



FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

c/o Nicola Tribal Association
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FRAFS EC, Jun 20, 2017 **In-Person, Merritt (FRAFS)** **9:30am – 3:00pm**

Meeting Notes

1. Roll call, review, adjust, and accept the agenda
2. Old business:
 - Notes from the previous meeting (Neil)
 - Action items from the previous meeting (Neil)
3. Finance Report and update (Neil/Greg)
4. DFO Consultation (Adrian)
 - Cuts to SEP Resource Restoration Unit and Stream to Sea Education Program
 - 2nd Round of Engagement on changes to the Fisheries Act
 - 2018 Forum dates update
 - 2016/17 FRAFS final report feedback
 - Area 29 Consultation
5. FRAFS EC Communications Manager hiring plan
6. Thompson River Steelhead planning update (Pat)
7. Chinook 5 Year Review (Mike/Pat)
 - a) Sockeye Conservation Units review status (Mike)
8. Confirm Next FRAFS EC Meeting Date

1. Roll call, review, adjust, and accept the agenda

Ernie Victor, Pat Matthew, Thomas Alexis, Ken Malloway (Chair), Adrian Wall, Greg Witzky, Neil Todd, Aidan Neill, Pete Nicklin, and Mike Staley. Ernie Crey on conference call until lunch break at 12 pm.

2. Old business:

a) Notes from previous meeting: Draft sent to Neil Todd June 30.

b) Action items from previous May 15 meeting:

- *Ken:* Concerned over aggregates and the Birkenhead fishery. Terminal fisheries are impacting the aggregates.
- *Pat:* FRISI comments that process is on-going even though mid-Fraser is not involved anymore. Should be more involvement with extended working group because FRAFS played a role in the past.
- **ACTION** EC to follow up with a letter to DFO requesting accountability of FRSSI working group (Jennifer Neener).
- *Ernie:* Wants past FRSSI correspondence brought forth to help write letter. **ACTION** Greg/Neil/Pat/Adrian to research past Forum notes.
- Note: See action items next steps summary at the end of this document.

3. Finance Report and Update: (Neil/Greg)

- *Neil:* Noted that it is best to focus on the % column of his finance report in order to more readily explain it to the group. Greg **ACTION** will match coding of all 3 FRAFS biologists to their workplans. NTA is not strapped for money yet but any serious delays could be an issue.
- *Ernie:* It's crucial that the FSMC doesn't get put on hold or it might disappear.
- *Pat:* Who is liable FRAFS or NTA? What happens if FSMC doesn't get funding expected?
- *Neil:* Responded stating that NTA carries FRAFS for up to 3 months.
- *Neil:* Noted that senior DFO officials are very impressed with FSMC. DFO tried for years to organize FSMC but it took First Nations to actually do it. INAC can bring expertise to help negotiate agreements. Their role is to support both sides.
- *Adrian:* Doesn't see any liability issues to NTA. There lots of checks and balances to mitigate risk to FRAFS. If FSMC gets on its own feet what will happen to FRAFS? Will it blend into FSMC? What will coordination of the effort look like? DFO has stated in the past and continues to advice that if FSMC negotiations are successful, the AAROM funding would be moved to FSMC from FRAFS, based on workplan (i.e. no AAROM funds for both a FRAFS agreement and a FSMC agreement. The AAROM agreement is a grants and contribution agreement. First a workplan gets developed then NTA and DFO sign off on it.
- *Ernie:* Recommends that the FRAFS Finance Committee takes on the task from here.
- *Adrian:* What does the EC want from the Finance Committee?

- *Neil:* Greg **ACTION** will need the Finance Committee to help guide his budgeting process.
- *Adrian:* It's good to involve Arlene Johnston (NTA) in a meeting with FRAFS at least once per year.
- **Motion** by *Pat* to accept the Finance Report. **2nd** by *Ernie*.
Motion carried.

