



FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

c/o Nicola Tribal Association
 PO Box 188 • Merritt, BC • V1K 1B8
 Tel: 250-378-4235 • Fax: 250-378-9119
www.frafs.ca

First Nation Caucus of the FRAFS Executive Committee Meeting with the Regional Director-General of the DFO – Minutes

Date	Time	Location
September 20, 2017	900-1200	Office of the DFO, 401 Burrard, Street, Vancouver BC
Teleconference Details	Goto	
	Dial in	1-877-413-4781 code 7698410 #

Attendees: Kenneth Malloway (Independent Chair); Mike Staley (Bio); Matthew Parslow (DFO AAA); Adrian Wall (DFO AAA); Aidan Neill (Bio); Pat Matthew (SFC Community Engagement), Ernie Victor, Greg Witzky (FRAFS Operation Manager); Allison James (FRAFS Communications Coordinator); Thomas Alexis; Angela Bate, Jeff Grout, Andy Thomson, Jennifer Nener, Sarah Murdoch, Ken Smith

Regrets: Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Opening	AT: Changes within fisheries management
Comments	KM: Fishing season was poor
2. Review of Agenda (All)	What topic(s) or concern(s) would the Regional Director General like to bring to the attention of the First Nations caucus of the FRAFS EC?
3. Pacific Salmon Treaty – (DFO)	<p>PST renegotiations update:</p> <p>AT: Chapter 5 Coho: Changing management units (from 4 units to 3) for Coho – management units are now Interior Fraser Coho, Lower Fraser Coho and Strait of Georgia Coho (merging SOG Coho and Vancouver Island Coho). No changes to Coho allocations.</p> <p>Chum Chapter 6 will remain the same, however the US wants to make some changes – a USA increase in allocations at high run size, Canada get greater allocation at lower run sizes. There is no agreement on these proposals – negotiations referred back to Pacific Salmon Commission – then back to technical group to do Common Model Result – then back to PSC. Negotiations run next week.</p> <p>JG: CSAS meeting this week and lack of data in the Lower Fraser is going to present a management challenge.</p>
4. Chinook (KM)	<p>KM: asks about scope, funding and pilot implementation of strategic plan.</p> <p>JG: Funding for SBC CSPI has come from PICFI before; the current year has similar funding so the work plan is similar: it includes technical support but hopes to rely on the Planning Committee, and DFO budget to cover some travel costs.</p> <p>JG: Chinook Management Review (ToR)</p>

- 5-year technical review with updated ToR has been circulated, most work will be done by end December, Oct 4 technical team will meet to do analysis, the project results will inform 2018 fishery

- Diana Dobson(DFO) is leading, Pete Nicklin, Aiden Fisher, Mike Staley, Elinor McGrath from FRAFS Technical group involved

- The task is a technical review and inventory of available data on catch, run reconstruction, methodology to expand reconstruction from Fraser to ocean

MS: the analysis will determine how strategies from 2012 will be adjusted based on what actually happened. Did we meet objectives to reduce by ER by 50%? was the mortality distribution different than what DFO planned. Mike suggests aligning management regime in line with original objectives

Technical requests: Has the commitment to locate DNA data been pulled together; How will FN be involved in its planning?

PM: How will these results from the review be communicated to the First Nation communities? Will there be a CSAS review?

JG: Potentially a discussion document, which was used last time. The technical committee has been asked to review how the 2012 objectives have been met. DNA data will be included as part of the review. A key issue will be distribution of mortality.

PM: How are the reductions being distributed? They were supposed to be according to the Sparrow Decision. JG responds, that is being looked at by the review committee.

