

## Lower Fraser First Nations-Sport Fishing Joint Working Group

Tuesday January 11, 2011  
Seabird Island Boardroom

### Agenda

1. Exploring Ways to address fishing behaviour and access conflicts on the adjacent Fraser and highway
2. Announcement of fishing access study funding
3. Outcomes from the joint monitoring and compliance workshop
4. Peacemaker course January 18/19
5. Other?
6. Next meeting?

### Attendance

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Chief Clem Seymour, Seabird Island Band  
Ernie Crey, STC/Fraser River salmon Table  
Robert Reyerse, Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association  
Vic Carao, FVAGA  
Frank Kwak, Fraser Valley Salmon Society  
Wayne Saito, Freelance Provincial Consultant/M&C Panel  
Dave Barrett, President Fraser River Salmon Table  
Leah McCracken, BC Federation of Driftfishers  
James Leon, Chehalis  
Corporal Chris Gosslin, RCMP  
Mike Jimmy, SN  
Murray Ned, STC



Jim Harris, Seabird Island Band Councillor

Ed George, BCWF

Dave Moore, Fraser River Salmon Table Executive Director/Meeting Notes

## **Draft Summary Meeting Notes**

### **1. Exploring Ways to address fishing behaviour and access conflicts on the adjacent Fraser and highway: Chief Clem Seymour, Seabird Island Band – outlining the issues**

- Issues began with growing sport fishing in the area: Traffic/parking dangers, behaviour conflict and garbage, crossing tracks and reserve
- Not locals, these are people that do not know us and our ways: they have maps that send them here
- Seabird Band has taken steps to begin to manage traffic on highway (no parking signs and trespass on train tracks)
- We are not here to stop fishing – we want to take care of our lands and our people – need respect for each other, our fish and our people
- Community also dealing with endangered species (like sturgeon) and habitat problems
- Goal is to restore our community role in the management of our rights and our interests in the fishery – this begins with trespass/access and will include behaviour in the fishery
- Begin with talking and understanding one-another on these issues: the broader context is about stewardship, our knowledge, our relationship with the resources (i.e. gravel, sturgeon, pollution/garbage)
- We have asked you here today to work together – start here on our problems with traffic and behaviour along this stretch of river

### **Discussion**

- Recreational fishing community is represented by organizations that are here today to improve relations and work together – the issues raised here are not condoned by these organizations
- We are here today as a working group to work together looking for solutions together

- Focus can be initially dealing with garbage, safety, education as well perhaps working together to generate tools with the Band to generate economics and more control for Band
- RCMP has faced traffic, parking and various public complaints – initially RCMP has established a presence on site during peak activity and would like to take a longer-term view of the solutions
- Noted that there is a need to work closely with Seabird Island, but also recognize reserve areas here belonging to Chawathil, Cheam, Scowahlook (Ruby Creek), and Yale First Nations;
- Councillor James Harris reflects on these other First Nations being involved in the planning, and that a Seabird Band member has expressed interest in building a parking business

**Action:** Follow-up letter requesting partnership with this joint group to tackle the access issues and proposing a follow-up meeting at Seabird that should consider specifics, perhaps a walk-about

## **2. Announcement of fishing access study funding: Dave Barrett**

- This discussion is a good sequay into our project to look at improvements to access in the fishery by a sub-committee of this joint working group: the proposal to the Enterprising Non-Profits group (ENP) has been accepted on second try – now the work begins with this group to frame out how it will be done
- The proposal is to assess sites for development consideration involving local groups/communities and other partnerships through the Province's/Regional Districts "Experience the Fraser" initiative
- The successful proposal is for \$10 k to undertake the initial scoping of the opportunities in the gravel reach
- It builds upon this groups interest to provide better-developed access to the fishing sites for boats and foot traffic that benefit both the local First Nations and the sport fishery; to enable better management of traffic problems (i.e. unsafe parking, trespass, garbage, erosion etc.), while improving monitoring by drawing fishers into organized landing sites, and to enhance/provide access to benefits from the sport fishery to First Nations

