



Joint Sport Fishing-First Nations Working Group

Date: Tuesday April 10th 2-5 PM

Time: 2 – 5 PM

Location: Sumas First Nations Health Center Boardroom

Attendance

Dave Barrett, Fraser River Salmon Table/Facilitator
Dave Moore, Fraser River Salmon Table/Notes
Frank Kwak, Fraser Valley Salmon Society
Vic Carrao, STS Guides
Robert Reyherse, Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association
Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Driftfishers
Ed George, BC Wildlife Federation
Don Simpson, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance
Ernie Crey, Sto:lo Tribal Council
Barry Huber, DFO

Summary Notes

This meeting is organized around completion of the access study and signage activities in the lower Fraser River, and to scope out plans for the next 12 months including joint safety focus group forum and August Public River Safety Day with the FVRD. The group will set follow-up meeting dates, and where funding is involved, discuss proposals for joint activities with agency partners in 2012/13.

1. Welcome and introductions: D. Barrett

Guest: Barry Huber, DFO Aboriginal Affairs – has joined this group today to discuss lessons learned and suggestions to expand upon the successes here in “Tier 3” development in the Fraser River.

2. Peacemakers:

- Reviewed list of names on the Peacemakers Committee. Frank Kwak chose to remove his name from the list;
- Discussed dropped referral from Dean Werk last season (what to do)

Action:

- Kim Charlie replaced by James Leon and Kelsey Charlie (Acknowledgement by the Committee welcoming James back to the group and appreciation to Kelsey for becoming involved);
- There is a need to revisit the Werk situation as a way to move forward with the TOR for Peacemakers – co-chairs will look into this;
- Ernie Crey is making arrangements for a meeting with Native policing lead from RCMP – looking for the head of Aboriginal policing to attend these meetings

3. Public education signs:

- Reviewed status of signs (ready to go)
- Final photos being reviewed
- Sites and alternates discussed (lots of suggestions about alternate sites including Pegleg)
- General re-agreement by the group that this is an experiment to assess the materials, QR code, size, location etc to achieve the goal of the group

Action:

- D. Moore to follow up with Doug Wilson and staff at FVRD and proceed with first 4 pilot signs at locations previously agreed to;
- Check QR codes and renew photos as required
- Confirm acknowledgements are complete
- Do final review of draft sign before going to print

4. Access study results

- i) Funding was raised from the Enterprising Non-profits Foundation for conducting a river access study – the preliminary report is complete and first draft preliminary sharing with this group today – limited release
- ii) Preliminary distribution of this document is closed beyond this group until the Salmon Table was able to follow-up directly with the two First Nations
- iii) Lots of questions about the potential locations, priorities for development
- iv) Reviewed the purpose of study and results:
 - Economic opportunity from the growing sport fishery to First Nations key to project success
 - Potential for Parties (Sport and First Nations) to manage access to avoid concentrations of users in sensitive areas
 - Benefit to campers and anglers by creating much needed infrastructure for the growing fishery
 - 2 priority areas at Chawathil and Seabird Island First Nations – reflecting on the area with the poorest access for sport fishery/camping in the upper ½ of gravel reach. They have significant space that could provide for development and they may be facing some of the greatest trespass issues

Action:

- Group requested not to distribute draft report until there has been a meeting with Chawathil and Seabird first to review report recommendations
- D. Barrett and E. Crey to follow up with a meeting with each of the Bands
- Subsequent broader release of the report with the consensus with 2 Bands

5. Tier 3: Barry Huber

- i) History of building the bilateral arrangements between DFO and First Nations (AFS) has led to capacity for agreements among First Nations (Tier 1) and a process with the Department to build long-term vision for where that work will go (Tier 2) – most recently with the pending ratification of an MOU
- ii) Today looking at the big picture, DFO is interested in seeing where processes like this (Tier 3) fit – this process is unique and represents an activity in tier three that has the support of First Nations and DFO
- iii) What might this process look like in the future to this group?
 - Appreciation for direct engagement between Sport fisheries and First Nations in-river

