

# Watershed Talk

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for fisheries representatives and their organizations

## FRASER SALMON ROADMAP UPDATE

By Ken Malloway, FRAFS Executive Committee Chair

In January 2008 DFO and First Nations in the Fraser watershed and marine approach areas initiated a process to address Fraser salmon stock conservation issues. This process is now referred to as the Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon. From these Conservation and Harvest Planning Forums came a desire from participating First Nations and DFO to explore options for a more comprehensive arrangement for the management and protection of Fraser salmon. A broader based initiative took hold, which is currently labelled the Fraser Salmon Roadmap process. The purpose of this "Roadmap" process is to explore options for a co-management arrangement with DFO and First Nations.

The Roadmap process has been referred to as the road to watershed co-management. Some have expressed concern with the "co-management" terminology, as First Nations have expressed the desire to jointly manage the fisheries resources. This will be sorted out along the way. There was a Fraser Watershed Agreement (associated with the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy) in 1993 that expired March 31, 1999. That agreement was not renewed due to concerns from many First Nations.

DFO and First Nations organizations are working together to develop a means for a mutually agreeable arrangement for the management of Fraser salmon stocks. DFO has indicated a willingness to develop, negotiate, and sign a Collaborative Management Agreement with the watershed and approach First Nations.

The FRAFS Executive Committee provides support services for the Roadmap process. In 2010, the FRAFS EC supported development of the Fraser Salmon Roadmap Planning Group (FSRPG) as a means to provide more focussed efforts to move this process forward. The FRAFS EC and FSRPG decided to seek assistance from those who specialize in this area. A call for proposals for a process facilitator/team was initiated in January 2011. Proposals were reviewed and rated by the FSRPG. Delaney and Associates were rated the highest, subsequently interviewed, and asked to modify their proposal to meet the specific needs of the Roadmap process. Delaney and Associates will be working with the FSRPG and will be facilitating the Roadmap meetings starting in March 2011 through to the end of March, 2012.

Delaney and Associates (Richard Delaney, Bergen Amren, and Donald Golob) have been assisting government, industry and First Nations for the last fifteen years with excellent results. They specialize in multi-party engagements in natural resources management and planning. They are nationally recognized as expert consultants and trainers in the area of public and Aboriginal engagement. They are a neutral third party, committed to developing an open, transparent, and accountable engagement processes. They have agreed to add Marcel Shepert to their team, and will provide him with relevant training and utilize his skills and extensive experience. Marcel has been active in the Watershed for many years, and has served as the FRAFS EC Chair, Facilitator to various watershed processes, UFFCA Rep, Fraser Panel Member, Salmon Table Director, IHPC member, and as one of the authors of "Our Place At The Table". This is only a partial list. Marcel knows the issues and the players and is, we feel, a vital part of the process. We are confident that the Roadmap process and those who participate will benefit from these recent developments.

## MEETING NOTICES

March 21 & 22, 2011 (Prince George)

FRASER SALMON ROADMAP

**Location:**

PRINCE GEORGE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE  
1600 Third Ave, Prince George, BC

**Hotels in Prince George:**

Best Western City Centre, 910 Victoria Street - (250) 563-1267  
Coast Inn of the North, 770 Brunswick Street - (250) 563-0121  
Ramada Hotel Prince George, 444 George Street - (250) 563-0055  
Travelodge PG Goldcap BC, 1458 7th Avenue - 1-800-578-7878

March 28, 2011 (Nanaimo)

FRASER WATERSHED JOINT TECHNICAL FORUM

March 29 & 30, 2011 (Nanaimo)

FORUM ON CONSERVATION AND HARVEST  
PLANNING FOR FRASER SALMON

Location: Best Western Dorchester Hotel  
70 Church Street, Nanaimo, BC

**Accommodations:** A block of rooms has been reserved at the Dorchester Hotel at a rate of \$99 (single) or \$109 (double) per night + taxes. To reserve a room, please call the Dorchester Hotel directly and ask for a room for the Fraser Salmon Roadmap. Rooms will be reserved at this special rate until March 11 only, so please book as soon as possible by calling (250) 754-6835.

**If you plan to attend these meetings, please RSVP to Aimee Arsenault, FRAFS Communications Coordinator, by emailing [info@frafs.ca](mailto:info@frafs.ca) or by calling 604-836-1909.**

**The Watershed Talk is also available for download at [www.frafs.ca](http://www.frafs.ca)**

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## Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon - Update

A Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon meeting was held on February 22 & 23, 2011 at the Executive Airport Plaza in Richmond, BC. The meeting was focused primarily on Chinook. Minutes from this meeting will be posted to the FRAFS website in the next couple of weeks.

During the Tier 1 portion of the meeting, the First Nations participants agreed to deliver the following messages to DFO:

### Recommendations on sport fishery closures:

- WCVI: Conduct DNA sampling on troll fishery
- Area 20 Juan de Fuca to the mouth of the Fraser River: Closed to sport fishery February 1 to July 10, 2011
- Mouth of Fraser River to Sawmill Creek: Closed to sport fishery March 1 to July 31, 2011
- Sawmill Creek to Lytton: Closed to sport fishery March 1 to August 15, 2011
- Lytton Confluence to Nicola River mouth: Closed to sport fishery March 1 to August 20, 2011
- Request for information on Area G Troll - catch composition, DNA, and CWT.

### First Nations Fisheries:

- First Nations are not ready to present recommendations or an official position on First Nations Chinook fisheries, as we are still discussing that internally. Interior groups have been invited to participate in the next Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance meeting in March to further discuss this. Also waiting for tag recovery information, which should be sorted out in April.

### Letter from RDG:

- First Nations Forum participants will be responding to the letter from DFO RDG Sue Farlinger, dated February 22, 2011, in the next week.

### Qualark:

- First Nations have an interest in using Qualark as an in-season management tool, but would like more technical information about this program.

### Next Forum meeting (March 29 & 30, Nanaimo):

- First Nations would like DFO to attend for a half day. The timing can be discussed at the forum planning committee.
- Presentation about FRSSI, and how it will be used this year.
- Presentation on the South Coast Chinook Management Framework discussion paper.
- Results of Georgia Chinook measures.

### Technical process:

- There's a lot of learning going on about the structure of the Forum and other processes. As the technical process becomes more active, we want to work out how this group will interface with the Forum. There could be structural changes coming in the future.

### Secwepemc expresses gratitude for Chinook salmon conservation efforts

At the Forum meeting, representatives from the Secwepemc territory (Pat Matthew of the Secwepemc Fisheries Commission, Johnny Pierro of the Bonaparte Band, and Tom Hewitt of the Skeechestn Band) took the time to say "Thank you" to the First Nations groups who fish below them in the Fraser River and approach areas. Due to conservation concerns for Chinook salmon, the Secwepemc had asked these groups to help them conserve the species that return to Secwepemc territory to spawn. Gifts were presented to the marine approach First Nations (accepted on their behalf by Greg Wadhams), the Lower Fraser (accepted on their behalf by Ken Malloway), and to the Nlaka'pamux (accepted on their behalf by Don Sam and Tracy Sampson). Johnny Pierro also performed an honor song.

