

SECOND WATERSHED-WIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEETING

Sheraton Guildford Hotel, Surrey, BC
Tuesday February 26, 2008 – Day Two

BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

First Nations Facilitator: Marcel Shepert
Welcome and Prayer: Grand Chief Doug Kelly
DFO Bilateral Facilitator: Mike Simpson
Recording Secretary: Persis Tozer

First Nations Participants:

A-TLEQAY	Tony Roberts Jr.	SECHELT	Jerry Johnson Dwayne Paul
CAMPBELL RIVER	Gerald Roberts	SECWEPEMC FISHERIES	Murray Ross Pat Matthew
CANOE CREEK	Dolores Duncan	SEMIAHMOO	Mark Duncan
CHEHALIS	Dave Moore Kim Charlie James Leon Cheryl Charlie	SKEETCHESTN	Darrell Draney
DIDIDAHT	Carl Edgar Dwayne Edgar Phillip Edgar	SKOWKALE	James Archie
FNMS	Theresa Ryan	SODA CREEK	Noella William
FRAFS	Mike Staley Pete Nicklin Fred Fortier	SPUZZUM	Sheri Binette
HESQUIAT	Conchar Leson	SQUIALA	Allen Jimmie
KATZIE	Chief Diane Bailey Shannon Adams	STAT'IMC	Grand Chief Saul Terry Dave Levy
LYTTON	Byron Spinks	STŌ:LO NATION	Grand Chief Ken Malloway
NAMGIS	Chris Cook Stan Hunt	STŌ:LO TRIBAL COUNCIL	Grand Chief Doug Kelly
NBBC	Bill Duncan	TAKLA LAKE	Margo French
NLAKA'PAMUX	Roy Spinks Donald Sam	T'KEMLUPS	Harry Paul Jr.
NICOLA TRIBAL ASSOCIATION	Arnie Lampreau Neil Todd	TLAZTEN	Jim Webb
NORTHERN SHUSWAP TRIBAL COUNCIL	Gord Sterritt	TSAWOUT	Dan Claxton Susan Anderson
		TSEYCUM	Ian Bruce
		WILLIAMS LAKE	Andrew Meshue
		YALE	Dominic Hope

DFO participants: Barry Rosenberger, Barry Huber, Les Jantz, Merv Mochizuki, Adrian Wall, Linda Stevens; Jamie Scroggie; Stu Cartwright, Mel Kotyk, Jordan Point, Bilal Cheema, Deb Sneddon, Ann-Marie Huang; Glenn Lario; Brian Matts; Bev Carpenter, S.Coast: Gord McEachen, Greg Thomas, Brigid Payne, Larissa Kloegman, Jeff Grout; Paul Ryall

11.00 am - AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION WITH DFO:

Facilitator: Mike Simpson

- 1. Principle and Guidelines -**
 - Clarify decision-making process
 - To be presented by First Nations, DFO to make it happen
 - This group's mission statement
- 2. Presentation – draft 2008 escapement plan for sockeye**
- 3. Presentation – DFO - Chinook conservation issues and harvest plans**
- 4. Review of process to date including a summary of meetings held:**
 - Presentations by Upper, Mid, Lower Fraser and Island
 - DFO perspective and First Nations perspective
- 5. Present FRAFS figures/forecast**
 - DFO to establish conservation concerns for early timed Chinook – to close all interception fisheries
 - Recovery plans
 - Funding
- 6. In season process/communications**
 - For discussion
- 7. Other issues**
 - Allocation, reasonable distribution, practical means of achieving
 - Performance review, meeting of targets

4.00pm Next steps

Agenda for next watershed-wide meeting
First Day – First Nations only
Second Day – common objectives:
(Agenda to be developed by Ad Hoc Transition team)
Minutes and notes on websites – TBA
For First Nations – FRAFS distribute to everyone including Island

4.15pm Evaluation of this conference

4.30pm Adjourn

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF BILATERAL SESSION

OPENING SESSION 10.39am

All participants in the room introduced themselves (see list above)

MIKE SIMPSON:

Thanks everybody and welcome to today's session. One of the things I was wondering and before we go over this Agenda as well and you can have a look at it on the screen, but a couple of questions I was wondering was, I wasn't here for the January 10th meeting that was facilitated by (*unclear*) but firstly, I am just thinking of a couple of questions. What did you like at the January 10th meeting, you know, what happened there that you want more of. What were some positive things, what did you like at the January 10th meeting? Anybody? What was good that came out of it? What do we want to replicate today? Yeah, Arnie?

ARNIE LAMPREAU:

We initiated the Ad Hoc Committee and that was good.

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK, so the Ad Hoc Committee was a good step forward? What other things were good, what did you like, what do you want more of today?

VOICE:

More fish!

MIKE SIMPSON:

More fish! What about the dialogue? Was it one of the first times that DFO and First Nations have gotten together in such a broad area? Was it a good step forward? What about the format? Any other particular things that were good about that day? OK. We'll try and replicate that as well. So I have talked with DFO and as I know sitting in on the First Nations meetings yesterday afternoon, they looked at DFO's proposed Agenda items for today and First Nations have kind of tweaked them a little bit and put their own perspective. Yesterday evening both groups met Marcel and a few DFO folks, I know you got input from First Nations, and this is the Agenda that we have come up with for this afternoon. And there is a couple of time constraints on them as well. So the first one is Principle and Guidelines, so that is clarifying the decision making process. Number 2 is review of the process to date including a summary of the meetings held, both the January 10th Watershed-Wide and also the four sub-regional meetings. We are going to hear DFO's perspective and First Nations perspective. Number 3 is a Draft 2008 Escapement Plan for Sockeye, that'll be a presentation by DFO and also I believe by FRAFS, I think they have something ...

MIKE STALEY:

Some comments on the forecast.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Ok. Number 4 is FRAFS figures and forecasts on Chinook, and number 5 is in-season process and communications and then 6, other issues. Now we have got some time constraints that we ... the presenter for the sockeye has to leave by noon, so we definitely have to get that underway. The order of the Agenda, though, this was how it was presented by the First Nations group. Is this acceptable to everyone and how much time do we need to allocate to each of these issues? Do we need to start with

Principles and guidelines or can that be put off until after the presentations have given the information out? Marcel?

MARCEL SHEPERT:

What I heard last night was that probably not a bad thing to start with the Principles and Guidelines, do a quick review of the issues and so on as laid out here. For example having the First Nations and then the DFO perspective. That kind of gives the background. And then move into .., I think we were going to talk about the sockeye stuff for Paul because Paul is only here until noon. So if we can just kind of follow that format, it kind of lays the groundwork, the foundation, and then we can move right into the sockeye discussion. I think that's what I heard last night and if folks are happy with that, we'll just stick to that format.

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK, and then we can put the review in later... OK any other comments and suggestions? Is that Ok with folks?

VOICE:

Let's go

MIKE SIMPSON:

Ok, then ..

CHRIS COOK:

I've got something to say. You know, like Paul coming to this meeting here is quite important, that's, you know ... It always happens. With something that's really important. As the First Nations people from the coastal and the Fraser River. They come here and say I've got to leave by noon. The herring is spawning – I've got to go too after lunch. But that always comes up – "Oh.." You know you're in a leadership place and we want to talk to the leaders – those are the guys who should be here. You always do this to us. You say "I've got to leave in ten minutes."

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK your comments are noted. Also we are starting a little bit later as well to accommodate some of the concerns with the Agenda.

CHRIS COOK:

I thought you were not with the Fisheries! (*General laughter*)

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK, principles and guidelines. Who would like to start that off? Is that – Marcel were you going to be speaking on that?

MARCEL SHEPERT:

OK, the Principles and Guidelines. Well, from the First Nations perspective I heard two very simple messages on principles and guidelines. Number one conservation first, number two that FSC, priority access. There are the two things that were put forward, we were going to put them in a slide, but we wanted to send a message to DFO that is where we were coming from – the access issue. And we didn't get beyond that. We want to make sure that that message is sent loud and clear. That's what I heard. And please anybody fill in if I've missed something. (*Unclear*) the DFO perspective on that.

VOICE:
Conservation first?

VOICES TALKING QUIETLY TO EACH OTHER:
Conservation and FSC

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

Thanks Marcel. Thanks, welcome everybody. I'm really happy to see the large turnout, it's good we don't have so many where the problems. But as Chris points out, the herring decided to start spawning early, so those of you with herring licenses do have to go out after lunch, we understand. Hearing that the agenda is not much different than what we envisioned starting here, and I don't think that it's changing anything as far as how we get going. I think that the points that you are trying to get to on the same ones that we are, so it's just a matter of getting started and getting at this. Setting the stage for the decisions in process. I think it's something that is going to carry itself through here for us as the day progresses. Although there has been a lot of discussion to date, there hasn't been a lot of decision to this point. Like yourself, we are still in discussions with many other groups. And we need to get through all of that. Time is upon us, and the expectation is that we will be making some new decisions within some few days, and in some cases within the next week or so. But I think comment this meeting into context, though, (*unclear*) that we have in this process which is bilateral and other processes that we have engaged in, is trying to figure out sharing arrangements for First Nations on FSC fish. I think it's been pretty clear from the January meeting, and the sub regional meetings, although we have been party to all of the sessions, the same as yesterday, that the message is really clear, and you've all agreed its part of our policy, is conservation has to be first, and first Nations FSC needs are the first priority of any harvesting of fish and sport and commercial after that. And I don't think there's any dispute on that, it's just trying to make sure that we have a plan that starts to move us forward, that's going to actually accomplish that in the context of, particularly for Chinook, a much more difficult species as a whole to manage that sockeye because of the migrations. So the context for us is that the, from the Chinook side of things, we're getting, in the midst of starting to see the first Chinook coming back to the Fraser, so we are in a fairly short time frame here towards making some of these decisions. We have thrown out three questions that we are looking for responses to from people and we have had some written responses in, there's been many other comments relayed to us or passed on to different people in different places. The sharing arrangement for the salmon species as a whole, that we are focusing on at this stage, we are trying to work out way through the Chinook as a first Early, meaning because of the timing of their migration, and a key focus toward sockeye which is the one I think that most people (*unclear*) focus the energy onto. Within that, one of the things that we learnt last year is that even with some kind of a sharing arrangement, there's all kinds of conservation concerns for other species or some stocks within those species that we have to figure out how we are working our way through. And advice on that is something that we all need to be working through and focusing on as well. How do those conservation concerns play out – looking for kind of rules that we are going to follow. And the in-season process is huge. It is actually beginning to be a permanent discussion on the in-season process and how do we incorporate some of the things we can do now that are working for people, what do we add to that? There's been, like here, quite a bit of positive response to getting broader than just the Fraser First Nations together to talk about these issues, given that they are harvested over such a wide area and have an impact on so many people in such a

