

Joint Sport Fishing-First Nations Working Group

February 14, 2012

Preamble

This meeting was organized around the lower Fraser River public education signage project but will touchy on shared plans with the FVRD for a public event in July around river safety.

Attendance

Dave Moore, Notes
Doug Wilson, Fraser Valley Regional District
Frank Kwak, Fraser Valley Salmon Society
Leigh McCracken, BC Federation of Driftfishers
Tony Malloway, FVAS
Don Simpson, LFFA

Materials

- Summary notes from January 10
- Building a Collaborative Signage Plan for lower Fraser Fisheries (January 9, 2012)
- Draft sign /editorial comments for review

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions: special guest Doug Wilson, Manager of Parks, Fraser Valley Regional District
2. Summary notes and action points from last meeting (January 10): All
3. Review progress report on lower Fraser signage plans and discuss next steps: D. Moore & D. Wilson
4. Safety strategy- Public event: D. Wilson
5. Safety Strategy – Focus group: McCracken
6. Report on Spring Chinook “tier 3” meeting between SFAB and Fraser First Nations

Acknowledgements: *The Fraser River Salmon Table and the Joint Working Group gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support and contributions to this forum provided by DFO and the Fraser Basin’s Fraser Salmon and Watershed’s Program, and the Sumas First Nation for use of their Board Room.*

Summary meeting notes

February 14, 2012

1. **Welcome and introductions:** special guest Doug Wilson, Manager of Parks Fraser Valley Regional District and Tony Malloway from FVAS
 - D. Barrett and R. Clapton on/going on vacation and unavailable and regrets from several others
 - Barrett spoke with Ed George who is expected to join us again when he has time/not Region 1 president any longer but has indicated interest in continuing to support process within his schedules (Note: We are asked to follow up – internal miss of his e-mail address change fixed)

2. **Summary Notes and action points from last meeting (January 10)**
 - Notes accepted

Review of Action Points:

- Sign cost recovery: Proposal sent to FSWP and FSWP has offered \$2,000 contribution for signage costs – FRST will send invoice and make arrangements to pay FVRD costs for FVRD and FVRD has offered to cover costs of sign completions and set up (group needs to confirm design and locations)
- Signage design: FVRD sent out sign mock-up and received some suggestions from the Salmon Table (see copy provided)
- Access study: Will need to wait until next meeting to get update on the contractor TOR for feasibility study
- Pilot monitoring study: no follow-up on the proposal for a joint mandatory landing site at Island 22 – needs more work and discussion
- Reporting back on implementation approach for peacemakers - Robert Reyerse and Ernie Crey absent
- Safety strategy meeting: D. Barrett and R. Clapton have had meetings and will report back at next meeting on details/D. Wilson will speak to the safety event plans with FVRD on the agenda item today
- Spring Chinook dialogue: Frank K. Reported on meeting/lack of meeting – due to scheduling conflicts it was a meeting with Ernie C. Frank, Dave B. – more detail in agenda item

3. Review progress report on Lower Fraser signage plans and discuss next steps

As the signage includes a proposed contribution from the Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program, the design, costs and implementation plans must be submitted to the FSWP lead before March 15. This is a key outcome of this meeting.

Pilot objectives

Group confirmed that the objective of this signage project is to conduct a pilot public education initiative to help sport fishing interests and First Nations "get along on the river" as arising from the original group action plan. Key to the success of this pilot is the response to the signs, the longevity of the signs, and the perceived validity of the messaging.

The messaging used in the signs includes provision of information, images, and common "understandings" generated from this process to the general public (acceptable to both sport and First Nations fishers) in hopes of combating miss-information and lack of information that can lead to conflict. This is best achieved targeting key fishing access points, including both sides of the river, focused on gravel reach, and experimenting with a mix of controlled/managed sites and non-managed sites.

Design a shared set of messages

- Input on sign design
 - Consider logo from FVRD, LFFA, PSF, FRST, but this leads to a logo debate
 - Local First Nation should be provided if appropriate on individual location, but keep it generic
- Confirm available funding and logistics for sign make-up
- Administrative matters with FVRD
 - Doug to prepare an invoice for FRST
 - Doug and the FVRD graphic artists will take suggestions and modify the signs
 - Plans to put them in place in April

Action: see generic acknowledgement provided in D. Moore mock-up

Sign placement

- Confirm priority sites for sign placement (2 north shore and 2 south shore, 2 organized FVRD and 1 province, non—organized)
 - Dewdney, FVRD – Doug Lead
 - Island 22, FVRD – Doug lead
 - Kilby (BC Government site) Doug will check with Kerry Hilts with the District of Kent for BC Gov't
 - Gill Road (non-organized)

Action: D. Wilson will review sign design and sizes, provide an invoice for the \$2,000, and make arrangements for the sign development and placement as above. He will need to speak with responsible managers at the Kilby site, and confirm their ability to place a sign at Gill Road. D. Moore will secure funding from FSWP and make administrative arrangements with FVRD.

