

Joint Sport Fishing-First Nations working Group

November 22, 2011 *draft*

Sumas First Nation Health Center Boardroom

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions: Special guests Devona Adams, DFO Sport Fishing Resource Manager and Don Simpson, LFFA Program Coordinator
2. Summary notes and action points from last meeting (September 13): all
3. Review Peacemakers corps TOR amendments: D. Moore
4. Progress report on lower Fraser signage plans and discuss next steps: D. Moore
5. Progress report on access plan/Experience the Fraser linkages: Robert Reyherse/D. Barrett
6. Safety

Dave Barrett, Facilitator FR Salmon Table
Vic Carrao, Fraser River Angling Guides Association
Frank Kwak, Fraser Valley Salmon Society
Doug Clift, DFO C&P
Rod Clapton, BCFDF
Devona Adams, DFO Sport Fishing Resource Manager
Ken Malloway, Kwaw'Kwaw'A'Pilt..check spelling
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Don Simpson, LFFA
Barry Huber, DFO
Dave Moore, Notes

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1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Special guests Devona Adams, DFO Sport Fishing Resource Manager and Don Simpson, LFFA Program Coordinator
 - Devona`s role is with DFO`s management of the sport fishery and consultations via the Sport Fishing Advisory Board, a liaison between DFO managers and the sports fishery
 - Don`s role is a Program Coordinator with the Lower Fraser First Nations Fisheries Assembly (LFFA), a liaison between the lower Fraser First Nations and this process
 - Background provided on the history of this process and it`s evolution as a place designed primarily by the sport fishery and First Nations to “get along on the river” i the lower Fraser River area
 - General discussion about tiers of consultation as defined with First Nations and the role of this process:
 - Tier 1 is First Nation to First Nation
 - Tier 2 is First Nation to other governments

- Tier 3 is the consultation among all interests
- This process is categorized as a “Tier 3”, however it represents a different kind of relationship among interests in the lower Fraser in contrast to historic Tier 3 processes. This is an open forum designed and led by these two interests since 2009. And, like the Salmon Table who was appointed to facilitate it, the forum is focused on working with these and related interests who are looking for solutions and common ground rather than dividing up the salmon resource
- Although this process does address issues related to access, allocation has not been the focus of any discussion. Rather, participants have delved into communications, and better understanding about the nature and sources of conflict
- An action plan generated early in the process helped to define the sources of conflict and possible kinds of solutions. It led to a video and pamphlet on common river manners; better understanding of each other’s fisheries and monitoring and compliance methods and standards; access planning (for common need and to avoid sensitive areas); and signage. The group is also currently looking into common safety issues

Action: None – information only

2. Summary notes and action points from last meeting (September 13): see agenda to follow

3. Review Peacemakers corps TOR amendments: D. Moore

- Recommendation to drop “Corps” and leave title as Peacemakers (sounded too military)
- Reinforced accountability of the Peacemakers to this Joint Working Group
- Highlighted the need to complete the draft TOR and then to meet with the line enforcement agencies who should have some form of “ex-officio” status (i.e. DFO, MOE, and RCMP – considering ongoing programs such as “Report all poachers and polluters” (RAPP), “Observe, Record, Report” (ORR), and the 911 emergency call services
- Editorial comments incorporated into new draft

Action: Dave M. will redraft and circulate and invite enforcement agencies to the next scheduled meeting on January 10, 2012.

4. Progress report on lower Fraser signage plans and discuss next steps: (postponed)

5. Progress report on access plan/Experience the Fraser linkages: (postponed)

6. Safety

- This agenda item emerged from a common interest in safety and security in the lower Fraser River fishery as identified in the joint action plan
- The specific issue that triggered this discussion was the near-drowning incident of James Douglas from Cheam this last summer
- DB looking into Governor General Awards for bravery
- Several other incidents also occurred this summer, including some fatal as well as a general concern about the lack of lifejackets being worn in the fisheries (both sport and Aboriginal)
- This general shared concern gave rise to a discussion about a “River Safety” program much like the ongoing work around River Manners – perhaps an educational video, pamphlets and linkages to signage content is being considered as well as a review of why so many river salmon fishers do not wear a lifejacket
- DB and Rod Clapton looking into a strategy for lifejacket use on the Fraser River – propose to bring representatives from Fishsafe, Worksafe BC and or BCIT , and Mustang to a future meeting to discuss strategies or alternative jackets, etc. In lower mainland to report back to this group
- The group should consider concerns about the design problems often cited by both sport and aboriginal fishers
- A branding strategy with Mustang etc that will look at design modifications along with a marketing to save lives (i.e. workshops)
- Note that Doug Clift has spoken with the Coroner and are considering a communications strategy and Doug will connect us up
- Also note that the SFAB and Fishsafe BC have been raising similar concerns and should be coordinated with this effort

Action: Dave B., Rod C. and Devona Adams will organize a meeting and the joint working group to be tasked with contacting mustang to participate in the discussion and action plans

7. Tier 3 protocol development by DFO with First Nations

- Barry Huber DFO has been working on the tier 3 links with the First Nation roadmap process
- Interested in ways in which the group can help engage First Nations and local sport fishing groups to plan in-river fisheries – particularly in the lower Fraser River
- General support from this group with the caveat that the effort should reach out not up (not new processes)
- Some consideration for developing an in-river sub-process that feeds into the area First Nations and SFAC processes locally – unclear if a watershed wrap-up is required or if it is, how it would work
- It may be appropriate for this process to take on this work and for the Salmon Table to lead the larger effort
- Question about how other jurisdictions dealt with this kind of sharing arrangement...by way of example in Washington State, led by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and under Court direction, the interests sat down and worked it out – see the Timber Fish and Wildlife Agreement for one of the outcomes
- The LFFA and this group may be ready to try out something as it is in the LFFA strategic plan

- The SFAB is aware of the need for more preparatory work around in-river fishing plans but does not have time to deal with details in their forums

Action: Dave B. & Dave M. will follow-up with Barry Huber and others in DFO about how this may work and the role of this process and the Salmon Table. Rod Clapton and Frank K. Will follow up on this with the SFAB. Ken M. and Don Sampson will also follow up with the LFFA.

8. DFO ongoing participation in this process

- Since the inception of this process there has been much discussion about the role and commitment of agency participants to this ongoing forum
- Although the process was initially largely focused on the interests without the agencies at first, as the group became more focused on what they were going to do (and not do) there was a desire expressed to invite in DFO
- Devona as others in DFO cannot commit to regular participation due to time and budget limitations
- C&P, fisheries resource managers, and policy staff from DFO have attended this process as needed in the past expressing this concern as well as an interest in the ongoing work
- Best approach may be to have key contacts within these areas and invite them as needed but share progress and communicate...also be open to allow DFO to invite themselves in if they have something to ask or offer
- The Salmon Table will follow up with DFO and groups to scope out a path forward

Action: The Salmon Table will work to establish a core group of agency contacts who will receive copies of all materials and communications – agency participation will be based upon need