

PREAMBLE

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:

Established in 2009, the Fraser Salmon Roadmap Initiative is aimed at building a joint management arrangement related to Fraser salmon between Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and First Nations from the Fraser River Watershed and Marine Approach areas. Increasing First Nations' involvement in fisheries management decision making processes has been identified as a priority for both First Nations and DFO. It is hoped that the Roadmap discussions will lead to a process that will define the shape, scope, and depth of such an arrangement.

- Description of fundamental co-management challenges, including risks and how to address associated concerns
- Description of key objectives for the process
- Benefits of signing on to the LOU

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – DRAFT OUTLINE

BETWEEN:

Fraser and marine approach area First Nations; and

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

(Collectively referred to as “the Parties”)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this LOU is to confirm the commitment of the Parties to engage in a series of discussions and negotiations focused on working toward an arrangement for the joint management of Fraser River salmon (commonly referred to as “the Roadmap initiative”).

SCOPE:

This LOU and subsequent discussions are focused on the conservation and management of salmon originating in the Fraser River (including tributaries) and migrating through the marine and approach waters.

The scope of issues relevant to fisheries management for the purposes of these discussions may include, but is not limited to:

- Capacity building; science and research; data collection; management and analysis; policy; habitat; test fisheries; program development and renewal; fisheries planning; monitoring and enforcement; recovery planning; and roles and responsibilities.

PARTIES ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Sec 35(1) aboriginal title and rights
- Ministerial authority
- This LOU without prejudice
- Need for effective salmon management to ensure sustainability, healthy ecosystems, etc.
- Other?

PRINCIPLES:

The discussions between the Parties will be guided by the following principles:

- List principles as determined by Roadmap participants (e.g. inclusiveness, incremental approach, transparency, accountability, etc.)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Funding and resource commitments (DFO and First Nations)
- Mandates of each party to engage in discussions (and negotiations)
- Commitments to establish process timelines/schedules
- Transparent review and ratification process acceptable to constituents of each Party

COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE:

- List signatories (community level)
- Include an endorsement section for larger organizations to sign on to the LOU to demonstrate their support for joint management of Fraser River salmon (e.g. watershed aggregate groups, FNFC, etc.)

TIMELINE:

- To finalize the LOU?
- To begin negotiations?