

First Nations-Sport fishers Joint Working Group in the Lower Fraser

Ramada Plaza, Abbotsford

Tuesday January 19, 2010: 2-5 PM

1. Welcome
2. Confirm agenda
3. Review summary notes and action points from last meeting
4. Funding for this process
5. Proposed search and rescue network
6. Preparing for spring Chinook access conflicts
7. Results of the sockeye salmon sport fishery mortality study
8. ISDF
9. Gravel

1. Welcome to:*

Dave Barrett, FRST/Facilitator

Dave Moore, FRST/notes

Vic Carrao, FVAGA

Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Driftfishers

Terry Tebb, PSF

Murray Ned, STC

Martha Fredette, STC

Frank Kwak, SFAB

Ed George, BCWF

Mat Scarr, BCWF

Kim Charlie, Chehalis

Regrets from Ernie Croy and Ken Malloway away in other meetings today.

***Contact information Appendix 1 and updated regularly**

Notes prepared by the Fraser River Salmon Table – for comments davemoore08@xplornet.com

Meeting background and Purpose: To develop an action plan from group ideas to “Get along on the river”.

This is a continuation of rolling dialogue initiated late in the summer of 2009 by sport fishing representatives and First Nations in the lower Fraser River for the purpose of finding workable solutions to conflicts on the lower Fraser River.

A Joint Working Group (the working group) continues to meet to work out implementation plans for collaborative project ideas that have been organized and ranked by theme over the last few months. This is the 6th meeting since August. This meeting was convened by the working group to develop an action plan for collaborative project ideas in the area.

Special acknowledgement to the Pacific Salmon Foundation for covering costs for this meeting room and hospitality today.

Priority collaborative project themes (Appendix 2):

- **Mapping of high-use/potential conflict areas** – generating a map of popular fishing sites where fisheries conflict is most likely to occur
- **Night-time fishing pilot** – a voluntary experiment involving willing First Nations and DFO to reduce local fishing pressures in the daytime
- **River manners/Etiquette on the River** – a behavioural first step in getting along
- **Joint (collaborative) monitoring** – collaboration in an enhanced sport fishing monitoring program to enhance First Nations monitoring program
- **River-side infrastructure** – enhancing access to sport fish landings for better accounting and a possible First Nations tool to access economy from the sport fishery

2. Confirm agenda, general discussion and actions

- Meeting frequency moved to monthly. An advanced schedule will be developed by Dave Moore and circulated.
- Dave Moore seeking someone to attend regular meetings of this forum (Perhaps Sheldon Evers, Debora Sneddon, Devona Adams, or a C&P person like Gary Miller or Herb Redecopp). DFO participation in this meeting also needs to be consistent – Dave to follow up in writing (see action item on night fishing) with Sheldon, Devona, Herb Redecopp, Gary Miller, etc.
- New agenda items include a discussion about the impending spring Chinook conflicts on the river, Area E involvement in this group, an information item on the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum, an update on the sockeye catch and release study, and an information item on the ongoing gravel extraction debate.
- Desire to keep focus on action plan items in particular

3. Review summary notes and action points arising from last meeting

I. Mapping of high use/potential areas of conflict between fisheries

The working group identified the utility and value of creating a map that would illustrate high-use or popular salmon fishing sites in the area, as a way to inform the public about where the two fisheries are most likely to intersect. Ernie Crey and Ken Malloway have agreed to look at the policy of mapping First Nations fishing sites in the area (whether and how) and to search for a suitable map base at the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Fisheries Society (FVAFS). Following a discussion of the idea at the next FVAS Board meeting. This working group has proposed the organization of a workshop with this group, involving a broad and informed participation to identify the “hot spots” to include on the map. This project will require financial resources for the workshop and professional mapping support for the generation of the base map, as well as a plan and funding for broader sharing of the final product.