wide process. So, we started here in this a number of years ago and just to get it in context, we did this bit in January, but we have been talking about this for 10+ years and making some progress and not necessarily a lot. I think the Chinook really encapsulates where the struggles are, and where there are some of these fish caught and some other fishery besides the FSC fisheries and trying to work out between themselves. There is going to be some discussion today on moving this struggle forward. But the data concerns, the quality of data, I am sure Mike and Pete and Theresa and others have gone through this for you, is a big issue, trying to understand it. The Chinook has changed rather drastically in the last year. In some places it has been a rather longer-term trend. But the goal that we have, so that you get the context from the Department side of things, is we are looking for a comprehensive plan, we are looking in the two- to three-year timelines. We need to take a number of actions this year that is going to start setting us on the road to this, we won't necessarily get all those changes in one fell swoop. As was noted in some of the written correspondence we got, some people's comments was that it's... it don't have enough (*unclear*) we can't recall the decisions, we need to make sure that you're getting that catch information and biological data, those are going to be parts of the discussion, we need to move forward. I think as most people understand, the Chinook is much more complicated to manage than sockeye, as I just mentioned. The multiple life histories available to harvest through ages goes to 2-3-4, 3-4-5 years of age in the different fisheries. It definitely complicates the situation as opposed to fish that are migrating from further offshore through a series of fisheries and into spawning, being on the shelf and available for longer periods of time. We are looking for a multi-faceted approach as well. We don't think harvest reductions is the only way to go. We think that the rivers habitat issues we need to start incorporating (*unclear*) or habitat restoration kinds of projects, understanding how that fits into it. We need some changes in our salmon enhancement programs and there's quite a few different options, so these are things that are going to take a little while to develop and what the implications might be from them. How do we start looking at different aspects. And clearly right now we are in the midst of the Canada/US Salmon renegotiations. And those that are more familiar with the process, all of the chapters, except for Chinook have been renegotiated that are to expire in 2008. We are looking to add all of them together, and those five chapters that expire in 2008, in one package for making a deal before moving forward. The Chinook one is obviously the most complicated and as has been the case for quite a while is clearly a big struggle between the fisheries and the changes that are contemplated and proposed between Alaska, BC and the southern United states. And what those implications are to us, all of us, we have another round of negotiations planned, not next week, the week after. So it's the, I think it's the 6-10 range of March. There is another range of meetings being planned for getting input, I think there is a conference call for the end of next week Friday with Fraser First Nations with Paul McGillivray again. That's where Paul's at today, he's trying to work on some of this information, trying to get the subscribers together, trying to get an understanding with all the information and the evaluations. Those have been proposed by some of you and others, so we can understand where we need to move to and towards making the best deal of getting our stocks back. We have three main populations that we are looking to focus on to begin with as far as conservation is concerned. The earliest-timed Chinook has had the most discussion with some people around the Fraser. But the Lower Georgia Straits, largely people think of the Cowichan and the West Coast of Vancouver Island, that's where populations in an equal kind of situation, have had some degree of discussions a long period of time as well. So how do we move those forward in the context of the actions that we are looking to take? The (*unclear*) and marine productivity, not just for Chinook but all

species is down considerably as everybody observed in 2007 and those kinds of implications are ones that we need to understand as we are moving forward. How fast, what are those changes expected and then move as fast as appropriate to try to respond to them. The last thing sort of a broad context for Chinook is the returns being done last year, there's some degree of relationship between age 4 versus age 5, so a number of our populations are 5 year olds, there's a fair bit of discussion if you look in the early-timed Fraser, what they call the spring 5₂s and the summer 5₂s, river migrating stocks within the Fraser system, so you could expect them for returns. Some of the three year old fish primarily to Robson hatchery and I believe it's the Harrison are much less than expected, so there's some potential for 4 year olds. So the way that the Canada/US process works, when the outside fisheries, the aggregate of funding based fisheries, it's the west coast of Vancouver Island, the north coast fisheries and southern/southeast Alaska. It is they calculate an abundance index and right now we are going through a recalculation, it usually comes out around the end of April that sets the quotas for this year's fisheries. Expectations are that the abundance indexes are going to drop very significantly for this year. So there's a number of reductions, and understanding the magnitude of those reductions is going to be important in making changes in the fisheries. But they are going to have significant impacts on a number of fisheries in those three areas. Likely more significant to the west coast of Vancouver Island and less as you move north, but significant to them all. More specifically, what we are proposing in moving the Chinook discussion forward here today and trying to understand and get some feedback from this meeting, trying to help some of the decisions that are going to be made over the next few days to weeks is the earliest-timed Chinook. The goals that we are looking for this year is a reduction in the range of 50%-70% from the exploitation rates from recent years. There's been some actions taken on those stocks, some of you have taken some actions and some of the commercial and sport as well for the last three or four years. It sets the stage, but we would propose two options, and Jeff will give more specific details on that later on in the agenda here. But the goals that we are looking for in that kind of a range, within that what we are looking to do is take the most actions towards the commercial fishery, and somewhat maybe less or in the same range, on the recreational fishery. Data is going to make it very hard to make some clear determinations on (*unclear*) and lesser impacts and research (*unclear*) on First Nations at the sea fisheries. There's ... in the process as we're moving forward, I think the other key thing here is that although as I mentioned we are looking to get some clear understanding on the Chinook side of the world, we are also trying to set up the processes and moving forward here and to all of the species. And there has been some agreement on the next rounds of sub-regionals and some talk about trying to establish the date soon for the next full watershed meeting. I think those are key aspects here so we can move forward, so.. we didn't have the expectations that we have one meeting and have all this figured out and probably not in two meetings. And some people are talking about this is in rounds. In talking to Marcel last night, it'll be like a title fight here and we'll be in the twelfth round before we are done! But if it takes that long and if we have to work through a number of these things over quite a long period of time, we think that this is a process that is well worth it. And the places where we can build on successes and as Mike said what worked for people that we need to build on from the last meetings, what are the aspects that are working for people, and maybe what is not working we would want to make changes while we can. I think are key and this is we're moving forward.

So before we get into the Chinook history part of things, more on the process. There's a lot of people looking to have some ability to have some discussion and comments. Maybe just to pick up some of the time here, maybe just talk about

some of what we've heard today from people and then move into whether Marcel has any more plans for presentations, then move into discussion about what (*unclear*) . Just on the process to date. The letters from last summer and the meetings that ... the January watershed meeting with everybody and the four or five sub-regionals that occurred to date. We had hoped to get a series of information in – there was some talk about developing a rolling draft that we put out to people. We only had four formal letters – they are all from groups from the BC Interior, the upper part of the watershed. There has been some comments back from some other places, either within the meetings or reactions with some people. It is pretty clear as Marcel pointed out that the goals, those letters, people's expectations are that all harvesting on earliest-timed Chinook and recreational and commercial fisheries should be stopped is a clear statement that's been made. In those letters, I have been reading them, but summarizing the issues, also is that if there is any continued fisheries in places to pick up the sampling. If you are short on data and think you can't make decisions in places because of it work on getting better data. Whether that is counting fish or whether that is in biological sampling. You know we have to have that information to record the .. Other areas, more general comments. Some of the island people are seen as having interactions with some of the DFO people to take a look at some of the watersheds in their areas that are of interest to them and where there may be opportunities of having more discussions. So that's good to take a look at. And that the fisheries on the outside, as far as First Nations fisheries on Chinook, there just isn't the data or understanding that have impacts or how they might impact earliest-timed Chinook. So it's probably not much there to take a look at. The sockeye really not anything written down from anywhere, but clearly some comments coming in that the commercial should not be fishing if there is not enough fish for FSC needs. I think that the record that people have seen over the last few years as the population has moved to a lesser level than twenty years ago, the FSC part of sockeye was a much smaller part than the total catch, moving to last year where it was the only portion of the catch. So I think as we are moving forward, it will take time to make some of these changes, and that sockeye-wise, we have all been at this a little longer and in a little more detail, a little clearer where we are likely to end up. In the case of the Chinook, we need to be working together and making that same transition, recognizing that Chinook is a little more complicated, because we are managing a different cycle than we are on the sockeye. So I think, I'll stop there and

MIKE SIMPSON:

Yes, just to answer, thanks Barry for that, there will be an opportunity this afternoon to talk a lot about the specific principles and guidelines, but the questions today on his response to the principles and guidelines from First Nations? Chief Kelly?

