiative which will restore the confidence of U.S. fishers and redirect the course of treaty implementation back to the basic purposes for which it was intended. For these reasons, some "strong support" is called for by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and the United States Government.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council strongly urges the appropriate state and federal agencies to support a return to a sharing arrangement, agreed to by Canada in 1985, for the harvest of 28 percent of the Fraser River sockeye salmon by U.S. fishers.

1 By doing this, undue disruption and threats to the economic well-being of the commercial fishing  
2 communities is less likely to happen for the years 1997 and beyond.

3 APPROVED this 6 day of May, 1997.

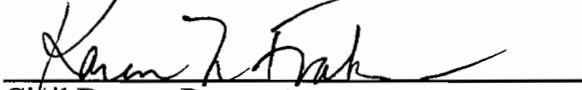
4  
5 **ATTEST:**

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7 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
L. Ward Nelson, Council Chair

8 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

9   
Civil Deputy Prosecutor