- Need to consider fiscal limitations, need to make strategic connections to other things going on
- Proposal to develop a framework and discussion paper to organize the perspectives and suggestions – beginning with drafting a TOR for this group going forward...Rod Clapton volunteered to take first cut at it
- Emphasis on going forward in the view of this group is the focus on problem-solving in the fishery, not allocation – such activities may in time lead to or support activities around allocations, but that is for other forums
- Group highlighted outstanding proposal for joint monitoring program (many letters of support) and the stalled project for building common standards around catch reporting so that the output and it's sharing can help the sport fishery and first Nations fisheries solve problems
- Noted that the sport fishing participation in the group is voluntary by design and most like it that way if their travel/costs are covered
- Conversely, the First Nations involvement is a governance activity tied to their local Bands, tribal councils and watershed processes (Tier 1 and Tier 2) that is not voluntary – this process could not work without some rationalization for how the First Nations time /costs is covered. In the past this was done by the Fraser River Salmon Table as a capacity-building investment. It is now proposed that this function be covered by the First Nations area collaborations like the LFFA that are able to fund participation/representations for problem solving from their respective AAROM \$
- Noted history and shared Executive with many of the FRAFS Executive – suggestion that FRAFS play a referral role and host Fraser River Salmon Table Website where various Tier 3 engagements can be tracked and notes shared (common standards of facilitation, organization, reporting and important advocacy role that the Salmon Table plays in facilitating the processes with shared solutions in mind
- Salmon Table could play parallel role to FRAFS in Tier 3 – oversight, organization and principles support for enabling local problem solving/coordination with FRAFS
- Does not resolve \$ for Fraser River Salmon Table – keeping the process lights on
- Need to strengthen the relationships with MOE and RCMP
- Need to respect the role of local groups to lead, but this group could directly and indirectly (through parent organizations) help along the local processes

Action:

- B. Huber working on internal policy advise before retiring in May
- R. Clapton to circulate a draft TOR for this group that lays the groundwork for going expanding on successes of this group – to D. Moore for editorial contributions and broader circulation

6. Safety strategy: L. McCracken and D. Barrett

- Committee came up with 10 safety tips currently under review – suggested for future education materials - distributed
- Planning for focus group with First Nations and sport fishers to explore issues around lack of use of PFDs
- Mustang is interested but may not be able to do all that this group is looking for so D. Barrett and committee with explore further with FISHSafe in preparation for workshop

Action:

- D. Barrett and committee with explore further with FISHSafe in preparation for workshop

7. Review plans for public safety event on lower Fraser: D. Barrett\F. Kwak

- The public gathering planned in late summer arose from this and is being designed in partnership with FVRD - focus on users of the river
- Awaiting decision from FVRD for their support – submission of the Board was delayed until April
- Committee would then need to develop schedule of events, communications plan, organizational matters

Action:

- Plan for more detailed discussion on the safety event at the next meeting

The Fraser River Salmon Table and the Joint Working Group gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support and contributions to this dialogue provided by DFO and the Fraser Basins Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program.

Attachments:

- i) Appended: Updated Peacemakers list
- ii) Appended: Contacts list
- iii) Annexed: Draft TOR for Joint Sport Fishing – First Nations Working Group

Appendix 1: The Peacemakers (2012/13)*

1. Co-Chair: Ernie Crey, Sto:lo Policy Advisor – (604) 819-7981
2. Co-Chair: Vic Carrao, STS Guides (604)671-3474
3. Ed George, BC Wildlife Federation – (604) 328-6281
4. Ken Malloway, FV Aboriginal Fisheries Society (604) 798-3847
5. Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Driftfishers – (604)530-1624
6. Don Simpson, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (604) 309-7824
7. James Leon, Sts'ailes (604) 796-0832 (home)/ (604) 217-3361 Jamesleon@shaw.ca
- Alt. Kelsey Charlie (604) 796-3975 (home)/ Cell (604) 991-0612 kelsey.charlie@chehalisband.com
8. Alt. sport fisher - To be confirmed

*Expires March 31, 2013

First Nations-Sport Fishing Dialogue in the Lower Fraser: General Contact List

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