GRAND CHIEF DOUG KELLY:

Maybe not so much a question, but a comment. Marcel very briefly talked about where we have come to. And it is conservation and Food Social and Ceremonial. So the problems that we've had in the past is that DFO has authorized fisheries that are commercial or recreational. Not having sufficient information on the stocks that were available to harvest and created a conservation concern. Resulting in First Nations not having adequate access for Food Social and Ceremonial to meet their needs. We need DFO to hear us when we are saying what conservation means. It doesn't mean that "Oh, my arm's twisted, I'd better get the sporties an opportunity to go. Frank Quacks are whining in the valley and others are whining on the coast. We got to let them out." Too often the political process leading to senior decision makers and the Minister results in fisheries that ought not to have been opened in the first place.

That's what we are talking about when we talking about conservation. When we look at Food Social and Ceremonial, on a good year, on your data that we saw in Abbotsford, we get 80% of the targets. I suppose in high school that would be an "A" – I think its around there, I never actually got one of those in high school...

MARCEL SHEPERT:
It's actually a B Plus!

GRAND CHIEF DOUG KELLY:

There you go! My daughters always do very well. What we want to see when we talk about Food Social and Ceremonial is not only hitting those targets in terms of 100% but making sure that there's fair and equitable access. Right now there's First Nations represented in this room that get next to nothing in terms of access to Food Social and Ceremonial. And so, that's not right. It's a constitutionally protected right. Protected by aboriginal case law, protected by the constitution of Canada. It doesn't say "subject to sporties wanting to exercise a privilege", it says "second only to conservation". So those are two very simple words, but there is a whole lot of meaning to those words and we want to make sure that you understand it. So the third is about – and its one principle we didn't get to – it's about information. If you don't know, then why are you authorizing fishing? You hear all this talk about principles around "precautionary principles, about the Wild Salmon Policy, there's all kinds of guidance, but it doesn't in practice mean a damn thing. Because of the political process that results in allocation decisions. So principles better be guidance of conduct, guidance of behavior. It damn well better mean that you're prepared to hold yourself accountable to those principles or why are we wasting contact?

MIKE SIMPSON:
Barry do you want to respond to that?

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

I think they are good points and ones that we do want to be held accountable for. I think that is the whole point of the change and what we are trying to work on here. I think they are well made points, and I'll leave it at that. Thanks.

MIKE SIMPSON:
Other questions for Barry, or .. we're not done with this topic, but – Chris Cook and then Ken Mallory.

CHRIS COOK:

Yeah, I am just saying, yeah one of the things you just said, Barry ... Oh Chris Cook, Namgis. I think you said that more action against commercial fisheries, same for, less for sport. Now one the things I take a look at, what is the difference between a commercial fisherman and a sport fisherman? You know, you got all these coming in from the top end of the north through the Fraser River here. You've got all these different sports fishing guys, they move with their big boats, they take their boats up there. Just to have one of those licenses costs, the sports fishermen, catch the same amount of fish that they do, is about \$200,00 for one license. They sell their fisheries, they sell their fisheries, go out and get 20 spring salmon or 100 spring salmon, they sell that to the people who go out for \$1000 a day or \$500 a day. I mean, that's commercial fishery. And you take a look at the impact of fishing 24/7. That has got to stop! That has got to stop in all our different territories! From the coast and up the river from the head to the mouth. That can never, can't belong any more 24/7, 24 hours a day seven days a week. You know, you are asking us what's

the problem. That's the problem! You know, I don't know what they do to the Minister of Fisheries, he must get a lot of action from them or what, I don't know what kind of good stuff you get from these guys, but you know, this is really pissing us off. This is, it's time it's got to goddamn well stop! And I can't say that strong enough! That has got to stop! We've had to, way up and down from the coast, we talk to these guys. We follow these sports fishermen. Go into Prince Rupert. I seen this one boat coming in – 18, 18 – and I said did you have to have a log book for that? And he said no. 18 – and that's only day after day after days these guys come in like that. They come in and they take these guys. They come out from all over the country. You know, Barry, that's got to.. for me, that I see, we talked about the problem. And we've said, in our area – if there's a hook in the water there's no conservation problem. If there's a hook in the water. Those sport fishermen can catch sockeye you know just as good as the troll fishermen, the commercial troll fishermen. So I don't know, you know, you can come back and tell us "We're working on it." I don't know if those guys are making an agreement in the penthouse or what. It's just, I don't know how more I could put it .. from the Namgis Band and the (*unclear*) Tribal Groups, we talked about it. When the hell is the Department of Fisheries and the Minister of Fisheries going to do something about the sports fishing? When? They can never go again that I can see seven days a week, just coming from now on. That's got to stop! That's goddamn well got to stop now!

MIKE SIMPSON:
Ken Malloway

GRAND CHIEF KEN MALLOWAY:

I agree with my friend Chris Cook, for once! (*Laughter*) I want to know if the early Chinook are a conservation concern or not. And if they are, what is DFO going to do about it? If there is a conservation concern, then they are talking about shutting down our fishery, well then they have to shut down the fishery in front of us. And they talk about insufficient data, having insufficient data doesn't give you the excuse to allow them to fish anyway. Because you don't really know what they're catching. Most of the DFO budget is spent counting fish in the Lower Fraser. They have people at every landing site counting fish and they have most of their enforcement budget spent on the Lower Fraser. So they know what's the count in the Lower Fraser. But they don't know what the hell's going on in the ocean, they haven't got a clue. They're just guessing, but they are talking about allowing them to fish. They are talking about non-retention. They are talking about bag limits, they are talking about size limits, they are talking about killing juvenile fish. Brian Tobin went to the United Nations in New York and was waving around a baby turbot saying the guys were catching baby turbot off the Grand Banks, while they're allowing these guys to catch baby Cohos and baby Chinook. Baby Cohos out here. Where's the great hue and cry? There is a letter from the Stō:lo Nation available in response – its right there, it's just hot off the press. There is a, one clarification that I wanted to make on that. There's a thing in there that talks about DFO not knowing what's going on upriver or downriver – well somebody edited the letter that I wrote. I wrote the letter, somebody with a huge brain I guess decided to edit it and say "upriver or downriver". That's not what I meant, I said "in front of us or behind us". They didn't know what I meant, but I think these people know what I mean. They don't know what's going on in the ocean and they don't know what's going on up there. There's a problem with monitoring and you're spending all that money in putting all their eggs in one basket when it comes down to monitoring. They know what's going on down here. There is a letter that talks about what our concerns are. I told the

people here this morning and yesterday that Stō:lo Nation are prepared to do the right thing. They are prepared to look at scaling back our fishery, we are even prepared to talk about cutting off our fish if we have to but if there's a conservation concern, then we don't want to pay the whole price of conservation. We are not going to pay the entire price, we are not going to shoulder the entire load, it's got to be picked up by everybody and that means the sporties in front of us. There's a discussion about why things are going the way they are, why the sporties, why do they get to have their cake and eat it too? Well, because there's about 400,000 of them and they vote. That's why. Because DFO .. when I first got involved in fisheries issues in the 80's DFO used to fall all over themselves trying to make the commercial fishermen happy. Now they fall all over themselves trying to make the sporties happy. They still don't fall all over themselves to try and make me happy. And I am not a hard guy to make happy! (*Laughter and banter*)

MIKE SIMPSON;

Just before Barry responds, some of the concerns I am hearing about the principles and guidelines is that where does conservation fit in, that FSC takes priority over sport and commercial, but there is a concern about where conservation fits in and from a First Nations perspective, conservation has to come first. Everything that Chris Cook mentioned was about the access for sport fishery 24/7. Barry has talked about potential closures for different things and I think we will hear some more information from him. Barry did you want to respond to any of those comments.

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

Yes, on a couple of them. Ken, I hadn't heard that you're that easy to get along with! We should have started talking a long time ago. I think leading into the next presentation that Jeff is going to give, a little lead in to it. So I think you are going to see where planning has developed to this point on the commercial and recreational side. But a couple of points there to clarify. We do view this as a conservation concern for early-timed Chinook. I think if people understand what we are trying to do is develop the Wild Salmon Policy and try to establish some of these levels, so what is the level below which nobody gets to fish, above that which is somewhere that we think we are at, how do we have some kind of fisheries and make changes. We clearly knew that we have to make some changes this year, things are only going to get worse if we don't. So we are going to be into chasing a more difficult situation and you know, we have all learned over the last few years on Coho, we spent a lot of time talking from 99 through till, it was 89 through to 1998 before we took some actions that were a lot more severe than people would have liked and that doesn't benefit anyone. So I think you are on the right track. We are trying to move in that same direction. The ways that we are making changes over the last few years are the ones that are more in line with the principles that you guys are presenting and looking for. And I think that's the goal is to try and make this work. Just on the sports fishermen, between sport and commercial as far as Chinook salmon are concerned, the Department has a policy of more priority towards the sports fishers, so what you are going to see is what we are proposing here to take actions that are quite restrictive on the commercial fishery, we do have sketchy data, we are looking to make some decisions around the earliest-timed Chinook. We are going to take action on the sports fisheries. My comments are more on that data, it is really hard for us, it is going to be hard to say we are moving from exactly 90% reduction in that fishery. If you are fishing in a given river system the only population there to make a change, it is pretty easy to do the calculation on how much of an impact you've been having and of course benefit a bigger population. You go somewhere else where they are making up 1%, 2% of the population, the

combined stocks, then making these calculations just gets a little more difficult to understand exactly what we are. So you will see more of the specifics and what we are proposing here in just a couple of minutes.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Ok, the gentleman in the white ball cap, I know have a question, can I ask you to hold that until after we've had the sockeye presentation?

