

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations

SEE THE LIGHT - COME TO VISIONS!

The Visions Conference is an annual event sponsored by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) that brings together First Nations representatives and Fisheries and Oceans Canada personnel from throughout the Fraser Watershed and beyond. The Visions Conferences provide opportunities for participants to present perspectives on fisheries projects, discuss fisheries issues, and gather current information on programs, funding, and initiatives.

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

This year's conference will be held in Quesnel, BC at the Billy Barker Hotel. The host community will be the Red Bluff First Nation. The following is a schedule of conference times to facilitate travel planning:

Day 1 (October 5) – half day (afternoon), 1:00pm to 4:30pm (coffee and snacks provided)

Day 2 (October 6) – full day 8:30am to 4:00pm (coffee, snacks and catered lunch provided); dinner event (provided) at 6:30pm, also at the Billy Barker Hotel

Day 3 (October 7) – half day (morning), 8:30am to 12:00pm

PRESENTATION TOPICS:

In recent years, the Visions planning committee has chosen to focus the conference on a specific topic area or theme; this year, however, the planning committee has decided instead to get back to the original intent of Visions, and create a program that explores a wide variety of fisheries related issues and topics. A draft agenda will be available next week; meanwhile, the 2011 Visions Planning Committee is currently in the process of confirming speakers to discuss the following topics:

- Perspectives on the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fishing Initiative (PICFI) and economic fisheries at various scales (international, province-wide, watershed, and community levels);
- First Nations Fisheries Council strategic planning and governance overview;
- COSEWIC assessment of eulachon;
- Musqueam shallow seine fishery;
- Tsawwassen fish wheel;
- 2010 State of the Oceans Report;
- The future of wild salmon stocks.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert T. Lackey, professor of fisheries and political studies at Oregon State University. Dr. Lackey will present on the Salmon 2100 project, which examines questions, problems, and potential solutions for the future of wild Pacific salmon from the perspectives of policy analysts, salmon advocates, and scientists. The project focused on answering a single question: "What is it really going to take to have wild salmon populations in significant, sustainable numbers through the year 2100?" While Dr. Lackey and his co-authors feel deep concern about the future of wild salmon, they suggest a number of policy prescriptions ranging from technological fixes to fundamental society value shifts.

DISPLAYS:

As in previous years, participants are also encouraged to bring displays of your fisheries projects to share. Space is limited; to book a display table, please contact us via email at info@frafs.ca.

REGISTRATION:

Please note that **registration is required** for the 2011 Visions Conference. A registration form is available for download from the FRAFS website at www.frafs.ca. Please email completed registration forms to info@frafs.ca, or fax to 250-378-9119 to the attention of Neil Todd. The deadline for registrations is **Friday, September 30, 2011**.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Billy Barker Hotel and Casino** for the nights of October 4th, 5th and 6th at the rate of \$65+tax. Visions participants are asked to book their accommodations **as soon as possible** to ensure best rate and availability. To book your room, please contact the hotel directly at 250-992-5533 and quote the group name "Visions". For those participants wishing to stay elsewhere, a list of nearby accommodations is included below.

Ramada Hotel: 383 Saint Laurent Ave., Quesnel
Tel: 250-992-5575; www.ramada.com

Sandman Hotel Quesnel: 940 Chew Road, Quesnel
Tel: 1-800-SANDMAN (726-3626); www.sandmanhotels.com

Best Western Tower Inn: 500 Reid St., Quesnel
Tel: 250-992-2201; www.bestwestern.com

Travelodge Quesnel: 524 Front St., Quesnel
Tel: 1-800-578-7878; www.travelodge.com

We sincerely hope that you will join us in making this conference a success. We look forward to welcoming you Quesnel and to Visions 2011!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

UPCOMING ROADMAP WORKSHOPS:

October 12-13, 2011: Quaaout Lodge, Chase, BC
December 6-7, 2011: Location TBA - Richmond, BC
February 8-9, 2011: Tzeachten Band, Chilliwack, BC

FORUM MEETING DATES FOR 2012:

January 24-26: Lower Mainland, BC
February 27-29: Kamloops, BC
March 21-23: Tsawout First Nation, Saanichton BC
May 8-10: Prince George, BC