



Fraser River Peacemakers

Dinner - Gathering
Ramada Plaza & Conference Centre
Mt. Baker Room
36035 North Parallel Road, Abbotsford
October 14, 2015
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Email Address	Name	Affiliation	Email Address
Rod Clapton	BCFDF	rclapton@shaw.ca	Tim Succic	PSF	tsucic@psf.ca
Rod Wiebe	BCWF	Rwiebe6@shaw.ca	Dale Joe	FVAFS	Dalejoe2004@hotmail.com
Erin Mussell	FVAFS	Edeemarie02@gmail.com	Dean Werk	FVSS	info@greatriverfishing.com
Nick Basok	FVSS	basok@shaw.ca	Fred Helmer	Freds-Angler	Fredhelmer55@gmail.com
Stan Goto	Salish Sea Sustainable	Stan.Goto@wwu.edu	Leigh McCracken	BCWF	Mccracken2644@telus.net
Allistar Ball	BCFDF	goforagencies@shaw.ca	Theresa Fresco	FBC	tfresco@fraserbasin.bc.ca
Ed George	BCWF	EdGeorge@shaw.ca	Marion George	BCWF	
Ernie Crey	FVAFS	ecrey@telus.net	Doug Kelly	Sto:lo Tribal Council	doug.kelly@stolotribalcouncil.ca
Dave Barrett	M&C Panel	davlinpacific@gmail.com	Ken Malloway	Sto:lo Tribal Council	Kenmalloway@shaw.ca
Mike Fraser	DFO	Mike.Fraser@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Brad Wattie	DFO	Brad.Wattie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Tim Yesaki	FFSBC	Tim.yesaki@gofishbc.com	Mike Gass	FFSBC	Mike.gass@gofishbc.com
John Vang	Christopher Vang Memorial Fund	info@cvmfund.com	Saramae Tran	Christopher Vang Memorial Fund	info@cvmfund.com
Wayne Saito		wsaito@shaw.ca	Don Simpson	LFFA	don.simpson@lffa.ca



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❖ Opening comments

➤ Rod

- Peacemakers around 7 years
- Objective and purpose to address conflict issues in the Fraser River
- Support by all key to the success enjoyed and key to the long term health of the fishery for future generations.
- Lots of work still to do and we need a lot of help to keep it going.
- Purpose of tonight is to expose participants to what Peacemakers is about

➤ Ernie

- Peace on the river is key but so is safety
- Also about relationships between First Nations and sport fishers.
- Some years up to 7,000 anglers between Chilliwack to Hope. So too are other fishers – First Nations food and economic opportunity fishers.
- Have known many people here for many years and learn things about the angling community that he never knew before. This is the basis for building relationships and leads towards resolving conflict issues.
- Have also noticed that over time, fish seem to be becoming scarcer, for example this year was not a surprise to him.
- Lots of work restoring fish populations and habitat is encouraging but the changing climate is affecting fish populations and their health.
- At the center of it all is the relationships between each other (traditionally competing/conflicting groups) and this work is becoming increasingly important.
- Bringing people to the table has been an important objective for all that worked to making Peacemakers successful.

❖ Peacemakers Overview

- PowerPoint presentation on history and activities of Peacemakers - Dave



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❖ Session Discussion points

❖ What initiatives can be developed to assist in promoting safe respectful fisheries particularly during high intensity Sockeye & Pink fisheries? Don

- Ken – we need to include chum fisheries
 - On any given Sunday, there could be up to 7,000 anglers on the river
 - Questions, observations etc welcomed as well.
- Christine – Perhaps we also need to consider what was done last/past years that worked well – e.g. early interventions, awareness initiatives, media briefings & communications.
- Nick –Particularly during sockeye, the very high intensity fisheries take place. When they happen, the media becomes an important tool to educate and inform anglers of what is expected of them regarding behavior. As well, when FN fishers are considering a drift, to let people know before setting their nets.
- Stan – social media including YouTube – Fishing with Rod etc are helpful in informing and educating the community about river protocol
- Ed – after spending a substantial amount of time at the Cheam Fishing Village noted there was little conflict and tension evident. Also observed the staff provided information regarding the fishery that was accurate and helpful.
- Fred – seen a lot of change to the fishery over time. How to deal with this? Lot of lack of common sense and respect evident on the river. This loss of social skills has to be addressed by relentlessly providing useful, accurate information. If practiced enough, the behavior will improve and should be rewarded.
- Ken – consider handing out one-pagers talking about river manners etc and as well, information about up-coming fisheries at various locations. Have prominent leaders such as Ernie speaking to the press etc about river manners, up-coming fisheries etc and the Peacemakers program would help. (as an example, it would be informative if people know that economic opportunity fisheries are not permitted to high-grade fish. There “hammerheads” out in the fishery on both sides. Cited a personal experience on the river where a potential conflict was addressed through respectful dialogue and common



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sense. It took a bit of effort to get there but in the end, a peaceful, respectful

conclusion was reached. Beach seining in the lower Fraser River near Chilliwack is increasing in numbers but the trade-off is they will fish fewer days. When those fisheries occur, successfully dealing with the crowding and overlap issues becoming increasingly important. Many First Nations leaders have recognized the former approaches to conflict between users needed to be improved upon.