STAN HUNT (off microphone):

Well, it's the topic and I think it's important that we hear it. One of the things that concerns me the most is the managing, or the lack of, on the coastal rivers and streams in our territory. And that's a real frustration to us. It's the map of the impact! It's not just the sports fishing industry that impacts us as First Nations people on the coast. There's the farm fishing industry out there destroying our territories as First Nations people. This is the map of all the clam beds in our territory. Every little black dot that you see in this area is where all our clam beds are. And we are frustrated on the lack of management and enforcement that goes on in our territory. You think we are angry about spring salmon? We are angry about all of our resources on the coast and this continues to happen. And DFO turns its back on it. You want to talk about management? Let's put a management plan in that is going to protect the wild stocks, not introduce alien species into our territories and protect them. You know especially when we come to these meetings year after year after year, we talk about "How are we going to do this? How are we going to plan it?" save what little salmon we have left. Our rivers are dead. One chum went into our river this year. 25 springs. We had an opening up in the top end of Vancouver Island, catching our springs. You know the frustrating thing? What are you going to do about it? You are going to sit around here and tell us 'Well, it's in the works.' That's not good enough, Barry. We as First Nations got to stand up and fight for our rights to protect those salmon. You the list goes on and on and on. It's just not (*unclear*) it's everything that this industry brings, the whole (*unclear*), waste, killing, the impact. And the list goes on. I get frustrated when I come to these meetings and I listen to how we are going to save what little we have left. That's what frustrates me. I mean, we've got a hatchery that I keep hearing about, we've got to keep putting more effort into the hatcheries. It's not worth (*unclear*). Well, why isn't it working? We throw millions and millions of eggs into our estuaries and it is getting less and less and less because we are not looking at the core problems. The logging and everything else that comes along with it. The limitation, we talk about that all the time. What does that mean? What does that mean to us? We know what it means as First Nations people. It doesn't take a scientist to tell us what it means. Its common sense. Keep clear of the estuaries. If you can find a way to keep that fish in that river, you've solved the problem. How are you doing it? We're really frustrated on the coast... I'm saying (*unclear*) and now we're fighting over peanuts up here. Where these guys' salmon will be gone quickly. When it comes to the talk of management. There is no management mechanism in place. Show me it. So you know, we want to protect our streams and our rivers this year and it's the sports fishing industry that's impacting and it's the farm fishing industry that's having major impacts in our territory and nobody's paying attention.

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK thank you for your comments. Those are noted. I know in looking over the January 10th meeting summary as well that some of these broader management issues were addressed and brought up as well.

CHRIS COOK:

One of the answers that I never heard from Barry was that what is Fisheries taking a look at this 24/7. I mean, like Ken said, talking about conservation. If there's a conservation problem, if there's a hook in the water, there's not a conservation problem. But the Department of Fisheries and Oceans taking a look at now this coming year 2008 the price of conservation. If we are asked to try to figure a way to conserve fish so that it will help the spawning grounds? Are you taking a look at stopping the fisheries? You are telling us to stop. You are telling the First Nations to stop. You are telling the commercials to stop. But yet you're (*unclear*) the sports fishery, (*unclear*). If it's really good, give it to us, share it. But you haven't answered that.

VOICES SPEAKING TOGETHER

CHRIS COOK:

I have a question. I have come here to find out about something. I have come here to talk to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and I want to know what they're going to do about it! Not much sense me sitting here and then go back to the same old, same old.

VOICES SPEAKING TOGETHER

CHRIS COOK:

... one end of the coast to the other.

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

So what you are going to see is the plans that we have for this year. We are looking at taking actions that are looking to start as early as March 1st. There's actions that are proposed for commercial fishing, recreational and from the First Nations side there is some information on there. But at this stage primarily just First Nations, what we are looking for is feedback from you guys as to whether this plan fits and your responses to it and other ideas that you may have. There are actions that are proposed for the sports fisheries. Whether it is 24/7 or other things that they could, we would have to take a look at. Having a total closure in one place, if the earliest-timed Chinook are not there and they are somewhere else, how does that fit in? And that is part of the discussion here. But we do have a plan that is looking at trying to make reductions. It is probably in the 70-90% reduction of earliest-timed Chinook in the commercial and recreational fisheries and we are looking at trying to fix some actions with First Nations fisheries as probably in the 40-50% reduction so that combined we are going to be 50%+ trying to make some changes for this population through 2008 and it's a plan that we see has to built on over the next couple or three years, trying to continue to (*unclear*) as possible.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Ok, I am seeing a number of questions and a number of hands going up, but also recognizing that we have a presentation with some information on the sockeye draft escapement for 2008 that we have to get done by noon and we are now sitting at 11.25.

VOICE:

Very briefly then

MIKE SIMPSON:

I am just wondering, what is the .. do we hear from them, because if we keep taking questions, we won't hear that presentation and I am just wondering if that is critical information that we need this afternoon. So what does the group want to do?

VOICE:

Barry, are you here all day?

BARRY ROSENBERGER?

Yeah

MIKE SIMPSON:

Barry is here all day ...

GRAND CHIEF DOUG KELLY:

Take additional questions for Barry as soon as we are finished with Paul Ryall.

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

I think it actually just the way these questions are coming Doug and everybody. We think we need to get to the sockeye and Chinook presentations out here because you are going to have something more substantive to take a look at rather than what are you doing and where does this fit. So I think it is important for you guys to see these two presentations and then move into the discussion side of things and if you are looking for more time to caucus around some of that... But the majority of us are here all day and however long it takes, so I think we are going to have lots of time for questions. If you've got them, I'll hang around to talk about them.

MIKE SIMPSON:

So with that, I think I'll call on, is it Jeff, to do the presentation.

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

Paul – we are going to do the sockeye one first and if there is time, I think the way the questions are going, then we do the Chinook one.

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK, so Paul ...

PAUL RYALL:

While we're finding the presentation, I've been listening to the questions... (*adjusts microphone*)

MIKE SIMPSON:

Just to clarify – how much time do you need for your presentation, recognizing we have about 35 minutes, how long do you need?

P[AUL RYALL:

Well, I am planning as much time as the audience would like.

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK well recognize that we want to do Chinook before lunch as well.

PAUL RYALL:

The presentation itself is probably about 20 minutes. But I would like to start with some opening comments. First off, just picking up on Barry's last comment. We have been management action changes on early-timed Chinook for a number of years in all fisheries. And this won't be the last year. As Barry said... (*adjusts microphone*)... You know Barry's last comment is that this is not just a one year thing and I want to emphasize. This is not just we are going to make some changes in 2008 and that will be the end of it for early-timed Chinook. As you'll hear from Jeff, a number of these stocks have less than a hundred spawners, four out of seven that we're looking at have less than 100 spawners. This is obviously not a good thing. And these changes will affect all fisheries. It will affect commercials, sport and First Nations. And in the order that Barry talked about. The second thing that I am reminded about is 2007. We had a forecast for Fraser sockeye in 2007 that was about 6.3 million, which was called a 50p number, which means that it could be equally larger or smaller. Right. What did we end up with? We ended up with 1.4 million, the smallest number of returned fish on their cycles. Why did that occur? Our information indicates it had nothing to do with the amount of fish that we put on the grounds four years before in 2003. There was actually about 2 million spawners that were on the grounds in 2003, which is a very good number of spawners on that cycle. So what happened? For the stock that we have marine survival information, which is (*unclear*), the actual marine survival was about 1%. And if you look at that long-term – and long-term meaning about 50 years that we've collected information on this – the average is about 8% - right? So 8% down to 1%. What does this translate into? What actions? Everyone in this room I am sure remembers the actions that happened last year. There was no commercial fishery, there was no sport fishery, there was a very very limited First Nations that harvested under 2000 Fraser River sockeye in 2007.

MIKE STALEY:

200,000...

PAUL RYALL:

200,000 was harvested in First Nation FSC fisheries in 2007. What did we end up with on the grounds? We ended up with 900,000, which is not a bad escapement for future years. But that caused a lot of pain for people in this room. And as I mentioned, there was no commercial or sport fishery. These are not easy actions to take. I wanted to start with that preamble, and I don't have an escapement plan to show you at this point. What I wanted to talk about was some process and some concepts of how we are going to develop a Fraser River sockeye plan for 2008. we have been working on a process for five years. There's been a working group that has been working on this – Mike Staley is one of those that provides us a lot of information and advice about how to craft those escapement strategies for Fraser River sockeye. As I say, I don't have a plan that I am going to put up here and say here is the 2008 escapement plan, but what I do have, and there'll be copies of the presentation and a copy of the options for 2008. Because it is going to take some more time to develop that 2008 escapement strategy. It will take some time in meetings with people in this room, and consultation around that escapement strategy. And I am going to talk about that process. What Barry talked about, well what's first?

(Mr. Ryall moves into presentation as follows – his comments in *italics*)

SLIDE:

Integrated Salmon Harvest Plans

- DFO is committed to developing an approach for integrated fisheries and a planning process, based on the following principles:
- Conservation is first, taking precedence in managing the resource with a common framework as envisioned in the Wild Salmon Policy;
- After conservation needs are met, First Nations' food, social, ceremonial requirements and treaty obligations to First Nations have first priority in salmon allocation;
- Transparent rules with all fishers treated fairly and equitably;
- Improved conservation and fishery performance through strengthened enforcement and compliance regime, improved catch reporting and monitoring, and traceability;
- Encouraging collaboration through the development of protocols and harvest planning processes.

Meeting conservation, second First Nations FSC and after that after pre-requirements there'll be commercial and recreational. As everyone has said as well as heard, we have been working on implementing the Wild Salmon Policy. The first place that we have been working on this is within the Fraser River and on Fraser River sockeye.

