

Sport Fishing- First Nations Working Group

Date/Time: Tuesday July 20. 2-5 PM

Location: Sto:lo Nation Boardroom

Agenda

1. **Recent conflicts/actions on the lower Fraser between the two fisheries: Issues, approaches, next steps: R. Clapton/M. Ned**
2. **Seeking a Joint Working Group plan to minimize conflict over busy fishing areas in the lower Fraser - in time for late July fisheries: Chehalis lead**
 - Communications plan: Communications Committee of the Working Group (Crey, Clapton, Reyerse, Charlie)
 - Pamphlets and videos: Moore cost and readiness plan
 - Hot spots and dates: all
3. **Joint monitoring program update: D. Barrett/D. Moore/ T. Tebb and others**
 - A river tour organized by this working group to observe monitoring and compliance systems in the fishery during early August sockeye & Chinook openings (similar to the chum field trip last October): Barrett/Moore/Kwak
 - A fall working group M&C workshop with Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum (ISDF) to discuss lessons learned from field tour and i.d. "high-beam" issues: Barrett/Moore/Kwak
 - Scoping for other Working Group activities - towards a joint monitoring program over next year: all
4. **Other?**
 - **Recent press article – Tyrone McNeil**

Attendance

Dave Barrett
Mike Jimmie, Sto:lo Nation
Angie Bailey, Atchelitz
Sheldon Evers
Terry Tebb, PSF
William Seagul, Consultant
Al Jimmie
Tony Malloway, FVAS
Dale Joe
Murray Ned, STC
Kim Charlie, Chehalis
James Leon, Chehalis
Glen Kostiuk, C&P
Herb Redecopp, C&P
Ed George, BCWF
Frank Kwak, FRST/FVSS
Janet Gagnet, DFO
Vic Carrao, STS Guiding Services
Robert Reyerse, FVGA
Leah McCracken
Rod Clapton, BC FDF
Martha Fredette, STC
Ernie Crey, STC
Matthew Point

1. Recent conflicts/actions on the lower Fraser between the two fisheries: Issues, approaches, next steps: R. Clapton/M. Ned

- A conflict arose on the river between an aboriginal fisher from Sumas and a Guide from STS Guiding services;
- The issue was referred through the Salmon Table to STS and the Sumas Band/STS representative – thanks to Murray Ned and Vic C. from STS
- Story from Ed George to reflect on the value of education and friendly information sharing
- How much should we think about the scope of this process – should the scope of work here include downstream of the gravel reach (perhaps in time)
- Note that the BCWF will focus on rivers in the next year AGM
- Broad acknowledgement of the success of working together; respecting First Nations rights and opportunities to get along with sport fishery...one step at a time

Action: Consider issue-specific engagement in taking steps to involve others beyond this area (i.e. as increased number of PICFI applications may trigger a desire for discussions in other areas). See agenda items to follow.

2. Seeking a Joint Working Group plan to minimize conflict over busy fishing areas in the lower Fraser - in time for late July fisheries

- Building a communications plan: Communications Committee of the Working Group lead with help from Salmon Table (Crey, Clapton, Reyerse, Charlie)
 - Rod Clapton: distributed draft communications plan prepared by the Salmon Table (Moore) for consideration
 - Ed George: need to get more copies of the video out long with more pamphlets
 - Vic C.: angling guides have significant influence on the messages to anglers – do First Nations do the same?
 - Murray N. would like copies of the pamphlet to assist with the education process
 - Herb Redekopp: much of the enforcement effort is focused on a few individuals and small groups
 - Suggestion to brighten up the colors on the pamphlet to make the pamphlet visible (consider how the distribution of visible color pamphlets to those causing conflict can stand out to peer pressure – like a yellow card in a soccer game)
- Pamphlets and videos: Moore cost and readiness plan: The Salmon Table can commit to producing another 2,000 pamphlets and can look for ways to assist with generating more
- Focus on hot spots and new opening dates: initial focus on the opening of the sport sockeye fishery and Island 22
- Herb R. C&P would be able to assist (by attending to information blitzes with this group?)
- Joint Monitoring: Frank suggested the idea of joint monitoring should not be lost and we should build on small steps here
- A referral process utilized in early season to address conflicts between sport and Sto:lo fishers was successful: should be expanded – formalize contacts within the group will be useful: an action item should include the development of a set of point people to refer conflicts to as they arise...Peacemaker proposal?
- Need to educate public about this groups work: organized angling groups and First Nations do not support violence on river and wish to find ways to reduce/end conflicts
- Press conference at the beginning of the fishery desirable
- Pamphlets to monitors, C&P, JO Thomas: Tony M.
- STC, SN, Chehalis expressed willingness to distribute pamphlets
- Ernie Crey to organize a press conference
- *****press conference target August 5 and/or coordinate with river tour?
 - Frank, George, Chehalis rep (Willie Charlie), Ernie

Action: The Salmon Table will follow up with the communications committee, update the draft communications plan around river tour, and organize volunteers/designates to take on specific tasks.

See proposed River Tour and sockeye fishery deferred to next agenda item – use as spring-board for communications plan and to assist localized efforts? (i.e. reducing conflict on a gravel bar).

3. Joint monitoring program update: D. Barrett/D. Moore/ T. Tebb and others

- Scoping for other Working Group activities - towards a joint monitoring program over next year: all
 - Build an understanding about what the sport and FN monitoring programs do (objectives, products)
 - Work with the M&C panel to id the key questions
 - Focus on a date when as many of the key leaders form the two fisheries as possible
 - Perhaps if August 13 was an EO it would not all be lost as it is different from the chum fishery and possible conflict
- A river tour is proposed by this working group to address questions around issues in monitoring and compliance that underlie conflicts
- To jointly observe monitoring and compliance systems in the fishery during early August sockeye & Chinook openings (similar to the chum field trip last October): Barrett/Moore/Kwak
- A fall working group M&C workshop with Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum (ISDF) to discuss lessons learned from field tour and i.d. "high-beam" issues: Barrett/Moore/Kwak
- Chehalis (and others) looking for a way for the two fisheries to work out an arrangement for the two fisheries to share a gravel bar
 - Peg Leg upper area is good for drifting and the lower area is best for bottom bouncing
 - Fergie's bar could be the same
 - Some support for the idea for 1 day
 - Consider offering fishers asked to move info on alternatives

Action 3.1: The Salmon Table will organize River M&C tour: follow-up with the M&C panel, consult with tour boat operator on availability, and set a date arising from river tour. Folks interested in the tour should communicate with D. Moore. Date set for beginning of sockeye fishery.

Action 3.2: The Salmon Table will follow up with Chehalis and organize a pilot proposal for the share-the-gravel-bar concept for 1 day that would include participants from around this table and perhaps linked to the other communications plan. Frank to lead with help from Dave.

4. Other?

- **Recent press article – Tyrone McNeil**
 - Description by Ernie how pressure over early summer sockeye stocks has created a conflict in the press about access priorities
- **How do First Nations view the illegal fishing?**
 - First Nations used to control their fishers – removing right to fish or banishing them from the community. Chehalis is one example of community efforts to deal with the unregulated fishing this way today, others have worked on similar approaches
 - C&P enjoys the help of individuals to help them to their job – but First Nations must lead.