4) DFO Consultation: (Adrian W)

a) Cuts to SEP

- Minister announced cuts are retracted.

b) 2nd Round of changes to the Fisheries Act

- Notice of upcoming sessions sent out already.

c) 2018 Forum dates

- June 29th an upcoming meeting with Jeff and Raquel to confirm the dates.
- Tentative dates are January 23-25, 2018 (Richmond), February 27-March 1 (Nanaimo), and April 3-5 (Kamloops).
- The JTWG will meet each Monday the day before the Forum.
- **ACTION** Adrian to confirm the dates at the July EC meeting and EC to finalize locations.

d) Final 2016-17 Schedule 7 and written report was excellent and it's a good template for Greg to utilize.

- FN caucus did a really good job.

e) Area 29 Consultation:

- *Adrian:* Not involved with this. Less involvement required by the Kamloops DFO AAA. Dean Allen and Matthew Parslow are engaged in this work
- *Ernie:* Area 29 happened last year due to concerns around troll and sport fishery.
- *Pat:* FRAFS involvement was administrative only. It's not a DFO high priority. DFO set the consultation role last year.
- *Ken:* Area 29 will be an issue again in 2018.
- *Adrian:* It's not just an area 29 issue anymore when it comes to access. First Nation's in the mid and upper Fraser have participated in a watershed wide meeting on this issue in 2015 and 2016.
- *Pat:* DFO's response to this issue is not very good. Tier 1 is worthwhile.
- *Pete:* What are DFO's specific objectives?
- *Ernie:* Tier 1 is useful to create awareness and inform fishers.
- *Thomas:* Area 29 impacted FN should meet with Vancouver Island FN because it's an access issue.
- *Ken:* Since the 1980's marine area catch numbers have increased from 60,000 to 300,000 sockeye by the Island fishers. Musqueam won't even attend Area 29 meeting due to advice from legal counsel.
- *Adrian:* In early July, a letter to First Nations in the South Coast and Fraser and the Interior Areas, from DFO will be provided to update on the status of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) review of area change requests on DFO's FSC Fisheries Management Approaches related to the Lower Fraser River, and to request feedback to help inform the Department's decisions for 2017.
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- *Ernie:* Believes DFO has files regarding title & rights access to Area 29. Need transparency around the push for access to Area 29.

- *Ken:* Folks want a bigger and bigger share of a decreasing pie.
- *Pat:* Are there any management implications?
- *Neil:* Lita Gomez had difficulty with administering the last two Area 29 meetings/consultations. Not sure if it should be a role of FRAFS.

5. FRAFS Communication Manager hiring plan: (Neil/Greg)

- **ACTION** Aimee Arsenault (FSMC) will assist Neil and Greg with distributing the job posting.
- **ACTION** Greg and Neil to amend and send job posting to hiring committee for review.
- **ACTION** Aimee to insure that a summary posting goes out with a link to the detailed posting.

