



Fraser Salmon Roadmap Initiative

FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

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To: Fraser Watershed and Vancouver Island and Marine Approach First Nations
Attention Chiefs and Council members

RE: **Invitation to the Upcoming Fraser River Salmon Roadmap Workshop
October 12-13, 2011 – Quaaout Lodge, Chase BC**

This is an invitation to participate in the upcoming Fraser River Salmon Roadmap (“Roadmap”) workshop on October 12-13, 2011 in Chase, BC. This session follows a successful series of workshops in 2010-11, including the most recent session in Campbell River in June 2011.

Both First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) have identified moving toward fisheries co-management (or joint management) as a key priority in reconciling the roles of DFO and Fraser First Nations in addressing Section 35-1 rights and current case law in fisheries management. In that context, the Roadmap initiative is aimed at building an innovative co-management structure, process, and agreement between DFO and First Nations from the Fraser River Watershed, Vancouver Island, and Marine Approach areas, related to Fraser salmon. It is not intended to define or limit aboriginal rights or alter the existing aboriginal or federal authoritative structures.

Building on previous discussions through the Roadmap, Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning, and other forums, there is a unique opportunity between now and March 2012 (and beyond) for First Nations and DFO to work together in building a more collaborative management approach for Fraser salmon that better meets the needs and objectives of both First Nations and DFO.

The Roadmap is a participant-driven process that requires active participation, leadership, and direction from First Nations in order to be successful. As such, First Nations and DFO, through the Fraser Salmon Roadmap Planning Group, strongly encourage First Nations leaders and fisheries advisors to engage in this collaborative process (either directly or through a delegated representative) to contribute to building an innovative partnership between DFO and First Nations.

At the Campbell River workshop in June, participants supported the development of a Letter of Understanding (LOU) between First Nations and DFO as a preliminary step toward building a joint management arrangement for Fraser River salmon. The Chase workshop will focus mainly on the development of this LOU. Participants will be asked to help define the elements to be included in the LOU, as well as the principles and next steps that will guide First Nations and DFO as we move forward on management discussions. A draft agenda and a draft outline of the LOU will also be provided to Roadmap participants.

The Roadmap initiative is coordinated by the Fraser Salmon Roadmap Planning Group (FSRPG) which consists of appointed members and alternates from the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS), the Island and Marine Aquatic Working Group (IMAWG), the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC), and DFO.

If you have any questions regarding the Roadmap initiative or the upcoming session, please contact the FRAFS Communications Coordinator, Aimee Arseneault, at info@frafs.ca or by phone at 604-836-1909.

We look forward to your participation at the upcoming session in Chase.

Sincerely,
The Fraser Salmon Roadmap Planning Group