There is still a lot of work to be done, but over the time that we've been doing this, I think we have made some good progress on implementing the Wild Salmon Policy within Fraser River sockeye but there is much more work to be done on that. We have identified conservation units and there is. last year there was a piece in our paper that identified a methodology for conservation units and that methodology will be coming out along with identification of a list of conservation units. The only part of the equation is benchmarks. What do we want to protect and secondly, how badly do we want to protect that? Scientists, statisticians will talk about probability. You can use words like how bad do you really want to make sure that we are going to avoid causing a conservation problem? And identifying those benchmarks. We have identified some interim ones, but I am sure that they will change once there is some more scientific work, one thing I am always sure of in dealing with this in Fisheries and oceans is that there is constant change. Whether it is in the amount of fish that are coming back or the way that we manage the fisheries. So I don't think that any of those points up there in this first slide are news to anyone, I think they have seen them in one form or another and Barry has talked about them in some more details. I now want to go to the slide talking about concept and I want to talk about some of the outcomes of those concepts and then I want to talk about next steps. As I said we have been working on this process for five years, we have had dozens of workshops over those five years, we have invested quite a bit of time and quite a bit of your time. Out of those workshops there have been 20-40 participants that have come to us and provided us with a great deal of information, a great deal of insights and thoughts about how we would implement developing an escapement strategy for Fraser River sockeye. One of the tools that we've developed is a model. This model has currently 19 stocks in it. These are the stocks that we think we have good information on. I think that by the time that we identify all the conservation units for Fraser River sockeye there will be more than 19 but we don't have that additional data at this point. That will take time to develop. But out of those 19 stocks, there's a variety of stocks in there that have really good productivity that produces a lot of fish and there's stocks in there that have very low productivity and aren't producing very many fish and they probably cover the gamut of the whole conservation unit.

So you can see there are throughout the watershed. And I do expect that by the time we identify the conservation units, we are going to be talking more like 30-40 conservation units for Fraser River sockeye, not just 19. What do we deal with this model? It provides us with Guidance. Like any model, we have to make a bunch of assumptions. We do that with input from the scientists and people like yourself. You know that just doesn't make any sense – your models might be telling you this, but we don't believe it and you should be taking another look at it. So that's what we do as far as the consultation process. Last year as I said, we prepared these 4 escapement strategies, we had a range of them, they went from harvest a large amount of fish to protect all fish. I am talking about wide boundaries here, exaggerating a little bit. But we looked at a whole range of escapement strategies and we narrowed that range down to about 6. We then compared the performance of those six strategies across performance measures, which is just a word for how many fish did you get back on the grounds across probabilities of four years for example. What did that mean for the catch? What did that mean for the harvest? And at the end we made an escapement strategy that was implemented for 2007 and we provided a rationale for that in a memo that was circulated and we are now developing one for 2008.

What guides us as we develop this are a number of principles. So we have three principles.

SLIDE:

Guiding Principles

A long term strategy based on:

- Protection of component stocks and stability of harvest for each of the 4 run timing aggregates. (*Early Stuarts, Early Summers, Summers and Lates – one of the comments and criticisms that we heard last year is that we shouldn't just be managing the aggregates but we should actually manage each one of those conservation units and that we should have an escapement strategy for each one of those – an individual one for each one of those. Maybe it will end up there, I don't know, but currently we have an escapement strategy for each one of those aggregates and we have started to explore what would it mean if we had an escapement strategy for each one of those different stocks. At this point, we are not planning to implement that for 2008, that is an individual one for each stock. But it will still be on those four management aggregates.*)
- Achieving conservation and sustainable harvest. (*Its always going to come down to some concerns about, you're going to provide 100% surety on achieving conservation probably means you are going to have difficulty meeting some harvest objectives. So there is always going to be, I am not going to say a balance, a trade off, but there is always going to be an examination of what it means the surety of achieving those conservation objectives and looking at what it means for a harvest.*)
- Long term performance of biological, social, and economic indicators.

SLIDE:

Principle 1: Protection of component stocks and stability of harvest for each of the 4 run timing aggregates. (*under each one of those there is three sub-columns, with management of the 4 timing aggregates*)

- Fraser sockeye escapement is managed in 4 groups (Early Stuart, Early Summer, Summer, Late) (*We don't plan to make any changes to that type*)

of a strategy for 2008. We will be exploring whether we are going to be looking at more management aggregates or sub-aggregates. There could be some minor changes this year.)

- Escapement strategies for each management group are designed to protect component stocks and stabilize total harvest.
- Annual targets for each management group are based on escapement strategies that specify target levels of total mortality across different run sizes. *(So its not just one fixed escapement, of different run sizes. The actual escapement, and I'll show you a graph here in a second, and there's also a table in the presentation, that shows that if the run size changes, there'll actually be a change in the escapement level.)*

SLIDE:

Principle 2: Achieving conservation and sustainable harvest.

To achieve a balance between conservation at low abundance and harvest at higher abundance, the strategies specify:

- No fishing at very low run size, except for stock assessment. *(and when I say stock assessment, this takes place in the form of test fisheries in the marine waters and within the Fraser River)*
- Fixed escapement at low run sizes to protect the stocks.
- Fixed total allowable mortality rate of 60% at larger run sizes. This cap on mortality serves two purposes: It ensures robustness against uncertainty (e.g. capacity estimate, changing run-size estimates) and protects stocks that are less abundant, less productive, or both.

So how do we do this? We come back to these performance measures. We take a look at a variety of these, we've created quite a few and we've had a whole range of feedback on these performance measures. And we compare each one of those candidate escapement strategies to those performance measures relative to their biological and social indicators.

SLIDE:

Principle 3: Long term performance of biological, social, and economic indicators.

SLIDE:

The exact shape of the escapement strategy for each management group is selected based on simulated performance and reviewed in public consultation. Candidate escapement strategies are compared based on their performance relative to biological and social indicators.

Biological indicators reflect the intent of the WSP and emphasize comparisons to stock-specific escapement benchmarks (e.g. How often does the 4-yr average escapement fall below the benchmark?).

Social indicators focus on stability in total harvest (e.g. How often is the realizable harvest less than 1 Million fish?).

This slide here is a summary of those three principles and concepts and terminology. You'll see there's quite a bit in our memo that we provided in a few weeks. So as I talked about there's three ranges. At low run size there'd be no fishing, at a mid run size range there'd be a fixed escapement strategy and a large run size there would be a fixed total allowable mortality for harvest.

SLIDE:

TAM RULES

Concepts & Terminology

3 ranges: no fishing, fixed escapement, fixed TAM

Cap on Total Allowable Mortality = 60% throughout

Cut-back point = switch from fixed TAM to fixed escapement, and start to cut back TAM from 60% cap

No-fishing point = switch from fixed escapement to no fishing (except test fishing)

There's also, for each one when we developed these, there's a cut back point and there's a no fishing point. And I am going to show you a graph that outlines how this ..

GERALD ROBERTS:

You said "no fishing" is that like for everybody? For First Nations, sports, commercial and all.

PAUL RYALL:

Yes. Early Stuart, there was no fishing on early Stuart. There was very minimal harvest on Early Stuart.

GERALD ROBERTS (off microphone):

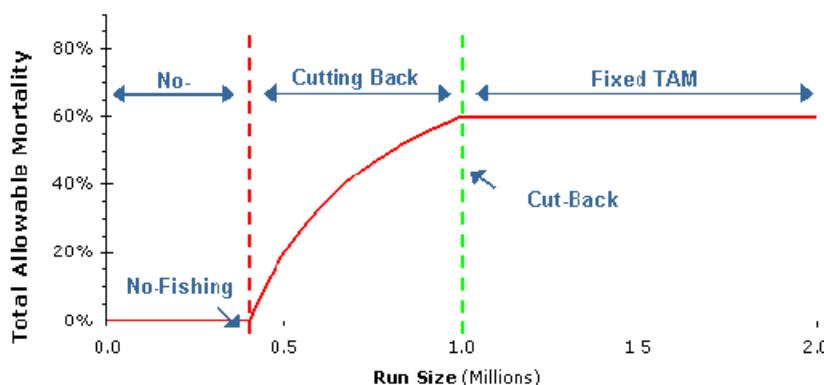
We're Johnson Strait and we haven't fished early Stuart runs since I was 17, I am now 66 years old. Why is that not building up? Who is fishing on that? The sports fishers. The only fishery that's over there (unclear)Chinook. And maybe you're expecting in our area, a chum river area, they are expecting a derby a day, that's just people on the river, early runs. That's where the Chinook are going. To the sports fishermen so they can win a prize of \$25,000 to catch our food fish. I got other things, (unclear)...

PAUL RYALL:

How about if I take your questions (speaking together) because there are, on this, and we'll have time for questions at the end...

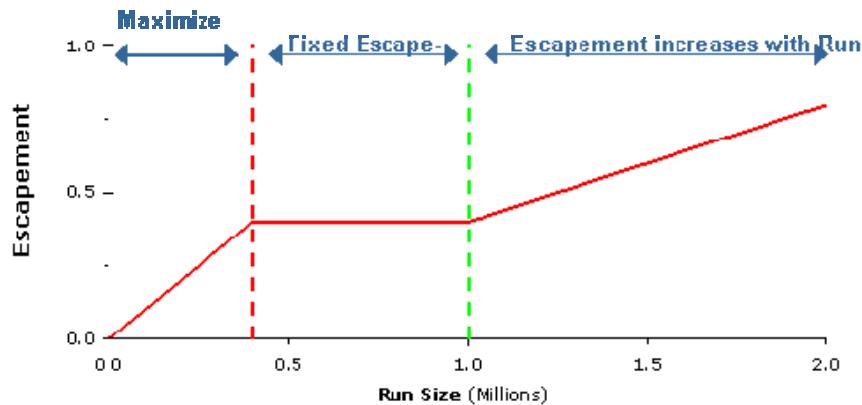
So on this graph here, it does show no fishing and this means that run size – and the numbers here are not concordant on the graph as far as what .. the shape of that curve, ok. So on this one here it says run size if it is less than about 400,000 there'd be no fishing. From there, there would be a harvest that would increase, a harvest rate, total allowable mortality would increase from zero up to a maximum of 60, and it would remain at 60 for run sizes that is greater than ...

