

Awareness of the Pacific Salmon Treaty

Overall there was only general awareness of the Treaty. Knowledge that was relatively common included: the Treaty is between Canada and the U.S.; negotiations broke down in 1993; since then there has been "fighting" over renegotiation - including argument about how many salmon still exist.

When asked if they thought the Treaty was the right approach to solving the decline of the fish stocks, most participants agreed that both countries working *cooperatively* was a necessary facet. The fact that the Canadian and Washington State governments seem to be "bickering" over renegotiation roused the ire of some participants,

"It sounds like two kids fighting - wanting to play with the same toy in a sandbox".

There was some dissension among participants about who exactly should be negotiating the Treaty. Some argued that the issue transcended regional concerns and that bargaining should occur "nation to nation". Others argued that it was the politicians who had messed things up in the first place and that what is important are local, individual groups: fishermen, canners, and environmentalists for instance - those people whose lives are directly impacted by the state of the fishery. It was recognized that to implement a successful treaty required political "clout" - the closest any participant came to recognizing the inherent difficulties of managing a common property resource such as a fishery.

In general, participants were almost all in favour of more cooperation between Canada and the U.S. Some people also wanted other countries to be involved (for example Russia and Japan) in the solution. Participants wanted the U.S. to continue cooperating with Canada and to adhere to the treaty. Most participants felt that the treaty should be fair to both sides.