

Joint Sport Fishing-First Nations Working Group



March 13, 2012

Preamble

This meeting was organized around outcomes from the joint working groups activities over the last 12 months, and where funding is involved, to discuss plans for completing our remaining tasks underway to meet fiscal year-end deliverables to our agency partners.

Attendance

Dave Moore, Executive Director Fraser River Salmon Table - Notes
Frank Kwak, Fraser Valley Salmon Society
Leigh McCracken, BC Federation of Driftfishers
Dave Barrett, Fraser River Salmon Table/facilitator
Don Simpson, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance
Terry Tebb, Pacific Salmon Foundation
Ernie Crey, Sto:lo Tribal Council
Ed George, BC Wildlife Federation

1. **Welcome and introductions:** D. Barrett facilitating/Moore notes
2. **Summary Notes and action points from last meeting** (February 14th meeting)
 - Note that the code of conduct reference takes you to SFAB page and not the code of conduct
 - Group requested that the group not sign off on sign until I am satisfied with the final draft
 - Consider doing an article on the signage project and include specific organizations that have contributed that can go into the Chilliwack Progress and the various organizations newsletters
 - There should be some effort made to communicate with the LFFA about the nature and purpose of this educational sign
 - Ernie will draft up an article
 - Ed George noted that the Gill road access is maintained by Chilliwack and that they have a gate in place – perfect place for sign. D. Wilson is looking into plans for placement and will be in communications with appropriate agencies/location but this would be consistent with plans discussed previously
3. **Review progress report on Lower Fraser access plans and discuss next steps:** Barrett
 - The Haig Highway reach was visited during last summer to explore current access points and areas of interest, though the mapping exercise illuminated areas of interest beyond that specific

area – including some First Nations tourism business planning with First Nations between Mission to Rosedale Bridge as well (Ernie Crey indicated that there are some specific First Nations interests in this area)

- A consultant has been engaged by the Salmon Table to assess the access points in the lower Fraser between Mission and Hope and provide a report by the end of the month as the basis for business planning (individual retained has also been working on the” Experience the Fraser” plans with the FVRD and was well suited to this work to retain continuity with that planning effort
- E-mail from Murray Ned has suggested the group be aware that Metro-Van and Abbotsford civic governments are considering boat launch development at the south end of the Mission Bridge and that Sumas is considering both pro’s and con’s
- The “McBarge” (from Expo Vancouver floating McDonalds Restaurant) is being advance again as a floating food and beverage station (not a service station serving gas) for local boat traffic (upstream of Mission Bridge to Sumas?) – as above, Sumas First Nation is considering this proposal for both positive and negative impacts as will other First Nations in the area
- Discussed upcoming development assistance forum being organized by the Fraser River Salmon Table and partner BC Cooperative Association with Vancity on March 28 – the three hour agenda will be part of 2-day workshop organized with the Salmon Table’s best practices forum. This session is designed to look for project synergies around the watershed like the joint access planning led by this group to help build business plans, access grants and loans. D. Barrett and designates from the LFFA will organise to attend (Ed George expressed some interest?).

Action:

- A consultants report on access planning is due by the end of March that will be relevant to Experience the Fraser planning and useful for business planning among interested local First Nations and sport fishing partners
- Dave Barrett and LFFA designates will coordinate attendance at the upcoming Salmon Table workshop on development planning in the Fraser River with Vancity

4. Signage: Moore

- Received \$2,000 from FSWP for production of 4 educational signs generated by this group (See appendix for final design mock-up) that will be erected and maintained by the Fraser Valley Regional District at Island 22, Dewdney reach, Kilby and Gill Road access points
- Reviewed locations and content, funding and timing – D Moore to follow up with Doug Wilson from FVRD on specifics arising from this discussion
- Design – general agreement with the need for linking messaging with relevant pictures and QR codes . Dave instructed to follow up with D. Wilson and ensure that he gets all of the feed-back and support needed to ensure the outcome is consistent with this groups expectations
- The QR code for the sport fishing code of conduct is not tracking specifically to the code, rather the SFAB website and it should go directly to the code (Dave to follow-up and fix)

