



SUMMARY NOTES: FSMC /DFO February 16, 2017 negotiating meeting

The fourth negotiating meeting between the FSMC and DFO took place at Mandell-Pinder's office.

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, and Ashley Dobko

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

1. DFO's response to the FSMC proposed governance and management structure (presented at the January 20 bi-lateral meeting.)

DFO sought to obtain a greater understanding of the intent and meaning behind the various elements of the FSMC's proposed collaborative management arrangement. The types of topics/issues proposed to be handled at the FSMC/DFO level in the proposed structure were examined in some detail, with DFO reviewing its current approaches to the items identified in the proposal (e.g. Wild Salmon Policy implementation consultations, the annual Integrated Fishery Management Planning process and how it is conducted and finalized, in-season management activities and how the Fraser River Panel operates, etc.). Where appropriate, FSMC perspectives were offered to explain where the FSMC felt that DFO (and those higher level topics/issues it currently is responsible for) would benefit from more transparent and open ways of doing business with First Nations' ability to participate in decision-making levels. The discussion included consideration of the PSC and its Fraser River Panel, and the Salmon Coordinating Committee.

2. FSMC's response to DFO's January paper (first two Chapters of Concept Paper #1)

FSMC tabled a preliminary draft of a "combined" paper that includes best practices section from DFO's January paper with those of the FSMC's December paper. It is hoped that with further work the entire Concept Paper #1 would be tabled for ground truthing – including seeking input and feedback – at the FSMC's March 1 Assembly as a draft collaborative piece of work by both the FSMC and DFO.

**Concept Paper #2: Issues and challenges re FSC
FSMC tabled a draft with questions for DFO.**

This is still a work in progress but some key messages from the work completed so far include:

- This is not the time or place to develop a definition (or working definition) for the term “FSC”;
- The paper articulates the variety of challenges for First Nations in realizing their FSC needs;
- Fish stocks are decreasing, many cannot sustain harvesting by both First Nations and stakeholder groups; FSMC tabled their view that in time of declining returns First Nations should be the only ones fishing – but in some situations that is not what’s happening;
- Therefore FSMC requested that DFO be prepared to discuss questions regarding FSC management at the next meeting. The draft FSMC discussion paper regarding FSC, raises specific situations where First Nations seek more information regarding how DFO is interpreting and applying priorities for conservation and s.35(1) FSC rights. DFO hopes to bring people to next meeting to help this dialogue.