4. Safety strategy: public event: Leigh McCracken/Wilson

- Proposed plans for March delegation presentation to a meeting of the FVRD
- Doug reported that August 1 was chosen by Dave and Rod for a targeted public river gathering that will focus on river safety
- Free/customer appreciation from FVRD, barbeque
- Safety, ethics, demonstrations, fishing
- Focus on the day use area and beachfront away from the boat launch (adjacent to equestrian parking lot)
- Frank offered to lead food prep-FVRD prepared to provide food

Action: D. Wilson will report back to the group after the proposal has been reviewed by the FVRD.

5. Safety Strategy: planning a focus group workshop for PFD

- FRST can ask LFFA for invoice to organize a focus group forum
- Leigh and the safety committee can look into soliciting participation from other groups – Leigh will discuss with Rod.
- Dave M. and D. Barrett discussed ways to bring together a group of FN's to function as a focus group and have considered Sts'ailes training but it is too busy and perhaps not broad enough. Dave M. suggested organizing the focus group around one of the spring management meetings with DFO in order to get a good cross section of Sto:lo/Lower Fraser First Nations input. If done appropriately it would not disrupt DFO meeting plans and could take advantage of what is usually a good turn-out.

Action: Dave M. will discuss further with LFFA and then DFO. LFFA could invoice the Salmon Table to organize a focus group to cover room/hospitality costs.

6. Report by Frank Kwak on the status of the spring Chinook joint meeting on February 3rd

- The original meeting planned between FVAS and the SFAB by the Salmon Table needed to be postponed due to scheduling conflicts (noted that this has happened before)
- Since the meeting was coincidental to another meeting of the SFAB, a small group of the SFAB met with members of the Salmon Table to discuss the way to make these meetings work
- Dave Barrett and Ernie Crey met with the group (Frank in attendance on behalf of the SFAB) to discuss the challenges with meeting schedules
- It was agreed that the kind of meetings proposed would take a long-term approach to building relationships and common problem
- FRST was supported to facilitate

Action: Both FVAS and SFAB will go back to their respective boards to seek clear direction and to convey that to DFO

First Nations-Sport Fishing Dialogue in the Lower Fraser: Participant Contact List (updated March 2012)

Participants List* and Contact Information

Phone (daytime)

E-mail

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*Mock-up draft #2 January 10,
2012 Moore – fixes reference
to law and interrupting fisheries*

The Fraser River is popular for fishing – be informed

Notice of openings for sport and First Nations fisheries for salmon are posted and can be found on the Website of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). However, changes to fishing plans can occur with very little warning – use the smart phone (QR) links below for updated information. Go to <http://web.scanlife.com/en> to enable your App now.

Exercise caution and beware of navigation hazards when entering these waters

Be aware that the Fraser River is subject to angling and netting of salmon many months of the year. In addition to swift and unpredictable currents, concentrations of boat traffic and fishing nets can be hazardous to navigation. All users of the river should be attentive and steer wide of fishing boats, set nets (stationary gillnets visible by their floats) and drift nets (attached to a moving boat). A drifting boat, particularly when attached to a net cannot stop or turn quickly. An anchored boat can be slow to avoid hazards. Wading anglers are susceptible to the wash from speeding boats.

Do not interfere with an active licensed fishery – respect all users and the resource

Fishing for salmon is licensed and managed under Canada's Federal Fisheries Act and is a significant cultural heritage for all Canadians. The priority of Aboriginal Food, Social and Ceremonial fisheries is recognized by Canadian Law, second only to conservation, and followed by commercial and recreational fishing. Please respect the environment and all users of the salmon resource, and observe *River Manners* in our common pursuit of an orderly, safe and enjoyable Fraser River fishery.



First Nations Fishing
Openings/Catch reports



Salmon Sport Fishing Fraser
River (upstream of tidal waters)



Sport Fishing Code of
Conduct



River Manners Video

Credits and various logos here (as in River Manners pamphlet)

FISH ON!

*Mock-up draft #3 February 14,
2012 FVRD – incorporates color
pix, adds title and edits down*

BE INFORMED

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EXERCISE CAUTION

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RESPECT ALL USERS

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Smart Phone (QR) Links



Fraser River Safety
FraserRiverSafety.com



Fraser River Manners
FraserRiverManners.com



Fraser River Fishing
FraserRiverFishing.com



Fraser River Netting
FraserRiverNetting.com



Fish On!

Mock-up draft #4 February 14, 2012 Moore

- Incorporates representative pictures of both fisheries and associates pix & QR codes with text

BE INFORMED



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Sport Fishing



First Nations Fishing



EXERCISE CAUTION



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Use River Manners



Respect the Resource



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This public information message has been prepared for the lower Fraser salmon fishery by a Joint Working Group of First Nations and Sport Fishing organizations. This project was made possible by the Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program, the Fraser River Salmon Table, and the Fraser Valley Regional District.