- Acknowledgements – round-table discussion about the pro’s and con’s of detailed acknowledgements of all partners and the use of logos (this has been discussed at length throughout development of this initiative by this group), versus the outcome from previous direction – to construct a generic acknowledgment for “leading” sport fishing, guiding and First Nations in the fishery, while acknowledging specifically the funding support for the group, the sign production and the placement/maintenance. Note that the acknowledgements should read *Fraser Salmon and watershed’s Program* (omit Fraser basin’s reference to avoid confusion).
- Objectives: reviewed that the purpose of the signs is education and the target is the “unwashed anglers” that are new to the fishery or to fishing in general and that these are less likely members of angling/conservation organizations. Consensus was ultimately reached around acknowledgements to continue with generic acknowledgement of partners and specific acknowledgement of funders
- Some residual interest in acknowledgment for the specific partners at the table that would improve responsiveness to the messaging and perhaps reduce vandalism - it was agreed that this will be addressed through a media strategy led by this group – Ernie Crey will draft a media article for circulation that will target the Chilliwack Progress, and then can be used by each of the partner groups involved to put in their respective newsletters. A group photo will be planned (perhaps in association with the summer public safety event on the river?).

Action:

- Dave instructed to follow up with D. Wilson and ensure that he gets all of the feed-back
- Ernie to draft media article for distribution

5. **Safety strategy:** Barrett/McCracken

- Ongoing work by this group’s tasked Safety Strategy Committee: Led by Dave Barrett and Rod Clapton, this committee is developing a team to work through ideas: Fishsafe, FVRD, LFFA, etc.
- **Public safety event on the lower Fraser River:** August 11 (not August 1 as in previous minutes). Doug Wilson going to the FVRD Board to get endorsement for a public event that would advance the messaging . Some discussion around the appropriateness of the date, but general agreement to target most likely busy start of sockeye fishing season (though highly unpredictable, and likely restricted due to low cycle-year returns expected)
- **Life jacket focus group** – exploring ways to organize a focus group with First Nations and sport fishers to address technical or cultural impediments to people wearing these important safety devices. D. Moore has proposed to organize with LFFA a piggy-back focus group session on top of one of the regular spring management forums between DFO and lower Fraser First Nations and with agreement will make a financial contribution to pay for room/hospitality on top of DFO/LFFA normal needs. Coordinating with the Committee would be development of a “booth” to display various PFD’s and to proceed with try-on’s and focus questions following normal DFO/LFFA meeting. The committee will be asked to

consider if the event could go on into the evening for sport fishers to join in. The result could be finding PFD's to suit specific needs of anglers or Aboriginal fishers, and/or to develop a "signature" Fraser River vest that could be used to promote PFD's in both fisheries.

Action:

- D. Moore to follow-up with LFFA on agreement with DFO to allow the event and funding contribution to support room and hospitality requirements
- D. Moore/D. Barrett to coordinate with the Safety Strategy Committee these plans and propose invitation to sport fishers for evening after DFO meeting

6. Peacemakers: Moore

- Don Simpson to replace Murray Ned subject to his continued work with the LFFA and their endorsement
- Frank Kwak requested to have his name withdrawn from the list
- Vic and Ernie identified as co-chairs but there has not been any ability to address this yet
- Dave B volunteered as task master
- Lack of RCMP needs to be replaced (DFO and the province too)
- Dave, Vic and Ernie will follow-up with the RCMP in Chilliwack to see if someone can be assigned to the Peacemakers
- Ed George volunteered to try to get a meeting with Mary Pollak, Provincial Minister of Aboriginal Affairs & Reconciliation
- Consider engaging a graduate-level student to begin to compile scope of incidents in the lower Fraser River to inform this group over the long term (criminology?)