- Begin by setting clear objectives first and scoping out possible sites; then determine the approach that best engages the Bands/communities in each area who own access and involve the other jurisdictions and interests that can contribute
- Specifics around local needs, authorities, management, business and benefits would flow from that stage-setting - this is what the ENP proposal was about
- This may be broader than this immediate area, though this area is an obvious area of some of our focus in keeping with the previous discussion – a specific focus could come from priorities this group sets together with First Nations interest along the gravel reach

**Some elements of a Terms of Reference:**

- i. What is the objectives of the study
- ii. What constitutes access points to study (i.e. slope, water, access, ownership)
- iii. How to generate a list of possible sites
- iv. How can access points be situated to accommodate both the FSC fishery and the sport fishery (and economic fishery)
- v. What are the needs for boats (different sizes) and for foot traffic
- vi. What are the kinds of infrastructure (i.e. water, power, processing facilities, ice, launching and parking, camping and picnicking)
- vii. What are possible impediments
- viii. Consider scaling the project to look broadly and then focus on a single area or two

**Action:** Generate a scope of work for the Access Study (ENP): Dave B., Robert R. and Murray N.

**3. Outcomes from the joint monitoring and compliance workshop: D.Moore/D. Barrett**

Reviewed briefly the purpose and outcome of the workshop – reflected upon the common goal to build trust in one-another's numbers so that the product of catch monitoring and accounting can contribute to more effective management of salmon fisheries.

Proposed implementation plan: review of draft work plan proposed by M&C panel in partnership with this group. Presentation by Wayne Saito.

- Set up project for spring for this coming season: Hope to Mission
- Seeking permission from this group – consensus is to move forward in principle, but folks need the details to bring back to their respective organizations
- There is a general need to better understand what participants and their organizations need from a monitoring and catch accounting plan/pilot:
  - One of the key issues may be to generate a better understanding of the stocks and by-catch etc for the in-river fisheries to plan more effectively
  - The project would involve a project partnership between the FRST and the M&C panel, but the substantive work would engage this table
  - The outcomes would enable groups to manage fisheries to better meet conservation needs while ensuring opportunities can be part of a plan everyone in-river understands
  - This group could be useful in helping to score the fishery monitoring needs to inform management
  - There is some confusion about/need to clear up understandings about a creel survey vs fishery census
  - This group would benefit from this exercise by working and learning together
  - What about the gap – involvement from Area E in group exercise?: they are seen as separate geographically
  - They could be involved in a meeting about a specific topic, but given the specific focus of this groups activity (i.e. dealing with conflict and solutions on the sport and First Nations fisheries in the gravel reach), this should not be confused with expansion of this groups focus
  - There is general agreement to move forward on this project as a group with the M&C panel

**Action:** Wayne Saito will work on a proposal to a plan forward for groups to consider

#### 4. Peacemaker course January 18/19

- Update on course schedule, plans and participation: Dave Moore
- Scheduled stage 1 at Sumas Band's Community Health Center meeting Room January 18/19 and planned stage 2 on February 15 & 16
- Still open for last minute registrants
- Plans for public communications: press notification pending (invitation to press for this group to share the messaging from work in the lower Fraser office)
- The tactical approach will be for representatives again to reflect on this group exercise, though each individual group is welcome to reflect upon and represent their own organizations issues that brought them to this point

**Action:** A kit will be distributed to registrants shortly by the organizers – any last-minute registrants should call or e-mail D. Moore

#### 5. Other?

- Jim Harris, Seabird Island Councillor invited to subsequent meeting of this joint working group.

6. **Next meeting?:** March 8 at Chilliwack RCMP by invitation of Corporal Chris Gosslin

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## First Nations-Sport Fishing Dialogue in the Lower Fraser: Participant Contact List (updated January 2011)

### Participants List\* and Contact Information

### Phone (daytime)

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