- No report available from STC – currently are focussed on planning their AGM for February
- The Board and staff of the FVAFS will discuss the policy and practice of catch monitoring and consider how this proposed project may fit – a decision will be reported back to the joint sport fishing-First Nations working group

- Scope of area, the level of resolution, and the amount of data required should become clearer in a subsequent workshop proposed to define the project terms of reference

Action: Murray Ned, a Board member of FVAFS will follow up on action item with Ken, Ernie and FVAFS

II. Night time drift-net fishing pilot

One of the greatest challenges of the joint working group has been to identify strategies to reduce crowding and potential for conflict during times and at sites where salmon fishing is most popular in the area for both the sport fishery and the First Nations fisheries. It was proposed by the working group that providing the opportunity on a voluntary basis for some night-time drift-net fishing, involving a defined group (or groups) in the First Nations fishery, has the potential to reduce crowding on the river in popular salmon fishing areas to the benefit of both First Nations and sport fishers. A number of key policy and management issues have been raised in the past by DFO that may limit progress on this proposal unless they can be addressed. These include generally:

- i. Catch/allocation accounting, regulatory compliance, and traceability for participants;
- ii. Higher catch efficiency may provide a harvest advantage to those First Nations that do fish at night to the detriment of those who do not participate; and,
- iii. Some believe that night time fishing closures provide a necessary migration window for salmon so that a portion of the runs may always pass unobstructed through the lower Fraser River.

However, the working group has proposed to meet with DFO together to discuss their concerns and determine if a small experimental fishery could be tested. An experimental night time driftnet fishery would involve efforts by the Parties working with DFO and RCMP to ensure that all of the concerns could be addressed.

Action: Dave will follow up in writing to DFO C&P, fish mgt and cc RCMP (Gary Miller, Herb Redecopp, Glen Kostiuik, Jeff Grout, and cc Chris Gosslin) requesting attendance of key managers in a discussion of this project with the working group.

III. River Manners – Funding for \$23,890 approved for this fiscal year

Funding from the Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program (FSWP) for the proposal to develop a short educational video production suitable for to model behaviours or codes of conduct that would help the anglers and drift-net fishers "get along on the river". Bear Video was short listed and has agreed to produce the video for the funding proposed. The grant is conditional upon restricting the producer from copywriting the video, and ensuring that it's use as an educational tool by the Parties to this working group and others was unencumbered.

The Working Group discussed more about principles to guide the production:

- Should be practical, interactive, and respectful
- Participation open though a production committee should have a limited membership for efficiency
- Joint release plan with RCMP working group this summer (pre-fishery if possible)
- Seek to share presentations with member Groups AGMs
- Coincident media release to be planned – task for media committee

Action: Dave to send out proposal again and circulate a proposed invitation list for designates to a video production committee

IV. Collaborative (Joint) monitoring program

The group has proposed a joint monitoring program that would cover sport, commercial and FSC fisheries in the lower Fraser. The concept revisits a pilot from the 1990's where the areas aboriginal fisheries monitors were used. This group has envisaged the initial expansion of the current FVAFS monitoring program to encompass the area sport fishery to build onto the First Nations existing capacity. The working group discussed further some of the principles to guide the development of this project:

- Need to better reflect on a group definition of what they expect from a joint fishery monitoring program for the 3 fisheries in the lower Fraser River
- Manage the growth of the monitoring program in bite sizes, perhaps starting in one area and the First Nation and sport fishery
- Need to build uniformity in standards and uniform across fisheries, and trust
- Develop a supporting management structure that engages cross-sector representation in the project to help build a forum of trust
- Some issues about trusting the accounting from within the sport fishery that could be guided by the sport fishery
- Focus on the Chilliwack area if sport fishers can be added to the FVAFS, all three sectors will be engaged – Area E will come in time
- Not just a sectoral issue, is also a trust in DFO issue

Action: Murray Ned, Ernie Crey and Ken Malloway will lead the proposal and Terry Tebb has offered assistance from the PSF. This proposal will be raised for action at a subsequent FVAFS Board meeting. Terry Tebb will consult on the project with DFO in the mean-time.

