

First Nations- Sport Fishers Joint working Group in the lower Fraser

Tuesday February 23, 2010. Sto:lo Tribal Council

Agenda

1. Welcome Joint Working Group and opening comments
2. Confirm amend agenda
3. Review summary notes and action points from last meeting
4. Video production – River Manners sub-committee report
5. Pamphlet mock-up River Manners
6. Other: Spring Chinook planning

Attendance List:¹

1. Matt Scar, BCWF Region 2
2. Dave Barrett, FRST Pres/facilitator
3. Patti McAhionic, BCWF Ex. Dir
4. Murray Ned, STC Fisheries
5. Mike Jimmy, Sto:lo Nation
6. Wayne Saito, Consultant/BC Government
7. Frank Kwak, FRST/FVSS
8. Martha Fredette, STC
9. Leigh McCracken, BCFDF/Sport Fisheries Defence Alliance
10. Debra Sneddon, DFO Lower Fraser
11. Ed George, BCWF Provincial Body
12. Dave Moore, FRST/Notes
13. Ted Bishop, BEAR Video
14. Kim Charlie, Chehalis Indian Band
15. Robert Reyerse, Fraser River Angling Guides Association
16. Vic Carrao, Fraser River Angling Guides Association

¹ Contact information Appendix 1

1. Video production

Editorial feed-back on video

- BCWF is looking to have a representative of the BCWF visible in the video: Ted is trying to engage all of the experience in the room to make it work and has redrafted the script based on discussions since last meeting to accommodate

Actions:

- Follow up with DFO and Sto:lo Nation for formal endorsement: Deb Sneddon and Mike Jimmy will follow up
- Follow-up with Province for provincial endorsement and logo: Wayne Saito will follow up
- Frank and Ed to follow up with Asian angling representative/perhaps Wayne Saito as angler
- SFAB for endorsement and logo – Frank and Deb Sneddon (for both video and pamphlet)
- SFI for endorsement and logo – Wayne will follow up with Rob Alcock from SFI (for both video and pamphlet)

Logistics Planning

- Reviewed updated calendar of production schedule
- Confirmed filming location at Fergie's gravel Bar/river reach d/s of Harrison mouth
- Scoped out site/location plan for angler volunteers, RCMP/Monitor/DFO C&P boat, drift boats (need more detail to manage boat traffic?), and boat angler

Actions:

- All production and volunteers organize at Kilby boat launch
- Frank/Ed will check and follow up on status of boat launch at tech scouting needed (in case water too low/boat launch unsuitable for large boats)
- Boat launch pre-interview with Ken Malloway (March 4th at 11:30)

2. Pamphlet

A pamphlet is being developed to be used by the groups to distribute basic information on River Manners for educational purposes. Editorial review is underway – comments to Dave M.

Actions:

- Get driftnet fishing photo from Kim
- Fix redundancy – keep hot button issues and reduce words
- Move “how we are dealing with hot button issues” underneath/or associate with issues
- Name the logos if not clear and add websites in association with recreational and First Nations logos
- Incorporate code of conduct - Debra will e-mail
- Include province, SFAB and SFI in clear mock-up
- For further info and fishing Regs move to logo page
- Need before/for March 5,6,7: Dave to print and courier copies of pamphlets to BCFDF (Leigh or Rod?), FVAGA (Vic), and BCWF (Patti) prior to the sports show

3. Review summary notes and actions from last meeting

- Mapping of high-use areas – no report at this time from FV Aboriginal Fisheries Society
- First Nation proposed night-time fishery
 - DFO will raise with FN ion bilateral, then FN will bring back to the group for further open discussion
 - DFO expresses concern about safety and variety of other issues, but in general is looking to resolve all of the issues before changes in policy can be made
- Joint monitoring program
 - No further developments on the proposal from FVAFS
 - DFO looking to certify monitors – would look to see FVAFS become certified
 - Currently the Vancouver Island University provides such certification course
 - Program proposal is to focus on monitoring not on enforcement

