

EDITOR'S NOTES

February went by in a blur. With the fiscal year winding down and post-season, pre-season and other processes overlapping it has been a challenge for many people in fisheries to get "things" off their desks before something else comes along. And one of the "things" that needs to get done on a regular basis is to tell the folks who weren't at the last "fisheries thing" what is going on in each of those processes.

How do I know this? The usual culprits (including me), who sit around the same tables talk about the same things, and all of us find it difficult to do one of the most important parts of every fisheries process. Communicate the information to those that have to be involved in the discussion at some level. Some of that communication is straightforward, while other kinds require a significant amount of effort. But the bottom line is that without that communication, an integral part of each fisheries process is being left out. Communication is the common thread, or process, that runs through each of the discussions concerning Fraser River salmon.

In the interest of keeping people at least aware of what fisheries "things" are taking place, here's a summary of some of the major events that happened in the past month, and a couple events about to happen.

As a technical person working with First Nations folks, I found it really encouraging to see the turnout for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 meetings in Kamloops early in February. I haven't seen that many people come out for a Tier 1 in several years, and the discussions were productive and positive. Regular Tier 1 meetings with good attendance can go a long way in making sure that fisheries information gets out to the people that need to hear it.

From what I heard, the Demonstration Fisheries workshop held in Siska on February 20th was a great success, and FRAFS looks forward to sharing the report summarizing the results of the discussion. Dave Moore coordinated the workshop and will be providing the summary to the watershed.

The Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative process completed its second workshop in Richmond on February 22-23. One more workshop will be held at the end of March, and it looks like the results of the entire process (Structured Decision Making) will be reported at

after the 3rd workshop is complete, participants have added all their information, and the facilitators have rolled everything up into a final report. The FRSSI process is looking at developing Total Allowable Mortality rules for each of the sockeye run timing groups, which will be presented as a part of DFO's Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for the upcoming fishing season. The Structured Decision Making process and the underlying FRSSI management model are difficult to concisely explain, and need to be discussed outside of the scheduled workshops with First Nations and DFO. The FRSSI issue is probably a lot more important than many people might realize, and the next Watershed Talk will be attempting to describe this process and some of the issues surrounding it. The FRSSI topic leads into one of the meetings happening in the near future...

March 7 & 8 is a 2 day technical discussion for the Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Committee (FWJTC) at the Best Western in Kamloops (the meeting notice is later in this edition). The first day will be a bilateral discussion with DFO, and the second day will be for the First Nations Technical Caucus of the Committee. A major part of the FWJTC discussion will be focusing on the FRSSI process, particularly during the FN caucus session. The results of the 2 day FWJTC meeting will be presented to the FRAFS EC and the rest of the watershed after the meeting notes are finalized.

The annual Pacific Salmon Commission meeting in Portland took place from February 11 – 16. I was an Observer to the Chinook Technical Committee for this meeting, with the understanding that I would report on those activities to the Fraser First Nations. In addition to observing the Chinook Technical Committee, I also attended several technical presentations with the Fraser River Panel Technical Committee. My observations from the week in Portland will be distributed via a separate document and then posted on the FRAFS website in the next month.

If you want more information on any of the above processes, feel free to contact either of the FRAFS Stock Management Coordinators: Ken Wilson at (604) 301-0418 or Pete Nicklin at (250) 392-5888.

- For more information contact Pete Nicklin at (250) 392-5888 or by email at indiseaent@shaw.ca.

“VISIONS IN SHARED MANAGEMENT” CONFERENCE

**2006 Theme: Diminishing Resources &
Collaborative Approaches**

March 28 – 30th: Prince George Civic Centre

The upcoming “Visions In Shared Management” is shaping up to be a major event, and promises to be a fantastic wrap-up to this fiscal year, and a great way to bring in the new fiscal.

The Workshop will take place at the Prince George Civic Centre on March 28th to 30th, and will be hosted by the FRAFS and the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA), with the 28th and 29th being full days and the 30th a half-day wrap-up. An evening social (with no-host bar) on the 27th will kick off the conference.

The Banquet will feature the excellent comedian **Don Burnstick** followed by a live dance band.

Registration is required for attendance so please contact the Visions Conference organizer or the FRAFS Communications Coordinator if you are planning on attending:

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI)
Workshop:**

March 26th and 27th: Location TBA

**Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Committee
(FWJTC):** Best Western, Mezzanine Room, Kamloops
March 7th, 2007. 8:30AM – 4:30PM.

**Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Committee: First
Nations Technical Caucus:** Best Western, Mezzanine
Room, Kamloops, March 8th, 2007. 8:30AM – 4:30PM

**VISIONS IN SHARED MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE: Theme: Diminishing Resources &
Collaborative Approaches.** Prince George Civic
Centre: March 28, 29, 30. Social on the evening of
March 27th.

NEXT EDITION OF WATERSHED TALK

The next edition of Watershed Talk will be coming out on **March 9, 2007**.

FRAFS COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

For information about FRAFS activities and to be added to the FRAFS distribution list contact Aimee Arsenault: (250) 378-4235; email at aimee@nicolatribal.org

COMMENTS & FEEDBACK?

Call or email Pete Nicklin at (250) 392-5888 &
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