

IJC Invites Comments on Salmon Restoration Upstream of Grand Coulee Dam

The International Joint Commission is inviting comments on the request of the Canadian Columbia River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission (CCRIFC) that the IJC enforce the conditions of their 1941 Order of Approval of the Grand Coulee Dam.

Columbia Basin First Nations (and many other people) were severely harmed by the blockage of salmon passage at Grand Coulee Dam when it was completed in 1942. Salmon, a mainstay of the cultures of these nations, were eliminated from the 800 kilometres of river (and thousands of kilometres of tributaries) between the dam and the headwaters of the river at Columbia Lake. CCRIFC and Columbia Basin First Nations are working on a number of related, long-term strategies towards the restoration of upper Columbia salmon populations. The intent of CCRIFC's application to the IJC is to initiate a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility and benefits of restoring anadromous salmon populations upstream of Grand Coulee dam.

Interested individuals or organizations may wish to submit comments on the salmon restoration initiative (or on the specific technical question of the IJC's continuing jurisdiction) to the IJC. Details of the IJC's invitation can be found at http://www.ijc.org/rel/boards/ccrifc/ccrifc-views_28062005_e.htm. The deadline for comments is August 15th, 2005.

Please provide copies of your comments to:

CCRIFC
7468 Mission Rd.,
Cranbrook, B.C.
V1C 7E5
ccrifc@cyberlink.bc.ca