



SUMMARY NOTES: FSMC /DFO January 20, 2017 negotiating meeting

The third negotiating meeting between the FSMC and DFO took place at DFO Regional Headquarters, 401 Burrard St., on January 20, 2017. Present were:

FSMC: Brenda Gaertner (Lead Negotiator), Victor Isaac, Dominic Hope, Tina Donald, and Thomas Alexis; and Neil Todd (FSMC support).

DFO: Angela Bate (Lead Negotiator), Matthew Parslow, Ashley Dobko, and Chad Rudiak, Regrets from Kent Spencer, DFO South Coast.

MEETING GOAL/PURPOSE:

1. Address priority issues as per the November 24, 2016 meeting.
2. Continue work on Concept Papers – particularly Concept Paper #1 re Collaborative Management.

Concept Paper #1: Collaborative Management

Chapters 2 (Lessons Learned) and 3 (Best Practices)

DFO presented a comprehensive 46 page overview of a large number of organizations and processes that covered a range of co-management or collaborative management arrangements. They included many that provided direct engagement between the Department and First Nations, as well as “external” processes such as the Pacific Salmon Commission and BC Treaty co-management arrangements. DFO’s paper also highlighted “best practices” (strengths and weaknesses of co-management approaches) as well as “areas for further study”. Some general themes (lessons learned) emerged from the study: for processes to work they need a clear vision and appropriate linkages/networks; it takes time to build cooperative relationships that have trust and respect; many of the current processes have been building over the last 20 years and are characterized by effective relationships that are functioning at local and technical levels.

Chapters 4 (Common Issues/Scales) and 5 (Proposed Governance Structures w/roles and responsibilities)

FSMC’s paper presented a succinct description of FSMC’s approach to a new collaborative decision-making arrangement:

- Common Issues (to all FNs in the FSMC)/Scales: the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan process; the Pacific Salmon Treaty including improved representation on the Fraser River Panel as well as a FN/DFO decision making process within the PSC processes; stock assessment and research; finalization of recreational and commercial fishery openings accessing Fraser Salmon directly or by-catch; and development of appropriate Tier 3 processes.
- Proposed Governance Structure: would feature a joint Executive Committee of two people (e.g. the Minister and the FSMC President, or their authorized appointees); a joint Steering Committee responsible for collaborative decisions and recommendations; a joint technical committee; and a secretariat. Roles and responsibilities for each component were outlined.



Concept Paper #2: Issues and challenges re FSC

This is still a work in progress by the FSMC and a draft will be prepared in time for the next bi-lateral meeting in February.