

**Building a Collaborative Public
Signage Plan in the lower
Fraser Fisheries**

2011

Enhancing Peace and Security in the Lower Fraser Fishery

Draft



A project of the lower Fraser Joint Sport
Fishing –First Nations Working Group
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Building a Collaborative Public Signage Plan to Enhance Peace and Security in the Lower Fraser Fishery

The following prospectus makes recommendations on public information signage in the lower Fraser fishery. It has been prepared on behalf of a Joint Working Group of First Nations and Sport Fishing interests to provide strategic public advice as input to compliment the work and responsibilities of various orders of government that manage access to the river and the fisheries. It also suggests specific signs and locations that may be developed by the group in cooperation with government and NGO partners as a pilot to advance shared communications objectives.

The Joint Working Group is a forum of First Nations and Sport Fishing Organizations from the lower Fraser River convened regularly since 2009 to create peace in the areas salmon fishery. Hosted by the Fraser River Salmon Table, the group has led development of a “River Manners” video and pamphlet, organized Peacemakers training taken steps to better understand monitoring and compliance and access plans in the area.

Purpose - Goal

The purpose of this project is to reduce conflicts over access and improve interactions amongst competing users of the river, and in particular over fishing space, or priorities.

The ideas presented in this prospectus are based in the Action Plan of the Joint Working Group developed in 2009 that were identified to build “Peace on the River” and addresses their priority to build education and awareness about each other’s fisheries.

The Area and possible partners

Plans for the public information signs in the lower Fraser fishery are directed at the areas between Mission and Sawmill Creek, consider both sides of the River, and reflect the need to work with First Nations, city, and municipal governments in the area, the Fraser Valley Regional District, Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the BC Government’s Experience the Fraser Initiative.

Building upon current sign messaging in the lower Fraser River fishery

Some existing signage includes those by DFO and Ministry of Environment who may posts signs at primary access points that identify fishing closures and special restrictions as part of fisheries management regulation, and may also identify sensitive habitats or fish and wildlife values. The Regional District, Municipalities and First Nations may post signs that identify access point openings and closures,

discourage dumping and access-use practices that may be harmful to the land or other users, or access rules to protect sensitive cultural sites or heritage values. Non-government organizations like the BC Habitat Conservation Foundation, the Nature Trust, and the Fraser Salmon and watershed's Program aim to inform public users about compatible land use practices, enhancement/recovery efforts, and ways to improve sustainability of natural landscapes and fisheries values.



Some suggested communications objectives to reduce conflict and improve interactions between fisheries

A number of additional objectives have been identified by the joint Working Group for signage in the lower Fraser Fishery that can build upon current government objectives for signage around the fishing access areas. These include:

1. **Information to enable avoidance** (including maps) on the location of priority First Nations fishing sites and gear type
2. **Understanding to create a better awareness and appreciation** of each others fisheries
3. **Management and monitoring information** to illustrate each sector's fishing plans and promote compliance - updated notice on openings and closures, related fishing rules and catch statistics each others salmon fisheries
4. **Codes of conduct/best practices** to encourage sustainable fishing practices
5. **Information on water conditions and awareness of hazards** to promote safety
6. **Guidelines to promote respectful and cooperative behaviour** in the fishery

Strategic Priorities and Implementation Plans

Location	Description	Strategic priority (ies)	Co-lead	Funding	Cost Estimate	Timing
1. Island 22 Boatlaunch	Sign and Kiosk	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	FV Regional District	FV Regional District, FRST and FSWP	\$3,000 (rough)*	March
2. Mission Boatlaunch	Sign	2	Sumas Band	FV Angling Guides	TBD	
3. Hope Boat launch	Sign and gate		?	?		
4. Other?						
5. Other?						
6. Other?						

*Funding Offered by the FSWP \$1,000

FVRD has also offered some notional funding to help with the sign – I need to check this

Appendix 1: Design Mock-ups

The Fraser River is popular for fishing – be informed

Notice of openings for sport and First Nations fisheries for salmon are posted and can be found on the Website of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). However, changes to fishing plans can occur with very little warning – use the smart phone (QR) links below for updated information. Go to <http://web.scanlife.com/en> to enable your App now.

Exercise caution and beware of navigation hazards when entering these waters

Be aware that the Fraser River is subject to angling and netting of salmon many months of the year. In addition to swift and unpredictable currents, concentrations of boat traffic and fishing nets can be hazardous to navigation. All users of the river should be attentive and steer wide of fishing boats, set nets (stationary gillnets visible by their floats) and drift nets (attached to a moving boat). A drifting boat, particularly when attached to a net cannot stop or turn quickly. An anchored boat can be slow to avoid hazards. Wading anglers are susceptible to the wash from speeding boats.

It is illegal to disrupt an active licensed fishery – respect all users and the resource

Fishing for salmon is licensed and managed under Canada’s Federal Fisheries Act and is a significant cultural heritage for all Canadians. The priority of Aboriginal Food, Social and Ceremonial fisheries is recognized by Canadian Law, second only to conservation, and followed by commercial and recreational fishing. Please respect the environment and all users of the salmon resource, and observe *River Manners* in our common pursuit of an orderly, safe and enjoyable Fraser River fishery.



**First Nations Fishing
Openings/Catch reports**



**Salmon Sport Fishing Fraser
River (upstream of tidal waters)**



**Sport Fishing Code of
Conduct**



***River Manners* Video**

Credits and various logos here (as in River Manners pamphlet)