6. Thompson River Steelhead planning update: (Pat)

- Working group is involving forest companies to assist with water retention and stewardship habitat protection plans. Addressing water temperatures and flow. Deadman, Bonaparte, and Nicola systems to address critical flow issues. A key concern is how Steelhead bycatch is managed in down river and marine salmon fisheries. The working group has developed a 3 –year action plan.
- Asked if the JTWG can help develop ToR regarding a review of the science and management of Steelhead bycatch. Identifying scoping exercises.
- Can FRAFS provide any funding to support this process?
- *Ken:* A lot of Steelhead encounters on Sto'lo nets are already spawned out. Willing to share this encounter data.
- *Pat:* Lita Gomez tried to ear mark (\$32,000) funding for Steelhead work. The money might have been bridge funding for FSMC.
- *Aidan:* The JTWG is already over prescribed with work.
- *Pete N:* JTWG could possible participate in a technical workshop to explore models at higher levels with the likes of Rob Bison and DFO reps.
- *Pat:* Looking to do similar work that was done in the 5-year Chinook review. The IFMP clearly identifies the role of DFO and the Province surrounding Steelhead.
- *Pete:* Recommends a FRAFS biologist could add this task to their workplan for 5-7 days.
- *Ken:* There needs to be DNA work done on Steelhead in the lower river.
- *Neil:* FSMC is committed to paying back \$32,000 to FRAFS.
- *Pete:* Does the Province and DFO even have the time to work with FRAFS on this?
- *Pat:* We need to lobby Mike Burwash from the Province for support.
- *Adrian:* **ACTION** Greg and I can look at reprofiling funds, rather than amending the agreement, to support this task thru the JTWG. Can move some money from the Communications Coordinator budget.
- *Pete:* Dave Levy could be brought in as a consultant to do the work. Make a presentation at a Forum.
- *Adrian:* Prefer that a FRAFS biologist takes the task on.
- *Ernie:* Generally supports the plan because it fits into the FRAFS vision.
- *Mike:* Could commit to this task in mid-July but more effort than 5-7 days will be needed.
- *Pat:* A bit confused on where to go from here. IFMP mentions mid- Fraser Steelhead but not lower Fraser, so how can this be relevant to the entire Fraser?

- *Ernie:* Leary of the perception about supporting ranchers and watershed roundtable groups over the lower Fraser FN fishers. Maybe the Finance Committee can brainstorm outside the box how to support this. Doesn't think FRAFS has the time, funding, or commitment to do this right now.
- *Ken:* Need to propose to the LFFA that a Steelhead scientific baseline be developed. There was some concern about a December 2nd, 2016 workshop in Kamloops that discussed lower Fraser fisheries. **ACTION** he will try to get Rob Bison to attend a meeting with the LFFA.
- *Adrian:* Proposed the FRAFS could possibly provide a small amount of funding to look at this at another EC meeting, because discussion is at a standstill now.
- *Neil:* The Province and DFO first need to commit before this comes back to the FRAFS EC table.
- *Pat:* Will be seeing Burwash at the working group meeting later this week: will raise the issue there, **ACTION** ask Burwash to commit Rob Bison to seriously engaging with the JTWG.
- **ACTION** Greg to summarize action items for EC.

7) Chinook 5 Year Review: (Mike)

- The working group is looking at DNA biological status. Also, he did a WSP update.
- The pace was a little slow but now Diana (DFO) is on it full time.
- There is issue about the letter being folded in as consultation.
- *Pete:* Working on the biological information. At some point the 5-year review will be brought to the EC for decisions
- *Aidan:* Participation can be expanded.

a) Fraser Sockeye CU Status Review:

- COSEWIC meets in November for their review of the Designatable Units (DU), which are basically the same as Conservation Unit (CU).
- Waiting for the scientific advice report (SAR).
- Update on the change in CU status. Results can be found online.
- *Pat:* Big issue that the late Shuswap being labeled amber-green when only 12 sockeye were observed in 2015 and 40 in 2016. Doesn't see WSP implementation plan working at all because some stocks labelled red have no rehabilitation plan.

8) Next Meeting: July 17, 2017 in Kamloops (SFC) from 9:30 am – 3 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Timeframe/Other</u>
EC send letter to DFO requesting accountability of FRSSI working group			
Research past Forum notes for FRSSI correspondence	Greg/Neil/Pat/Adrian	WIP	
Match 3 biologists coding to their workplans	Greg	WIP	
Hold a Finance Committee meeting in Kamloops	Greg		
Confirm 2018 Forum dates	Adrian	WIP	July 17 EC meeting
Assist with job posting	Aimee	Done	June 23
Amend job posting	Greg/Neil	Done	June 23
Summary of job posting	Aimee	Done	
Ask Burwash to commit Rob Bison to seriously engaging with JTWG	Pat		
Reprofile funds for Steelhead planning	Greg/Adrian		
Ask Rob Bison to attend LFFA meeting	Ken		
Summarize action items for EC	Greg	Done	June 30