5. Steelhead (PM, KM)

PM: We still have the Thompson Steelhead Working Group – Ashley Dobko (DFO), Provincial (Rob Purdy, Mike Burwash, Rob Bison) and First Nations (Pat Matthew, Cooks Ferry Band Chief David Walkem) representation. Documents are housed on the Fraser Basin Website. The Working Group has developed a draft Thompson steelhead recovery plan based on 4 planning areas – Thompson tributaries, Thompson to mouth of the Fraser, near shore marine areas, and off shore areas. Impacts and potential recovery opportunities for steelhead for each of the areas is identified. The working group is working to get forest companies to protect steelhead in their forest operations and stewardship plans. Marine survival and bycatch mortality during harvesting are the two main factors for conservation. Chum fisheries impact through bycatch. This past spring has been the worst recorded return of steelhead to the Thompson and Chilcotin systems. Funding is sporadic. Currently Thompson Steelhead Working Group has about \$15,000 designated to facilitate a review of fisheries harvest are managed including impacts, by commercial and First Nation fisheries, particularly the exposure model used by DFO to manage commercial chum fisheries.

AT wants to know if our organizations have met with the new Provincial Government.

KM: Fisheries demonstration this year and Steelhead rec fisheries were open this year (for catch and release) when FN closed fisheries to conserve.

AT says there is a communication piece between the DFO and the Province that is missing.

JN: She will follow up on the Rec Fishing with Province. Her comments on the

Action: Jennifer will follow up on the Rec fishing with the Province on catch and release fishery in the lower Fraser

fisheries models in place are that the Province and DFO are not aligned. There is a “Box-car model” (Mike Hawkshaw) being used right now with opportunity for input and changes.

Area E chum have reduced fishing to 2-day fisheries – steelhead migration timing is an issue

JG: Final consultations on the IFMP revealed the DFO and Province are not on the same page. Commercial fishing patterns have been recorded for a number of years. Information sharing occurs. Steelhead data is limited so models need to accommodate that. The model should be able to identify if commercial fishing pressure has increased from year to year. DFO and the Province have a steelhead sub committee

Action: (Jeff) DFO will update First Nations on model development through the FRAFS Joint Technical Working Group – FN co-chair is Aiden Fisher

JG Action: DFO will consult with FN on the model developed/review and he asked PM about the appropriate way to do that.

JN: the timing right now is bad but should be underway once the Chum season is over. The exposure model will be shared with First Nations in the New Year. JG adds that the Province is amicable and a draft table has been developed to identify differences.

Action: AT says he will make sure that Steelhead is on the agenda at the next meeting between the RDG and the ADM’s.

Action: Andy will talk to Rebecca Reid who will talk to Province about how to get to a three-party meeting (DFO, Province and First Nations on Interior Fraser Steelhead management.

6. Working Group of Ministers on the Review of Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples (KM)	Has the DOJ and DFO Ministers decided if they will honor FN request to meet with them? SM/JN: since it has gone through the Privy Council Office (PCO), local offices are unaware of the correspondence. KM: an opportunity to present the State of Law as a result of the Sparrow Decision to the Ministerial Committee??
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7. FSMC / DFO (TA)	<p>Thomas read the Briefing Note about the FSMC Negotiations</p> <p>AB: that there are some internal challenges but she will be communicating with Brenda (FSMC Lawyer) to work things out.</p> <p>Cindy Wong is the DFO contact managing all PICFI collaborative management funding, including FSMC</p>
8. Canada's Oceans Protection Plan (AW)	<p>Ken Smith provides general OPP update and information on specific planned fall engagement sessions. DFO-CCG involved in 41 of 57 sub-initiatives of the OPP which includes all three coasts (DFO only 13). DFO Pacific has small 2-person secretariat to support co-ordination, reporting etc. Transport Canada has lead role and coordinates across ministries. Coast Guard has a significant role too. The first significant component of engagement starts this fall and includes First Nations specific sessions (Oct. 30 and Nov 1st for South Coast Nations and Nov 15th for North / Central Coast Nations). There will also be broader public / stakeholder dialogue forums in Vancouver and Prince Rupert. These are introductory sessions and the intention is to have more detailed follow-up sessions on specific initiatives / groups of initiatives afterwards. Invite letters will be out soon.</p> <p>EV brings up other species in the Fraser Estuary that have minimal baseline data that should be available to inform this high-level Oceans Protection Plan.</p> <p>KS says the OPP intends to collect baseline environmental information in Port of Vancouver and Port of Prince Rupert areas and he isn't sure if said estuary is in the focus area. Specific project leads can come back to future meetings to discuss details.</p> <p>AW recommends FRAFS involvement in the upcoming session to gain a better understanding of OPP and provide input on how the program is rolled out.</p> <p>PM wants to know who is getting letters to attend – Ken responds he will confirm but distribution is intended to be broad. PM clarifies that OPP covers marine species not fresh water species..</p>
9. Sockeye (PM, DFO)	<p>FN would like to see additional terminal harvest opportunities – discuss policy, LAER and PST renegotiations implications.</p> <p>PM: in 2017 some Fraser FN's (lower and mid Fraser) made proposals to DFO to harvest several of the stronger stocks in terminal areas. DFO's denied the proposals in the lower Fraser and responded harvests are managed by timing aggregates and that the ESSR policy is the means to harvest in terminal areas. Currently, there is no policy to harvest by stock in terminal areas, the current policy is to harvest based on Aggregates. What is the process to propose policy changes? What is the venue or process for Fraser First Nations to provide input to or make proposals to DFO related desegregating the current Fraser sockeye aggregate management approach?</p>