TAM Rules



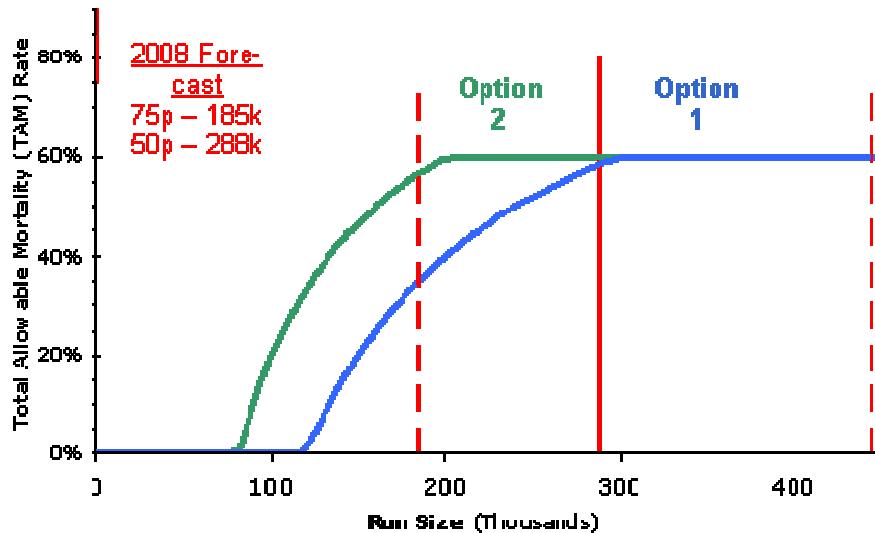
What does this mean for fish on the grounds? It means that for anything less than 400,000 on this particular graph, then all those fish would go to the spawning grounds. For run sizes greater than the 400,000 there would be a fixed escapement and then for very large runs for large run sizes greater than a million the escapement levels would increase. This would apply to each one of the four management groups.

TAM Rules



Here's an example for Early Summers, and it said, you know there are going to be some options and considerations for what needs to be developed for 2008. So these numbers on this graph actually mean something for 2008. These are the forecast right now for Early Summers, not including some smaller stocks, but the current forecast at 50p level is 288,000 at 75, at least a three out of four chance that the run size will be greater than 185,000. And I have shown here two options and they have quite different meanings. Option 1 in the blue, there is a cut back where there are decreases from that fixed total allowable mortality at run sizes of 300,000 and from there it starts to decrease. Till it goes down to that no fishing point on that blue line just above 100,000. And option 2, the one in green, that cut back point is around 200,000 and then drops down to the no fishing point below 100,000, in fact its about 90,000. So what does that mean as far as the strategy? Well, you know first off it means Option 1 is going to have more surety of achieving those escapement targets over Option 2. Option 2 means that there is going to be some less surety of achieving those escapement targets or the probability of it. But it also means that there is going to be some increased probability in the long term of achieving these long-term catch targets. Not easy to see that from that graph, but that's what it means. You are making some choices there. You are making some choices of how much surety you want to see of achieving those escapement targets vs. how much do you want to stay above achieving some catch targets? My presentation here today is not to talk about what those numbers are in particular, because there are going to be quite a few discussions around this in the future and there will be more detail on this. (See graph below)

TAM Rules: Early Summer Options



So now I want to go to the process. As I talked about in 2007 we had a host of workshops, we had 3 extensive workshops and smaller ones and we developed a management escapement strategy for Fraser River sockeye. But even a number of years before that (unclear).

SLIDE:

- 2007 Workshops
- Major milestone: Wrap up development pro
- Extensive discussion of alternative strategies and structured comparisons
- Feedback helped shape the pre-season escapement plan for inclusion in 2007 IFMP, which went through usual advisory and consultative processes.
- Escapement memo summarizing rationale for 2007 escapement plan based on simulation scenarios was circulated to support discussions.

Our plan this year is to have that memo done almost a month sooner. So that will be out and then we would be meeting and talking about options for 2008. What did we learn from last year, right? We implemented this last year, so I think we learned a couple of things.

SLIDE:

- 2007 Implementation
- New Escapement Strategies

- resulted in management actions that were responsive to the run size changes and consistent with priorities. (*We had large changes of run sizes in 2007, as I said the forecast started at 6.3 million, by the time that we had done the in-season assessment, we were down to 1.4 million and we made a lot of changes through the actual, as we went along. So it was responsive to those run size changes.*)
- severe reduction in total Fraser exploitation rate (to 10-15%) resulted in reasonable escapement levels being achieved despite the lowest return. (*As I said when I started this presentation. There was a very low harvest rate, 10-15% resulted in a 200,000 capture of First Nations FSC and no commercial or sport fishery. I don't think our learning on this is complete. We don't know for example how responsive we are to changes at the upper end and hopefully in the future years, we'll actually see that.*)
- 2007 tested the lower ranges of the Escapement Strategy but not the ranges where commercial, recreational and full FSC fishing opportunities would have been permitted.

What are the next steps? Well as I have alluded to, we are pretty much complete at the technical analysis. We will be developing that memo that we will be circulating and we will be setting up meetings to talk about the planning the escapement strategy for 2008.

SLIDE:

Next Steps – 2008 Planning

February / March

- Feedback on options used in internal review to draft 2008 escapement plan
- IFMP
- Draft IFMP released late March
- Consultation with First Nations and via advisory process (e.g. IHPC, CSAB, MCC and SFAB) April/May
- Advice and IFMP presented to Minister for decision

Now in my discussion here, I have focused on 2008 Fraser Sockeye Escapement strategy, but that time frame is really applicable to the whole management plan for south coast and north coast salmon plans. That we would have the north coast and south coast salmon plans out by late March and that the consultation meetings would unfold in April and conclude in early May.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Paul, I just want to know, we've got about ten minutes until we break for lunch and DFO has been requested to leave the room, so I just want to make sure that we have time for questions for you as well.

PAUL RYALL:

OK, I am basically done. As I said I have had some copies made of this presentation, there are some extra slides up here that I am not going to go through. They provide some additional details on numbers (see slides below) that I have talked about in general concepts. And I think I'll probably stop there with the exception of one slide.

Fraser Sockeye 2008 Forecast

Sockeye run timing group	0.1	0.5	0.9
Early Stuart	73,000	35,000	17,000
Early Summer	932,000	349,000	136,000
(excl. miscellaneous)	702,000	288,000	120,000
Summer	4,324,000	1,810,000	822,000
Late	1,728,000	705,000	283,000
Total	7,057,000	2,899,000	1,258,000

This slide in here is providing you an idea of if we applied a 2007 escapement strategy to 2008 – it assumes as well that there is a 15% harvest rate on light runs, I am not, I am making that assumption. I am not implying anything beyond that. Besides that I needed to assume something if I was going to put that in as far as the calculation for 2008. What does it say? Well the top graph, or the top box, is at the 50p forecast level, ok, 2.9 million. It works with the numbers of the escapement target and the management adjustment. I didn't really talk too much about the management adjustment, but that management adjustment number there is implemented to help us provide surety of achieving the actual escapement target. Subtract those off, total deductions off, and what do you end with, a total allowable catch. Now this total allowable catch is everything, its not, and this means within Canada and the US. So at the 50p level it's at 1,448,000. If the forecast 75p level of 1.8 million, the total run size of Fraser sockeye, there would be a total allowable harvest of 300,000. Now I put this up here just to give you an idea, as I said this is based upon a bunch of, a number of assumptions. The first assumption assumes a 15% allowable harvest on late runs. And second it assumes that we are applying the 2007 escapement. I thought this would help you, and I'm, provide some understanding of what could be available for harvest in 2008 over two levels of run size, a 75p and a 50. The actual advice from our scientists is that we should be considering that range between 50 and 75 in crafting management plans for 2008. And that's what we will be doing.