- Proposal is to develop something that is jointly governed by FN and sport fishers
- Infrastructure on river
 - The Salmon Table is looking into developing a funding proposal to generate a plan for infrastructure development by this group to contribute to the “Experience the River” initiative
 - Dave B has engaged Murray Ned, Sto:lo Tribal Council to assist in preparing a proposal to Community Futures –REDI BC (Western Diversification)
 - Funding is being sought from Enterprising Non-Profits (ENP) Society to assist with developing a plan - though a course is needed by participants to be eligible for planning funding from ENP (Dave and Murray to attend)
 - Joint objectives include better area fishery monitoring coverage would occur from developed landing sites and if developed in partnership with local First Nations/reserves, it may provide a mechanism for First Nations to benefit from the economics of the sport fishery though much needed parking, camping, washrooms and boat-launches etc.
 - Wayne Saito (observer) will report on this discussion to BC Environment in hopes of bridging this groups capacity to the “Experience the Fraser” project being led by the Province and FVRD
- Funding for the Fraser River Salmon Table and this process
 - Funding for the Salmon Table and support costs for this joint working group (meeting room and hospitality, coordination and minutes) are to be covered through PICFI by DFO – contribution agreement in prep.
- Proposed search and rescue network -Introduced and tabled to next meeting
 - 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.
- Media committee
 - River Manners pamphlet underway (see above)

- BCWF is preparing an article for their magazine and looking for assistance from group – Dave Moore volunteered to assist
- Sockeye angling survival/mortality study
 - Deb Sneddon pointed out that the information in the notes about the mortality study is inaccurate and should not be circulated - there is a need to deal with the outcomes from the report carefully as it is technically complex
 - Deb will send along some summary material to these notes to ensure accurate reflection on this study (Appendix 2)
 - Debra may be available to a future meeting of this group or individual organizations to provide presentations and Q/A – but not available until April now
 - Reference the presentation to be made to the FRAFS JTC
- Gravel: Raised as point of information at last meeting
 - Update: Fraser Valley Gravel Stewardship committee visited the site today at Gill Road and photographs (some concern raised by operator at site about visitors)
 - noted issue with processing the gravel on site

4. Discussion on spring Chinook

- Raised at the last meeting but some participants did not have a mandate to discuss, while others were concerned that there already is a lot on the table and need to deal effectively with those items first
 - Frank raised again at this meeting the desire to discuss this further in particular to give some sport fishing opportunities (example for guides early in the season). He and Ed wanted to advance the discussion before meeting with DFO to discuss this year's sport fishing plans
 - Ken and Ernie (not present) phoned in to pass on their concerns to the FRST executive before this meeting that they do not have a mandate to discuss spring Chinook yet and they do not want the Salmon Table to get ahead of the First Nations

- First Nations present here do not want this process to be used as the consultative process instead of having full conversation and planning at the right places and with sufficient information and time to work through the issues – they will not meet with DFO until March 12
- The goal should be to share clearly what the issues are and what approaches groups wish to take in this process

Action: There needs to be a process defined (outside of this dialogue) to have this discussion beyond basic information sharing, and groups will have to define what the fish need first, and then what the fishers need verses what they want

5. Adjourn: 5:05 PM

Action: Next meeting March 30 Vic and Robert will check in and Dave will confirm.

