



## FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

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TO: Les Jantz, Acting Director, Interior Area, DFO, Kamloops  
Cc: Adrian Wall  
Terri Bonnet  
Jennifer Nener  
Jeff Grout  
Andrew Thomson  
Dana Bellis, FNFC  
Sonora Thompson, IMAWG

FROM: Neil Todd, Operations Manager

Re: communication from the attendees of the March 18-21 Forum in Kamloops

I have been asked to communicate the nature and outcome of the discussions in the First Nations-only sessions of last week's Forum, particularly those from the morning of the final day.

The attendees agreed that there was insufficient time during the Forum for First Nations to fully discuss among themselves the potential management issues for 2014 chinook, coho, and sockeye fisheries. Much information was provided by DFO, both through the JTWG as well as at the Forum itself, but there were still outstanding questions regarding a number of management issues that could not be addressed in the time available. For instance, no one was prepared to talk about how to maximize fishing opportunities in light of steelhead concerns. Further, it was strongly felt that the April 7 deadline for input to the IFMP could not realistically be met if DFO wants meaningful advice, recommendations, and positions (and hopefully some consensus) on at least some of the issues. An extension to that deadline is needed and it is hoped that the Department can accommodate this.

The attendees did commit to working with their technical support in their particular areas in order to examine the available information and attempt to formulate conservation and harvest plans as soon as possible. Following is an indication of the efforts being made to date:

- The Lower, Mid/Thompson and upper Fraser met by conference call March 25 regarding the three coho management options put forward by DFO. It will take some time to distill the information, assess what it means to sockeye, chum and coho management this year, then communicate with coastal First Nations on the issues.
- The LFFA met by conference call with DFO technical staff on March 26<sup>th</sup> to review how the IFR coho exploitation rate models can forecast Lower Fraser fisheries. While information exists to model impacts on IFR coho by sockeye fisheries, DFO has not yet provided information to show how chum fisheries may impact the IFR. Without full information, LFFA technical staff are very limited by the time frame to respond.
- Talks are underway for arranging direct communication between the Upper Fraser and the St'at'imx and some Bands in the Nlaka'pamux Nation.
- There are plans to arrange a conference call with as many Forum attendees as possible to review the results of technical work/discussions being carried out in the different areas. It will not be possible to arrange and hold this call until late next week at the earliest.

While some First Nations might be able to provide targeted input to the IFMP based on their own local circumstances by the April 7 deadline, the attempts to work out some collaborative and integrated plans (an objective of the Forum process) will need more time as noted above. Please let us know just how much more time after April 7 might be available for First Nations to carry out this work.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.