JN: managing harvests by stocks is feasible and do-able, in 2017 no TAC available - no directed fisheries on Fraser sockeye.

The proposed terminal fisheries in the lower Fraser didn't count against the aggregate harvest for the lower Fraser First Nations. It is an aggregate management question, DFO manages by aggregate timing units in ocean but can't separate until fish are in streams. Chapter 4 of the PST allows for renegotiation to different management units, there are practicalities of how to manage by stocks. What is practical and do-able? What is the spectrum of scenarios?

JG: ESSR accounts for terminal harvesting but requires escapement estimates, decision rules. What are the implications to PST Chapter 4 negotiations?

MS reiterates the question: What is the venue for policy change?

PM: DFO has indicated that any changes to the current aggregate management would have to be negotiated in the upcoming PST Chapter 4 Treaty renegotiations – there is no process for Fraser First Nations to be consulted about Chapter 4 renegotiations. In the previous Chapter 4 renegotiations DFO provided funds for First Nations engagement in the negotiations. On behalf of the FRAFS EC we request DFO that DFO provide funds and a process for FN to engage in negotiations for this new Chapter 4 which would include proposals for desegregating the 4 aggregate timing groups.

JG suggests a table comparing the objectives and options for terminal harvesting

Action: Jeff will put together a draft framework for ESSR /terminal harvesting fisheries and provide it to the FRAFS JTWG for review

AT says in summary it will go to the Joint Technical Working Group

10. WSP	Implications for FRAFS planning.
Implementation (DFO)	<p>Sarah Murdoch: WSP came out in 2005. Consultation (review) occurred late last year to early this year. People asked for progress and evaluation and a document should be released next month.</p> <p>EV: how does FRISI integrate with WSP. SM says FRISI participates with WSP and all the alignments still need to be identified.</p> <p>PM: the key focus is on including activity tables for science and management and getting input on these activities.</p> <p>MS: red areas have gotten more red.</p> <p>PM: how planning will include input for First Nations is still unclear.</p> <p>KM: Socioeconomic impacts are a significant component of the WSP and includes First Nation culture. He provides an example of a negative socioeconomic impact (when communities can't provide fish for meals).</p>

11. Area 29	Is FRAFS hosting Area 29 access meeting as occurred in 2015 & 2016?
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KM: FRAFS will participate in facilitating Area 29 workshops, in the off-season with enough lead time for planning

JN: what do First Nations want out of the workshops?

Minutes and outcomes from previous meetings will be circulated.

Adjourned at 4:00 PM

Suggested date for the next meeting: the afternoon of April 17, 2018.