Fraser River Sockeye 50p Forecast Level

Management Group		E. Stuart	E. Summer	Summer	Birkenhead	Lates	Total
Run Size		35	349	1,810	331	374	2,899
Deductions	Escapement Target	35	145	724	132	320	1,356
	Management Adjustment	24	59	36			119
Total Deductions		59	204	760	132	320	1,475
Total Allowable Catch		0	145	1,050	199	54	1,448

Fraser River Sockeye 75p Forecast Level

Management Group		E. Stuart	E. Summer	Summer	Birkenhead	Lates	Total
Run Size		24	216	1,182	200	232	1,854
Deductions	Escapement Target	24	140	520	88	197	969
	Management Adjustment	17	52	26			95
Total Deductions		41	192	546	88	197	1,064
Total Allowable Catch		0	24	636	112	35	807

2008 Run Size Forecast

Sockeye stock/timing group	Forecast model ^b	2008 cycle	Probability of Achieving Specified Run Sizes ^a				
			0.1	0.25	0.5	0.75	0.9
Early Stuart	fry	182,000	73,000	49,000	35,000	24,000	17,000
Early Summer		-	838,000	516,000	349,000	205,000	130,000
<i>(total excluding miscellaneous)</i>		538,000	702,000	444,000	288,000	185,000	120,000
Bowron	Ricker-pi	26,000	8,000	6,000	5,000	3,000	2,000
Fennell	power	41,000	37,000	25,000	17,000	11,000	7,000
Gates	power	149,000	148,000	97,000	63,000	38,000	25,000
Nadina	fry	129,000	288,000	168,000	103,000	59,000	35,000
Pitt	power	65,000	91,000	73,000	59,000	52,000	39,000
Raft	power	64,000	91,000	51,000	27,000	14,000	8,000
Scotch	power	16,000	19,000	10,000	5,000	3,000	1,000
Seymour	Ricker-cyc	48,000	20,000	14,000	9,000	5,000	3,000
Misc ^d	R/S	-	136,000	72,000	37,000	20,000	10,000
Misc ^e	R/S	-	50,000	26,000	14,000	7,000	4,000
Misc ^f	avg escp	-	44,000	21,000	10,000	4,000	2,000
Summer		2,882,000	4,324,000	2,729,000	1,810,000	1,182,000	822,000
Chilko	smolt	1,804,000	1,783,000	1,230,000	885,000	596,000	433,000
Late Stuart	power	323,000	1,450,000	714,000	355,000	177,000	95,000
Quesnel	power	90,000	255,000	163,000	93,000	48,000	27,000
Stellako	Ricker	665,000	836,000	622,000	477,000	361,000	267,000
Late		1,728,000	1,139,000	705,000	432,000	283,000	
<i>(total excluding miscellaneous)</i>		788,000	1,435,000	938,000	610,000	400,000	268,000
Cultus	smolt-jack	6,000	14,000	9,000	5,000	3,000	2,000
Harrison ^h	TSA	19,000	233,000	110,000	47,000	21,000	10,000
Late Shuswap	Larkin	39,000	49,000	26,000	15,000	7,000	3,000
Portage	power	24,000	49,000	27,000	15,000	7,000	4,000
Weaver	fry	405,000	629,000	434,000	290,000	193,000	126,000
Birkenhead	power	295,000	461,000	332,000	238,000	169,000	123,000
Misc. Shuswap ^g	R/S	-	6,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
Misc. non-Shuswap ^g	R/S	-	287,000	198,000	93,000	31,000	14,000
TOTAL (Excluding miscellaneous)		4,390,000	6,534,000	4,160,000	2,743,000	1,791,000	1,227,000
TOTAL		-	6,963,000	4,433,000	2,899,000	1,843,000	1,252,000

Early Summer Run forecast 216K (75P)

Early Summers	Cut-Back Point	No Fishing	Escape. Target	Management Adjustment	ER	TAC
Option 1	350K	140K	140K	52K	11 %	24K
Option 2	233K	93K	93K	35K	41 %	88K

Run Size = 100K

Esc. Goal = 1-TAM = 40K fish

pMA = 30% = esc.goal*30% = 12K fish

TAM = 60% = 60K fish

ER = run size - (esc. goal + MA) = 48K fish = 48%

END OF PRESENTATION

MIKE SIMPSON:

I think we need to open it up for some questions at this point, I see Stan had a question. Just because we have about 7 minutes before we have to break for lunch.

STAN HUNT (*off microphone*):

Very quickly.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Questions specific to the presentation please.

STAN HUNT (*off microphone*):

I need to remind the Fisheries Department the Sparrow case and all you guys, you young people are sitting with all their meetings. The Sparrow said something to us. These guys are here to try to change the scenario about how we're going to do business. I think conservation with them for us. Sparrow said that if conservation is a problem, they have to take a look at whatever is going back into the river to spawn. If there is a conservation problem, they have to consider us first. They're to manage us. I am just getting annoyed at the way we are trying to change the rules and regulations here. I've been at the same for over 55 years and I have sat in on many of their meetings. The thing is, their managing us, they are managing people, they are not managing the fish. They are telling you what they are going to do for you. I don't hear this thing, you know, the little percentage that they are going to give us there. I always want to remind you of that Sparrow it said something to us, and if there is a conservation problem, every damn fish (*unclear*) comes to us, it doesn't go to the sports fishermen, even though I am a commercial fisherman, I'll buy that. I'll buy into that. Because my family needs to eat, and that is what sustained us here for a long time. I don't want to hear the baloney about they're going to divide this up and divide that up and make us pay the price. No way. Because you are going to have harsh consequences if that happens. I'm going to tell you something, what I tell our people. You be prepared to die for what you think! And I am serious about that. We can't continue to have this depletion of our stocks and have some white guy tell you can't do this and do that. That's a ton of garbage! And I mean that. I am quite serious about that.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Thank you for your comments. Any other specific questions for Paul? Yes, sir?

GERALD ROBERTS (*off microphone*):

You talk about a five-year plan on the Fraser. What about our territory? We've got twelve to fourteen rivers there that because of your management of the fisheries, are gone. Because you guys didn't protect us from the logging companies and everything else. When are you going to start rebuilding that? Because your government says to us that we want you to fish in your area. Well, that's a joke. We got one river going right now, we've got five stocks in it, you don't contribute hardly anything to keep that river going. When are you going to start rebuilding our rivers so we don't just have to rely on the Fraser River. It's not only in our area, the whole coast it happens that way. It happens in Port Alberni, it happens up above us, Bella Bella. Overspawning. Overspawning. You guys think that doesn't hurt the run? 1999 biggest run we ever had, we got 18 hours of fishing out of there out of how many millions and millions of fish that you guys covered up and just (*unclear*) there's so many fish on the Fraser River banks. You don't take no responsibility for that? And I hate this word "we". What are you talking about "we". You come to us

and give me this plan. You never came to our territory and had a meeting with us in Campbell River or anywhere and sat down and said "Ok First Nations, now that we're in such a fix what are we going to, you are going to have, we're going to start listening to some of your agreements how to solve this problem." You expect us to solve it in two days or two, three weeks. What's the problem you guys are having? Ever since you took over, our runs have gone that way. So I think you had better step down and let us manage our own fishery.

PAUL RYALL:

Yeah, thanks for that. I think that this is going to take quite a number of years. It is not just one year. As I mentioned on Fraser Chinook that Jeff is going to be talking about. It is not a one-year plan, it is going to be longer than that. As far as where to go next on implementing wild salmon policy. The next place that we are looking at right now is Barkley Sound. It's going to be a number of years before I see that the Wild Salmon Policy fully implemented for all Pacific region. It's a big cast and there are many salmon streams within BC as everyone knows, and it's not going to be one year. It's going to take a number of years and we've been working on the Fraser sockeye one for over four years. And as I said I don't have a 2008 escapement strategy plan right now. We have some thoughts on what we want to do for 2008 based on the work that we have done. And that we will be meeting with you to talk about some of those ideas and getting your input. There will be meetings with Gordy and his staff in Campbell River and other parts of the island to talk about that. So there will be opportunities to provide input.

MIKE SIMPSON:

I think we'll close it there, thanks very much Paul for your presentation. I think we'll end it there, we're one minute to twelve and as mentioned earlier, the First Nations have asked for DFO to leave so that they can convene in caucus from 12 to 1. So I would suggest that DFO folks could grab lunch and then head out in the hall and then we'll meet back at 1. the one thing I do want to suggest is, let's take about (*unclear*) because there are some big issues and if we aren't going to address by the end of the day but what can we accomplish to keep the momentum going forward. So maybe think about that over lunch and what do we want to achieve with the folks that we have here today, so we'll see you back at 1.

END OF MORNING SESSION

AFTERNOON SESSION – 1.39pm

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK Thanks everybody, I think we'll get going again. So next up on the... let's just check in with the Agenda with what we're doing and what we've covered already. So next we've got the presentation on Chinook, conservation issues and harvest plans put forward by DFO. And then Number 4 is a review of the process to date and the meetings January 10th and also the sub-regional meetings. I know that Barry has given some context on that already but we should hear back from First Nations within each of the different sub-regions. Then we have Number 5, which is FRAFS figures and forecasts for some of the numbers, might have to be a little bit different. We've got in-season process and communications and then some other issues as well. I have a few things that I didn't put initially, they are pretty standard and I just want to make sure that everyone's ok with them. 4 o'clock I am figuring we should put on next steps, you know what do we want to do, what are we doing when we leave this meeting and in particular maybe what's happening at the next watershed-wide meeting. 4.15 a bit of an evaluation to make sure if things are not working at this meeting, you know, how are we going to do things differently next time, you know what works for people, and then adjourn by 4.30. Is 4.30 an ok adjournment time for everybody, I know that's the initial time that we put out? That works for everyone? 4.30? OK. So any concerns with those last things on the Agenda and where we are going? Anything else that has come up that people think that we should be talking about or are we ok with this? OK, hearing no objections, we'll turn over to Barry to start the presentation on Chinook.