Action:

- Update the Peacemakers Committee Contacts list for 2012/13 (**Appendix 1**)
- Ernie Crey to follow-up with co-chair Vic Carrao to develop implementation plans
- Dave Barrett and Co-chairs (Ernie Crey and Vic Carrao) will set up a meeting with RCMP in Chilliwack, (including Sergeant and new First Nations liaison and Corporal Chris Gosslin if around) to develop protocols and contacts with RCMP for the Peacemakers. A process to coordinate with DFO and Conservation officers will also be discussed
- Dave Barrett volunteered to role of task-master
- D. Moore will circulate the new Committee list with minutes

7. The future of the Joint Sport Fishing-First Nations Working Group

- FSWP program expires and contributions from FSWP to this process ends at fiscal year-end (March 31)

- DFO's PICFI program expires and contributions from PICFI to this process ends at fiscal year-end (March 31)
- Currently there is no funding for this process going forward, though the Fraser River Salmon Table and partners are looking into alternatives
- Plans for a PICFI 2 are looking favourable but the Federal government is facing significant austerity measures and much remains to be worked out and time will tell if there can be any contributions from PICFI to this process going forward
- Meetings of this group will continue in the new fiscal year for the foreseeable future – D. Barrett and D. Moore will continue as volunteers until further notice for 2011/12 subject to developments with agency partners
- Ongoing discussions with the LFFA are leading to plans for a more formal relationship with this group
- Discussions are being initiated with FRAFS about the Salmon Table as a referral agency for Tier 3 in the watershed – perhaps with such an evolution this group will also evolve: expect much discussion over the next year about the future of this group and the Salmon Table
- Successes of the Salmon Table, and more specifically the progress of this group speak for themselves – consensus of the group that this process will continue in some way though specific projects must be completed and future work reduced accordingly until supporting budgets/resources can be secured
- Some reflection on focus of group illustrates a significant focus on activities and projects that are about relationship building to “get along in the fishery” – perhaps there is some indication from discussions at the Salmon Table and with FRAFS and DFO that the process may be increasingly involved in more fishery-related problem-solving matters (not allocation), though the direction of this group remains with the group and thus future activities will be at the behest of the participants
- Some meeting room credits remain with the Sumas Band and D. Moore will work out arrangements for all future meetings until further notice

Action:

- Meetings will continue to follow the monthly scheduled second Tuesday 2-5 PM at Sumas until further notice
- The Fraser River Salmon Table will develop both short and long-term plans for the organization, minutes and hospitality of the forum – professional services will be restricted somewhat after March 31 in the absence of funding
- The Fraser River Salmon Table will be working with partners to explore options

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. Murray Ned, Sumas Band (604) 309-7824
7. Kim Charlie, Sts'ailes (604) 796-2116
8. Open (sport fisher – nominated Leigh McCracken? To be confirmed)

*Expires March 31, 2013

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

Participants List and Contact Information

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Dave Moore, Fraser River Salmon Table Executive Director – Notes	(250) 372-9472	dmoore@dmfishdev.com
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Don Simpson, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance	(604) 852-4040 Ext. 24	Don.Simpson@sumasfirstnation.com
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Murray Ned, Sumas Band	(604) 852-4040	Murray.Ned@stolotribalouncil.ca
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Glenn Kostiuk, DFO C&P	(604)814-1055	Glenn.Kostiuk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Herb Redecopp, Lower Fraser Chief C&P	(604) 666-2807	Herb.Redecopp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Rod Wiebe, BCWF President	(250) 468-7686/c.240-7685	rwiebe6@shaw.ca
Doug Wilson	(604)702-5077/C. 991-0245	Dwilson@fvrd.bc.ca

Fish On!



BE INFORMED

Notices of salmon openings for sport and First Nation are posted and can be found on Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) website. However, changes to fishing plans can occur with very little warning – use the smart phone (QR) links for updated information.

Go to <http://web.scanlife.com/en> to enable your App now.

Sport Fishing



First Nations Fishing



EXERCISE CAUTION



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 moving boats.



Use River Manners



Respect 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 angling. Please respect the environment and all users of the salmon resource. Observe River Manners in our common pursuit of an orderly, safe and enjoyable Fraser River fishery.



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.