

Forum on Conservation and Harvest for Fraser Salmon Update

A Forum meeting was held on April 22 and 23 at Tsawout First Nation in Saanichton, B.C. The meeting was focused primarily on preparing for the 2010 fishing season, with presentations from DFO on proposed management actions for steelhead, coho, chum, and chinook salmon. First Nations put forward a number of recommendations to DFO. A summary of those recommendations is provided below.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- First Nations require a technical process in conjunction with the Forum process to better understand data and information presented by DFO. This is necessary for responding to proposed management actions.
- First Nations want to have their own stock assessment programs. These programs would be coordinated among First Nations throughout the Fraser watershed and marine approach areas to determine what data is needed.
- First Nations need to feel confident that fisheries are properly monitored before accepting DFO's data.
- First Nations want DFO to reiterate what they've heard in meetings, verbally and in writing, in order to ensure that the messages are clear (concerns, recommendations, issues, etc.).
- The current IFMP timeline does not meet First Nations' needs. First Nations want to participate in the development process, and see how their input from processes like the Forum is incorporated into the IFMP.

CHINOOK:

First Nations put forward the following recommendations for spring 4sub2 chinook:

- Juan de Fuca sport closed for salmon fishing to June 30.
- Areas 18 & 29 sport closed for salmon fishing to June 30.
- Fraser River to Sawmill Creek sport closed for salmon fishing to July 20.
- Above Sawmill Creek sport closed for salmon fishing to August 20.
- Recommended principle: In-river recreational harvest should be closed until Nicola Chinook passes.
- First Nations continue to support a moratorium on Spring 4sub2 Chinook.

SOCKEYE:

- While First Nations were unable to provide specific recommendations on sockeye fishing openings and closures, they recommended to DFO that a Tier 1 technical process is needed to explore sockeye management options for 2010. The proposed date for this technical meeting is May 18, the day before the next Forum meetings (in Richmond).
- First Nations in Areas 12 & 13 stated that are committed to starting their own data collection programs in consultation with upper river First Nations.

The next Forum meeting is scheduled to take place on May 19 & 20, 2010 in Richmond. For more information contact us at FRAFS or visit our website, www.frafs.ca.

Cohen Commission: Commission into the decline of sockeye salmon in the fraser river - UPDATE

The Cohen Commission has announced which groups have been granted standing to participate in the judicial inquiry into the decline of Fraser sockeye salmon. FRAFS, along with a number of other First Nations communities and aboriginal fisheries organizations, has been granted standing as part of a First Nations "coalition". While each group within the coalition will be recognized as a distinct body with its own unique interests and concerns, working as together as a group will allow First Nations to jointly address common issues.

A strategic planning session will be held on June 9th to identify common themes and areas of interest and concern that First Nations want to put forward to the Commission. First Nations will also review a discussion paper and scoping document that are scheduled to be released by the Commission on June 1. The session is being facilitated by the First Nations Fisheries Council.

Any First Nations group that has not applied for standing can still participate in the inquiry by making a public written submission. More information, as well as submissions received to date, are available on the Cohen Commission website.

For more information on the Cohen Commission, visit their website at: www.cohencommission.ca

Meeting Notices

FORUM ON CONSERVATION AND HARVEST PLANNING FOR FRASER SALMON

May 19-20, 2010

with a Technical Forum Session on May 18, 2010

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL (formerly the Best Western)

7551 Westminster Highway
Accommodations: (604) 273-7878
Group reservation is under "Fraser River Fisheries"

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT "ROADMAP" WORKSHOP June 2-3, 2010 Location TBA

To subscribe or submit content to the Watershed

Talk, contact us at:

Tel: (604) 836-1909

Fax: (250) 378-9119

E-mail:

info@frafs.ca

Web: www.frafs.ca