

## Update from the Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon

The fourth Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon meeting of 2011 was held on May 9-11 at the Kamloops Convention Centre in Kamloops, BC. The first day was a Tier 1 technical session to discuss DFO's Catch Monitoring Framework, the FRSSI process for 2011, and sockeye sharing. Days 2 and 3 were focused on discussing management approaches for Fraser River salmon fisheries prior to the 2011 fishing season. Minutes from this meeting will be posted to the FRAFS website in the next couple of weeks.

During the Tier 1 portion of the meetings, the First Nations participants agreed to deliver the following messages to DFO:

### ALL FN FORUM PARTICIPANTS:

- Agreement on 3 week moving window closure to protect Early Stuart + 1 week closure to protect early summers.
- Support closure of Chinook marine recreational fishery to protect spring 4<sub>2</sub> Chinook.
- CWT data from 2010 not yet received. There has been some indication about exploitation as low as 10% on spring 4<sub>2</sub> (significant reduction). If First Nations had data confirming this low exploitation rate, along with information about the specific impacts of specific fisheries, First Nations might be able to support some FSC fisheries in the Lower Fraser.

### LOWER FRASER:

- Recognizes conservation concern for spring 4<sub>2</sub> and spring/summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook.
- Agreed to delay fishing until early June.
- Requesting special access in July for Elders Gathering in July.
- Selective 8" mesh Chinook fishery will take place similar to previous years.
- Open communal sockeye fishing to begin July 29th weekend (through to labour day weekend) – depending on run size, arrangements in CFAs, etc.
- Selective fishing for pink and chum in September and October.

### IMAWG:

- Support conservation of spring 4<sub>2</sub> Chinook; agreement not to fish while these stocks are present.

### SECWPEMC FISHERIES COMMISSION:

- Disagreement with the Lower Fraser plan to fish in early June-July (peak migration for spring 4<sub>2</sub> Chinook) or any other fisheries in the lower Fraser during this period.
- Support option 2 for early summers
- Support option 2 for lates
- Defer to NSTC groups on summers (support their conservation concerns)

### UPPER FRASER:

- Do not support the methodology for the options proposed by DFO; based on aggregate management, and long term consequences of those options are not clear. Better understanding is needed before these options can be considered. Free, prior and informed consent, as discussed in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, is not possible in this instance, as the program is not well understood.
- Conservation concerns for Nadina, Bowron, Stellako and late Stuart.
- Numbers given by DFO about Early Stuart are not as accurate as they should be (helicopter assessment only).

### MISC STATEMENTS:

- Letters will be sent to DFO by First Nations independent of this process.
- Lack of funding has created gaps in participation (late funding; not enough funding to attend all important fisheries meetings, etc.). First Nations want DFO to address late/inadequate funding issues.
- FRSSI model and the aggregate based management system are still not accepted or well understood by First Nations. Don't understand methodology and long-term effects on their fisheries.
- Concern about the May 30th deadline for input on the catch monitoring framework (inadequate consultation – should have also been mailed directly to Chiefs/band offices).
- Lack of CWT indicator stocks for 2 management groups (spring/summer 5<sub>2</sub>); increased assessment is needed for these stocks.
- FRAFS EC and JTWG would like to meet with DFO regarding the Chinook management framework.

## UPCOMING FISHERIES MEETINGS:

### FRASER SALMON ROADMAP WORKSHOPS

Next workshop: June 22-23, 2011

Campbell River Band -- Thunderbird Hall

1420 Weiwaikum Road, Campbell River, B.C.  
(Accommodations information to be announced soon)

Mark your calendars!

October 12-13, 2011: Quaaout Lodge, Chase, B.C.

December 6-7, 2011: Location TBA - Richmond, B.C.

February 8-9, 2011: Tzeachten Band, Chilliwack, B.C.

### FORUM MEETING DATES FOR 2012:

January 24-26: Lower Mainland, BC

February 27-29: Kamloops, BC

March 20-22: Tsawout First Nation

May 8-10: Prince George, BC

### ECONOMIC ACCESS WORKING GROUP COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSIONS

Hosted by the First Nations Fisheries Council  
June 7-8, 2011, Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel  
More info/registration at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca)

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