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Ken Malloway

FRAFS Chairperson

Via e-mail

July 26, 2018

RE: Chinook 5-Year Review

Dear Ken,

Thanks for writing about your concerns on the progress of the Fraser River Chinook 5-year review. The primary purpose of the technical review is to use the available information to assess the Department's management approach for Fraser Spring 42, Spring 52 and Summer 52 chinook, and provide technical information to assess whether the Department's management approach in place since 2012 is achieving conservation and allocation objectives consistent with *An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon (1999)*, including obligations to provide for constitutionally protected aboriginal and treaty fisheries after conservation objectives. This work has been assigned to DFO Science staff based on a terms of reference that was developed with input from First Nations and stakeholders in April 2017.

Your letter raises 4 specific issues that are addressed below:

1. **Completion of the technical review prior to 2019/20 IFMP consultations.** The Department acknowledges the importance of this work and this remains a high priority work item to support chinook fisheries management. Progress on the work to date includes compilation of data to support the analysis and an extension of the Fraser River run reconstruction model to incorporate catch and sample data for marine fisheries (in addition to Fraser River fisheries) and permit sensitivity analysis of key uncertainties. Several meetings of a small joint technical working group, including DFO Science staff and FRAFS biologists, were held in 2017 and early 2018 to update on progress. Progress has been slowed in 2018 as key Science staff has also been required to support Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations and 2018 chinook management.

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Future work plans to complete this work include:

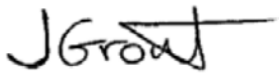
- a. Finalize compilation of the data used in the review into a Technical Report.
- b. Completion of the technical analysis including sensitivity of fishery exploitation rate estimates to key uncertainties including data inputs (e.g. coded-wire-tag sample data versus DNA) and missing data.
- c. Establish Terms of Reference for a CSAS process and technical participants that will produce a Science Response summarizing the technical work.
- d. Draft, review and publish a Science Response document to provide technical review results to First Nations and stakeholders.

It is expected that these activities will be completed in collaboration with DFO and First Nations technical staff and other technical experts as required.

2. **A revised Terms of Reference (ToR) that includes a DFO – FN steering committee to provide oversight particularly related to policy, management and implementation.** The approved April 13, 2017 Terms of Reference outlines a second phase of the work following the technical review. The second phase is intended to focus on a discussion of the management implications based on the results of the technical review and consider any potential options for changes to the Department's management approach for Fraser River chinook. This 2nd phase is expected to occur through the Department's existing consultation and advisory processes used to develop the salmon IFMPs and this information will also inform consultations with Aboriginal groups on fishery management decisions that may potentially affect Aboriginal fishery interests, in accordance with S. 35 of the Constitution Act (1982), relevant case law, and consistent with Departmental policies and considerations. Given the expected focus is on fishery management implications and the close linkage with the existing IFMP consultation process, the Department anticipates discussions with First Nations will occur within the FN Forum process (and other meetings with FN groups). The Forum planning committee may be best suited for a discussion on this phase of the work with DFO resource managers.
3. **Adequate financial support for FRAFS (steering and technical committee) and clear direction from the Department concerning the commitment to sustaining First Nations engagement is also required.** The Department has committed a collaborative approach to completing the technical review with technical experts from DFO, First Nations and other groups. FRAFS biologists have been provided several status updates on the work to date and will be engaged in completing the technical work and the CSAS process for the review. While no additional funds have been identified to support this work, I understand that FRAFS has been provided with funding from the Department to support technical participation in these types of processes.
4. **FN members of the FRAFS EC requests a full discussion with DFO on how any outcomes from the Chinook 5 - Year Review will be implemented to inform policy and management, particularly related to S.35 obligations and Sparrow priority.** I understand there was a discussion of these concerns planned for the agenda for the June 22nd, 2018 meeting with the RDG and the FRAFS FN Caucus. The Department remains open to further discussions with the FRAFS EC on outcomes from the work and we can arrange for further discussion at upcoming DFO-FRAFS EC meetings if you desire.

I hope this helps to address your concerns regarding the review. I would be pleased to arrange a further discussion if you wish. Thanks for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JGrout". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Jeff Grout
Regional Resource Manager – Salmon
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Cc:

Jennifer Nener

Diana Dobson

Kendra Holt

John Holmes

First Nations Fisheries Council