V. Riverside infrastructure

The group has identified the lack of preferred landing sites as a limiting factor in the accounting of the areas popular salmon sport fishery. The lack of “developed” landing sites/launches, secure parking, campsites, and washrooms is a problem for the developing fisheries in the area and the existing facilities are over-subscribed. Participants agreed that developed sites would attract a large proportion of the angling public that would likely increase the coverage of creel surveys and its accuracy. The sites may also be of use to the First Nations fisheries, and organized sites may contribute as well to the ongoing work to achieve traceability and quality objectives in the First Nations economic fishery.

- BCFDF spoke with Randy Hawes office who has referred to upcoming consultations with First Nations
- First Nations are anticipating a meeting with project proponents from Fraser Valley Regional District and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts (MoTCA) this winter to address the “experience the Fraser” and seeking a link from that to this group
- Larry Woodrove from BCWF following the trails planning closely
- This group may wish to look at a specific project involving site identification, needs analysis, consultation and support from their respective memberships to help the project along

Action: The BC Federation of Driftfishers will continue to seek a presentation at a future working group meeting. First Nations in the group will draw attention to this group at any future consultations, with the intent of proposing a collaborative project to assist through the identification of priority sites, needs analysis, and membership support. The Fraser River Salmon Table will also assist with seeking lead agency participation in a future working group meeting.

4. Funding for this process

To date the expenses for the joint dialogue have been covered by the Fraser River Salmon Table, utilizing funding from the Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program (FSWP). However the available funding for expenses has been fully subscribed for the year. Coordination and facilitation of meetings, summary proceedings, and organization of activities/actions are currently a voluntary contribution of the Salmon Table staff. The Salmon Table has had an application in with DFO that includes a request for support funding for costs, but it has not yet been processed. The PSF is paying for room and hospitality through Terry Tebb currently, though he has no dedicated budget for this.

- The participants agreed that that the room and refreshments could be provided by the participating organizations. Meeting rooms could be covered by circulating the meeting amongst the Parties meeting facilities

Action: Next meeting at Sto:lo Tribal Council. The following meeting will be hosted at the Mission Chamber of Commerce. Dave will build a roster for additional meetings with the group.

5. Proposed search and rescue network -Introduced and tabled

Chris Gosslin of the RCMP called in advance of the meeting to request that he add an agenda item involving development of a cooperative search and rescue network amongst anglers and guides. This would have been especially useful over the Christmas period when an Aboriginal youth was lost in the Fraser. The particulars will need to be discussed more fully with Chris who is absent.

Action: The agenda item is tabled to the next meeting.

6. Media committee

The media Committee is made up of Rod Clapton, Robert Reyerse, Ernie Crey and Dave Moore. Rod Clapton in particular has been active with articles in BC Outdoors describing the activities of this group, and previously helping Chehalis and the Salmon Table raise public awareness about the partnerships behind the angler access trail on the Chehalis. The Committee will be particularly useful in planning the events and messaging around the River Manners video. The group revisited the conceptual proposal to develop a pamphlet to allow others in this room to share.

Action: Dave Moore will draft up and share a mock-up pamphlet for consideration at the next meeting and the committee will assist with their skills to contribute to the editorial inputs to the pamphlet. The group will also continue to use their talents in a general way to tell the story of this group to the news and editorial spaces in magazines where possible.

7. Preparing for spring Chinook access conflicts

Chehalis has proposed planning a conversation on spring Chinook that focuses on stewardship and mentoring interests by the Band – noting that one 12 hour opening a week does not provide the kind of cultural experience necessary to pass on the challenging techniques involved in catching spring Chinook to young people. Chehalis wished to ass on the message to those who are interested that folks here are open to the discussion, noting that the conflict will arise again this spring on the river and folks should be prepared. The group cautioned that there are already many activities on the table and it is important not to overwhelm the group with tasks – focus on completing some successfully before taking on more.

Action: No particular action taken at this time.

8. Results of the sockeye salmon sport fishery mortality study

A study was organized last year involving a partnership of angler groups and local First Nations (led by Cheam), DFO, the Pacific Salmon Foundation and funded by the Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program. The project was contracted to J.O. Thomas. Initial study results from last year's study completed and provides some initial survival rate information, but more study is needed to fill in the data gaps caused by the lack of returns of tags in upstream fisheries.