DRAFT

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
Dave Barrett, President, Fraser River Salmon Table - facilitator	(604) 551-3967	davlinpacific@telus.net
Frank Kwak, Fraser River Salmon Table Sport Fishing File Manager	(604) 792-8083	frankkwak@shaw.ca
Ed George, BC Wildlife Federation	(604) 888-1884	edgeorge@telus.net
Patti MacAhonic, BCWF Executive Director	(604) 308-1914	patti@bcwf.bc.ca
Mat Scarr, BCWF	?????	mscarr@dccnet.com
Murray Ned, Sumas Band	(604) 852-4040	Murray.Ned@stolotribalcouncil.ca
Kim Charlie, Chehalis Indian Band	(604) 796-2116	kim.charlie@chehalisband.com
James Leon, Chehalis Indian Band Fisheries Councillor	(604) 796-2116	jamesleon@shaw.ca
Martha Fredette, Sto:lo Tribal Council	(604) 796-0627	marthafredette@stolotribalcouncil.ca
Ernie Crey Sto:lo Tribal Council	(604) 798-4435	sgemel@shaw.ca
Robert Reverse, Angling Guides Association	(604) ??	robert.reverse@gmail.co
Terry Tebb, Pacific Salmon Foundation	(604) 664-7664, loc 103	ttebb@psf.ca
Andrew Stegemann, Pacific Salmon Foundation	(604) 664-7664	astegemann@psf.ca
Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Driftfishers	(604) 607-3970, loc 225	rodney.a.clapton@sunlife.com
Leigh McCracken	(604) 888-5133	mccracken2644@shaw.ca
Ken Malloway, Sto:lo Tribal Council/Fraser Salmon Table/FV Ab. Fish Society	(604) 798-3847	kenmalloway@shaw.ca
Chris Gosselin, RCMP Native Liaison	(604) 702-4060/819-8799	chris.gosselin@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Vic Carrao	(604)671-3474	sts@guidebc.com

cc list:

Glenn Kostiuk, DFO C&P	(604)814-1055	Glenn.Kostiuk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Debra Sneddon, Lower Fraser Sport Fishing Manager	604-666-6509	Debra.Sneddon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Appendix 2: 2009 Sockeye Catch & Release Study

The Fraser River supports a substantial recreational fishery directed at sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka*. At certain times and under certain conditions, this fishery is pursued as a catch-and-release (CR) fishery. "Bottom-bouncing" is the predominant angling technique in the non-tidal portion of the Fraser River. Anecdotal observations have suggested that mortality rates of captured and released sockeye should be low for this type of fishery. However, no formal data has been collected or analyzed to quantify mortality rates to-date. In 2009, the second year of a planned four year study was conducted to monitor this fishery under typical conditions, collect pertinent catch-and-release data and to quantify short-term (24-h) mortality rates.

This year's study was conducted using volunteer anglers over 16 days between 10 August and 28 August, 2009 at Grassy Bar in the Fraser River. In total, the study collected and analyzed data from 291 hooked and landed sockeye (angled group) and 63 sockeye captured by beach seine (reference group). All captured sockeye were floy-tagged and held in net pens for 24 h observation prior to release back into the river. Net pens were situated in a side channel close to the angling site.

Primary hooking locations were observed to be on the outside of the mouth or body (90% of all landed sockeye). Of this group, most were specifically hooked in the left maxillary bone (80%). Approximately 25% of the hooked fish exhibited bleeding at the time of capture. However, all the sockeye that were hooked, held and released alive after 24 h in the net pens showed no signs of bleeding and all but six (2%) were released in vigorous condition.

Only five mortalities were witnessed in the study and short-term (0 to 24 h) catch-and-release mortality was estimated to be 1.7% (95% confidence interval of 0% - 4.0%). The five fish that died were all initially hooked through the left maxillary bone followed by the hook either puncturing or lacerating major arteries in the gills or under the tongue. No mortalities were observed in the reference group.

Physiological sampling and radio-tagging were conducted concurrently during the study. Nondestructive and destructive physiological samples were collected to investigate physiological stressors related to hooking or capture of sockeye by beach

seine and post-capture holding of the angled sockeye in net pens for 24 h. Tissue samples were also collected for DNA stock composition analysis. Tracking and analysis of radio-tagged sockeye will provide insights into migration routes and timing, survival and corroboration of DNA samples for stock composition. Complete documentation and final analysis of this data is pending and will be reported separately

These results suggest that bottom-bounce fishing in the Fraser River bar fishery has a minimal impact on short-term mortality of migrating adult sockeye however it should be noted that this study was conducted at one location with one set of environmental conditions. It is recommended that this study be conducted over the full sockeye cycle, 4 years to determine if there are inter-annual variations.

For further information: Debra Sneddon Debra.Sneddon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or (604) 666-6509.

Appendix 3: How to Get Along on the River ~ Issues, Ideas and Summary Discussion Points

Key Issues	Ideas	Summary Discussion	RC	EG	EK	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