



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
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Pacific Region
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Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*
2014-BCI-FNFORUM-01

February 18, 2014

Mr. Ken Malloway
Chair of the Forum Planning Committee
on behalf of the January First Nations FORUM participants
PO Box 188
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

Dear Mr. Malloway:

Subject: Summary of key points from the FORUM on Conservation and Harvest Planning January 28 – 30, 2014, Richmond, BC

On behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) I would like to thank you for the feedback from yourself and the other attendees of the meeting held in Richmond, from January 28th through the 30th. I hope that the following responses adequately address your letter dated February 10, 2014.

1. Fraser Spring 4₂ and Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook 2014

The department recognizes the steps the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) has gone through in an attempt to resolve the outstanding work on the technical discussion related to the total mortality distribution changes to Nicola River and Dome Creek Chinook. The department is currently working on providing science support to the JTWG to resolve this issue.

Regarding your second point, the Department has not made a decision at this time as to which management Zone will be identified for the management of Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook in the Draft 2014/15 South Coast Salmon IFMP. Information will be provided in future meetings providing the rationale for which Zone is chosen.

2. Sockeye 2014

Work on the Fraser River Salmon Spawning Initiative (FRSSI) model is ongoing. The chair of the Fraser Panel technical committee will be at the February forum meeting to discuss progress to date, including the issues you outline in your letter. More specifically and to demonstrate the importance of the issue, the Department has also recently secured funding and planning is underway in partnership with FRAFS to deliver Tier 3 workshop on March 17 (Richmond) and Tier 2 during the March 19 to 20 Forum meeting (Kamloops).

The Forum Planning Committee completed the agenda for February's meeting and it has been distributed. The department will consider the request for a presentation on the results of the CU status paper at an upcoming Forum. Although no formal presentation has been delivered to First Nations, the department will be considering the results of this paper while developing management plans for Fraser sockeye.

The Department agrees that the management adjustment (MA) was a significant issue constraining fisheries in 2013 and may also be a factor in 2014. Time on the February Forum agenda has been allocated to discuss this issue. It is important to all interests to have a thorough understanding of why an MA exists, how it is established, how it is implemented, and how it impacts fisheries.

Further discussion on the Use of Fish Policy will be provided to the Forum as new information is available to share, including the guidelines that are referred to in the policy and were referenced by yourself during the January meeting.

The Late Run and Cultus sockeye management approach for 2014 has not been finalized at this time. Information on the possible approaches will be provided when it becomes available.

3. Interior Fraser Coho

The Department appreciates that the management approach for Interior Fraser Coho (IFC) has constrained First Nations FSC and commercial fisheries and has also had significant impact on the conduct of the non-native commercial and recreational fisheries since 1998.

It is my understanding that there has been some review of the analytic assessment tools used to estimate Interior Fraser Coho (IFC) impacts with the JTWG in the past, however we realize that there are a number of areas where the JTWG is looking for clarity (i.e. with respect to assumptions in the models).

As you indicated there is a CSAS document on the assessment of the IFC management unit that will provide some useful information in determining the current status of IFC and the risks associated with increased impacts on these CU's. The department is currently exploring possible scenarios for increased impacts on IFC for 2014 which will assist in future discussions with First Nations on potential fishing opportunities. This work is ongoing and will be shared once the options are more fully developed.

4. General Comments

Regarding your request to have Jeff Grout from DFO attend the February Forum, unfortunately, Mr. Grout is not available during those dates. DFO strives to have participants from the South Coast, Lower Fraser and BC Interior areas, as well as key Regional staff that are well informed on the management of salmon fisheries. With sufficient notice, we strive to have appropriate subject matter experts at all Forum sessions.

With respect to your desire to have the FN vacancy on the Joint Chinook Technical Committee of the PSC I would suggest the names of potential candidates be provide to Heather Wood of the Policy branch in DFO.

I would like to thank you and all participants from the January Forum meeting in Richmond . Your input and contributions through this process are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Lester Jantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "A. Lester" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Jantz".

A. Lester Jantz
Acting Area Director
BC Interior, Pacific Region

cc. Sue Farlinger, Regional Director General, Adrian Wall – Aboriginal Affairs Advisor BCI, Jennifer Nener – Chair, Fraser Panel. Jeff Grout – Regional Salmon Manager