- Leigh – “knowledge is power” - the more we know of each other’s fishery, the more powerful we become. Sharing the knowledge would make everyone better informed of how and why and where we want to fish. A couple pages of information to hand around would make everyone better informed. If the local boat launch ramps had information boards containing First Nation and sport fisheries taking place in the area would be helpful. Finally, from personal experience, when he is fishing, he finds it very helpful to know where the ends of drift nets are by large bright buoys at the end and perhaps in the middle of the net.
- Don – communication, making the information available at the river bank level.

❖ **How do we continue to develop respect and understanding of our respective fisheries? (Historical & economic values? Impact on all communities?) Ernie**

- Ernie – the better the level of understanding, the more likely there will be an increase and improvement in mutual respect.
- Don – developing venues for sharing information and knowledge at the riverbank level would help in understanding the culture of the respective fisheries.
- Christine – encourages cross pollination of each other’s fisheries on some of the social media sites for First Nations and sport fisheries
- Fred – how to develop respect? Respect is earned by being out there at the grass roots level. Have to respect the fish first and then the wise use of the resource will have a chance to be successful
- Nick – develop an appreciation for each other’s fisheries. The lower Fraser River fishery and the resource has gained a worldwide reputation for its quality and expansiveness. This applies to FN and sport



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- Dean – teaching people when they are on the river is an important key. When the respective fisheries are taking place, providing opportunities to observe on the water and to know how and why they are taking place. It would be very informative for people to understand that FN fisheries for each band are typically short in duration and location but it can appear that fishing is taking place throughout the rivers.
 - Dave – perhaps the Peacemakers web site can be a repository for historical information on fisheries and the 6 salmon species.
 - Ernie – *on this or the previous topic, it needs to be a consideration leaders from both communities speak together (joint press conferences etc) to encourage people to be respectful of one another – Fred and Rod and Doug and Ken have a joint press conference and put out a common message*
 - Ernie – when there is a large sockeye run, it is difficult to get on the river, perhaps some First Nations fisheries can take place at night. This strategy is under discussion and holds some promise.
 - Mike – likes the idea of a joint media event is great but would be even better if there is a “go to” site that can host all of the key information needed to have a safe, peace-filled fishery. [Peacemakers] fishery information, where to fish, how to fish safely etc.
 - Ernie - have recruited some people to Peacemakers such as Teresa at FBC to help us and you {participating agencies}
- ❖ **Promotion of safety standards within all fisheries – Saramae/John**
- Saramae/John – past experiences that can help.
 - Leigh – the Dept. Of Transport experience of obligating people to be safe could be improved upon with hand-outs etc that contribute to a positive attitude towards improved safety practices on the water
 - Dave – FishSafe BC participated in an earlier Peacemaker event. They operate in the commercial marine fisheries. They were very successful in convincing commercial fishermen to wear pfd. They will attend public sessions throughout the province relating to commercial fisheries. We should be able to incorporate their knowledge and skills into our program



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- Stan – remembers a time in a U.S. sport fishery before there were catch and release fisheries when high profile anglers were encouraging people to consider releasing fish as a good practice. Perhaps this could be applied to improving safe water practices.
- Dean – suggest approaching the pfd suppliers for collaborative funding for reduced costs for a large purchase of pfds to hand out/sell these units on the river.
- John – anyone having the connections to the vendors/manufacturers would be helpful.
- Fred – pfds are the common sense approach but there is a lot of misunderstanding of what is needed to be safe on the water. [deep water, fast water, steep river banks etc, etc]
 - Had a discussion earlier with DFO and perhaps need to re-open the conversation again.
- ❖ **How do we develop joint initiatives working with our youth as the future stewards of the resource? Mike**
 - Tim – need to know what the target objectives are but FFSBC and Stream-Keepers are logical organizations to look at.
 - Mike – tying in a First Nation component (Cheam Fishing Village) to educate
 - Christine – Salmonid Enhancement Program groups might be another class of groups to consider?
 - Ed – a youth education program that includes a First Nations fishery component would be useful to integrate into the schools and other venues.
- ❖ **What does the fishing future look like on the Fraser? Is there a future for Peacemakers? If so how do we continue to grow & expand our profile & effectiveness?**
 - This item was deferred to another session.



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❖ Closing comments

- Ken – we need to be doing more of this (meeting together) and looking forward to future meetings that expand upon the process.
- Rod – please participate in future meetings, look at the web sites, hand out brochures
- Don – thanked all for coming. Funding for the evening had a cost and metaphorically passed the hat to the participating organizations for help for the evening and into the future

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