- Poor survival of sockeye in the netpens, good survival from recovery of tags released immediately
- Problems with tag recovery and thus some holes in data needs to be addressed in further study
- JO Thomas has agreed to come to present to this group and to First Nations

Action: Jim Thomas will be asked to attend and present at the next group meeting to present the results. Terry Tebb will also organize presentations directly with First Nations where desired.

9. Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum (ISDF)

Background of the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum was provided by D. Barrett, including the "widening the Circle" events. Reflect on the concerns by some groups about this group dealing with the allocation dilemma, and the difficulty many have traveling to the events, and/or taking time away from work.

- Some concerns raised recently about the agenda item of the ISDF to discuss the Allocation Policy
- The upcoming meeting is about getting participants to a common understanding about how allocation works – the cause and effects
- BCWF not attending on a point of principle that allocation is to be discussed at the SFAB

Action: no actions – information only

10. Area E

There has been a suggestion by members of this group that folks bring Area E into this group for information purposes that may lead to a common discussion around joint monitoring. Suggested that engaging Area E into joint monitoring discussions and chum sharing going on (led by Chehalis with the Fraser Salmon Table in a separate forum) is a good idea, but this group need to focus on sport fishing-First Nations discussions, and complete what has been started.

Action: The group decided to defer suggestion until the ideas about joint monitoring were more fully developed and perhaps piloted locally with some success first – further that the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Fisheries Society was pursuing this independently and might fit in well under a future monitoring protocol.

11. Gravel

- Concern raised about lack of tangible benefits to flooding and unmitigated impacts on fish habitat
- Information only

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 5:05 PM

Action: Next meeting February 23 at Sto:lo Tribal Council (Dave confirm with Martha and circulate confirmation with minutes next week).

Appendix 1: Participant Contact List

Participants List* and Contact Information

Phone (daytime)

E-mail

Dave Moore, Fraser River Salmon Table Executive Director – Notes	(250) 372-9472	davemoore08@xplornet.com
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Chris Gosselin, RCMP Native Liaison	(604) 702-4060	chris.gosselin@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
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cc list:

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Debra Sneddon, Lower Fraser Sport Fishing Manager		Debra.Sneddon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Other?		

Appendix 1: How to Get Along on the River ~ Issues, Ideas and Summary Discussion Points

Key Issues	Ideas	Summary Discussion	RC	EG	FK	ME	RR	WC	Score	Group Ranking
Monitoring and Enforcement	Develop more landing, parking, camping, and toilets	The number of developed landing sites is limited in the area. Well developed sites would attract the use of anglers and perhaps First Nations fishers to make monitoring easier	2	2	8	7	6	11	36	5
	Joint monitoring	Piloted with some success in 1990's. Good for relationship building. DFO discontinued to focus on First Nations catch.	11	4	2	1	4	1	23	3
Crowding	First Nations allowed to fish at night time	Preferred by many First Nations, but some enforcement issues (DFO) and safety issues (need younger people trained)	1	3	1	5	2	5	17	2
Conflict	Respectful etiquette for fisheries should be developed	Parties need to define appropriate communications etiquette for fishers when gear/effort intersect	3	1	7	2	1	1	15	1
	Avoid media wars	Both groups see the need to work out solutions directly	11	8	5	6	3	11	44	7
	Create a buffer Zone	Both fisheries need to be taught how to avoid conflict by staying a respectful distance	11	11	10	3	1	11	47	8
Education	Map high use areas	Rank site use. Include at landing kiosks, internet etc.	4	7	9	10	7	2	39	6
	Messaging and policy conflicts	Continue dialogue/ attend each other's meetings. Kiosk at outdoor show. Joint press releases. Work together on etiquette	11	6	6	4	5	3	35	4
	Video/code of conduct development	See etiquette – the exercise of creating a video on codes of conduct will engage joint-exercise without fishing pressure	11	10	3	11	8	1	44	7
	Publish timing of openings	Available on Internet – use kiosks at landing sites	11	7	11	8	9	11	57	9
Stewardship	Joint projects	Projects like Chehalis trail, beaver dam control, habitat	5	5	4	9	10	3	36	5

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