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

OK thanks. Doug gave us some of the context this morning. I think to try to keep this going, I want to bring a couple of points up to bring it all into perspective. On the earliest-timed Chinook which has been the primary focus, a stock of concern here, I think the key point we're looking for, it didn't just start this year or last year which is when the information you see is when some of the worst returns were. But a period of time leading up to 2001, there was a document, a science document put together by Richard Bailey and others that went through the (*unclear*) process and it was key in that it was the first time that it talked about some of the uncertainty of data, the stocks weren't necessarily tracking in the same way, there was 4 populations that we were talking of that time. But there was enough concern acknowledged from that that the goal then that came out of that was not to increase exploitation rate while we tried to learn more and have plans that would be more meaningful moving forward. From that time, we started making a number of adjustments in sports fishery for example in the Interior on the Thompson River fish (*unclear*) part of its populations, and working with the Nicola folks. When we found code wire tagged fish from those earlier times versus the Nicola (*unclear*) themselves a little bit later, we started making adjustments in those fisheries, And in the west coast of Vancouver Island troll fishery there was about three or four years ago a one month closure in the 123/124 area, kind of south west part of Vancouver Island. Trying to make sure that those exploitation rates were not increasing and potentially then going the other way. There was also some First Nations fisheries and place and times and changes, some of it voluntary changes. Like the price thing, the Nicola are concerned about trying to build those fish up faster and make some changes, so we do recognize that that is going on and it is very positive steps to be showing. Where we are at today was brought up earlier on the sockeye. 2007 is the worst returns for many populations, not just these earliest-timed Chinook that

have existed on many streams stocks from California essentially into southern southeast Alaska, and much more significant actions are needed and we agree with that and that is clearly what we are hearing from the First Nations side of things. So the, and moving forward here, we are looking to step up the most significant actions and plan in 2008 but we see this as moving on for the three year period that we talked about earlier. There are two other significant stocks that we are taking actions for that we don't have any specifics right now on. It's the WCVI's, the west coast of Vancouver Island, the natural spawning populations, and the lower Georgia Strait and Cowichan is the indicator that usually we look at to understand those things a little better. So as was pointed out earlier from a few people we need to look at more than the harvest rates side of these things. We are looking at a more holistic approach, habitat, size of things, restoration that are done with that issues. Probably some other things that some people will have some ideas on. And our goals right now that lead into this are the largest brunt of the actions needed to be taken will be sport and commercial sectors and overall we'll be (*unclear*) a couple of options, one is in the 50% range and one in the 70% range for reductions from the current exploitation rates to try to help in moving this population in a different direction. So, with that, I'll hand over to Jeff...

JEFF GROUT:

Thanks Barry. Nice to finally get up here. I keep hearing these references to that Jeff guy and I'm looking around going ... Right. This is a presentation that some of you may have seen parts of although there are a lot of new faces here that I haven't spoken specifically with. You may have seen parts of this from some of our staff at one of the sub-regional meetings. I was out and did the meeting out at Abbotsford and others did the presentation up in Kamloops and the south coast. So I have cut this down quite a bit from the information I've provided, mainly to leave more time for discussion as opposed to just having a presentation for half an hour. We've got about ten slides and I outline some of the management options we are proposing in the end here. So maybe I'll go through it, and if you have clarifications on a slide, we can maybe take it there, but if you've got big picture other questions try and hold on until the end if you can.

Mr. Grout moved into his presentation as per the following slides. His additional comments in italics.

*Just in terms of the background here, the populations we are talking about are a group of seven fish and we have clarified this list for previous years there's been some work done by (*unclear*) in our Science Branch for stock assessment. These are populations of five year olds and four year old stream type fish. They spend two years in fresh water and either two or three years out in the ocean. The return in the peak of their timing in March, April and May. So these are the seven main populations (reads slide below).*

SLIDE

Background

Stocks in the group have peak migration into Fraser in Mar-May period:

- Birkenhead (5₂)
- Chilako (5₂)
- Coldwater (4₂)
- Cottonwood (5₂)
- Louis (4₂)
- Sپius (4₂)
- Upper Chilcotin (age 5₂)



So a mix of four year olds and five year old fish. Note the five year old fish would have been out to see in 2005 when we saw this very low marine survival across Chinook populations, so we are not expecting much in the way of our five year old screen type fish, certainly through the interior populations. As I pointed out, Birkenhead is doing something quite different compared to these other fish in the last two or three years. So in terms of escapement, here each of these seven systems again. Here's the spawner abundance from last year 2007, you can see four of these are at less than 100 fish.... (Mr. Grout reads through following slide)

Status Indicators: Escapement

System	Spawne	Broo	% of	Spawn-	2007 as
Chilako	76	229	33%	6,269	1%
Coldwater	107	1,19	9%	1,118	10%
Cotton-	378	1,35	28%	3,972	10%
Louis	25	481	5%	1,622	1%
Sپius	60	1,17	5%	2,043	3%
U. Chilco-	78	523	15%	2,712	3%
Birken-	1,968	463	425%	1,683	117%

•2007 escapement at very low fraction of brood year and productive capacity of habitat; with exception of Birkenhead

One other piece of information that I have got up here is the spawners at MSY, well what does that mean? This is an estimate of the number of spawners that you would want to put into the spawning habitat to maximize the harvest. I am not saying that's necessarily the objective here, it is just to give you a sense of how many fish the habitat we estimate might be able to support in support in terms of giving you the biggest possible yield. For all of these, they are in the thousands of fish, we are nowhere close to that, in fact we're at a small fraction of the (unclear) less than 10%. Birkenhead again is right around the capacity level so it is in very good shape on our arguments based on the last three or four years of information we've got. Why is Birkenhead doing well compared to these other ones? Given that we've been applying increasing management measures on these early-timed Chinook? Well, based on some of our coded wire tag information it appears that Birkenhead is a far north migrant whereas these other populations appear to rear of the west coast of Vancouver island offshore. So it could be that Birkenheads are perhaps benefiting

from improved marine survival compared to these other groups. Birkenhead is also very early timing so it is still possible it is getting through some of the fisheries before they can be impacted. They are leaving the Fraser main stem at the Harrison as well. So for whatever reason, Birkenhead is a bit of different picture compared to these other populations.

SLIDE:

Status Indicators: Escapement

- 2007 escapement at very low fraction of brood year and productive capacity of habitat; with exception of Birkenhead
- Birkenhead unique far north marine distribution and very early spawner migration. Different marine survival and fishery impacts.

In terms of the IFMP, the IFMP spans the period to the end of May and its probably a little bit out of step with Chinook in that the Chinook year at least some of the salmon treaty starts in October, but taking that into account we had an objective in there last year for early-timed Chinook to limit harvest levels in Fraser River fisheries to levels similar or less than in previous. The key point is that further assessments were being undertaken and increased measures in the spring of this year were possible. So at all of our meetings that we have been coming out to, we have been indicating that we're going to be seeking feedback on increased measures and we have been working to try and further define what some of those measures might look like.

SLIDE:

Management Objective

2007 IFMP:

The objective for earliest-timed Fraser Chinook is to limit harvest levels in Fraser River fisheries to levels similar, or less than in previous years. Further assessments are being undertaken and increased management measures in the spring of 2008 are possible.

The Department is seeking feedback on increased management measures for the spring of 2008

So in terms of the picture where we are at to date .. we've got

SLIDE:

Summary

- Expectations for returns of ET Chinook in 2008 are poor given information from Chinook returns in 2007 and poor survival of salmon entering the ocean in 2005 (*poor returns in 2008, especially for the five year olds and for Fraser Chinook that's pretty important because a lot of the female spawning capacity or the female spawners are going to be represented in the five year old fish. So that's a concern given the poor survival of 2005. We have also had some signs of weakness in the 2004 brood and the three year old returns last year which suggest that the fours, although we expect them to be stronger than last year, may still not be up around the average survival sorts of levels.*)
- Exploitation on ET Chinook is variable but appears to have increased in recent years; escapements are a small fraction of habitat productive capacity
- Increased management measures are required to reduced exploitation of ET Chinook

We have had lots of reference to the data for these fish, we are lacking in key pieces of information, but we do have a fair bit of data. If its not Fraser sockeye we are trying to manage here, we don't have a TAC and a no-fishing point like Paul Ryall' identified. We are hoping that the Wild Salmon Policy is going to come along and define some limit reference points for us and make management more clear in terms of a specific point where our concern indicates that we are not going to fish. We don't have that this year. So what we've got proposed is an objective that tries to take step this year in moving us in the direction we need to go. And one of the things we are looking at is reductions in the exploitation range.

So in terms of potential management options for 2008, I am going to show you some options here that we have proposed across fisheries. We've got a package of measures that we have gone out and are seeking feedback on. We also need to put something in the IFMP for this year and we're shooting for towards the end of March to have the draft ironed out with the IFMP. So we are still going to be missing this limit reference point piece and this other information from the Wild Salmon Policy, so we do have a proposed change in the objective with a couple of notable differences here.

SLIDE:

Potential Management Options for 2008

- The Department is seeking feedback on the management objective for the 2008/09 IFMP and potential management actions for the Spring 2008 fisheries to reduce the ET Chinook exploitation rate
- The proposed new management objective for the 2008/09 IFMP is:
The objective for earliest timed Chinook is to reduce the exploitation rate to less than in previous years. Increased management measures for all fisheries that impact these populations will be developed.
Last year's plan will not address the declining escapements and the apparent reduced ocean survival for ET Chinook in recent years.

SLIDE:

Potential Management Options for 2008

The Department is seeking feedback on options for all fisheries to reduce harvest levels starting in spring of 2008

We are referring to hard exploitation rates specifically rather than harvest level. This reflects that as abundance is declining on these populations, you probably don't want to leave your harvest level or catch at the same place because that would mean your exploitation rate is actually going up. So we are talking about a reduction in exploitation rate and we are talking about all fisheries. The 2007 was talking Fraser fisheries, so we are making it clear that we are looking for measures across all fisheries that impact on these populations. So maybe not as strong as some people would have liked to have seen and stronger than others would have liked to have seen. So it's not going all the way there in 2008 in terms of where we need to be, but then I think it is a step in the right direction. Just a quick comment on last year's plan, I think I have laid out a clear scenario where what we had last year in terms of status quo fisheries plans is not going to help us out in this phase of apparently reduced ocean survival.

So in terms of what do the potential options look like? I've got some summaries here that are hopefully big enough for people to see I'll read through it because there's a fair bit of information. I'll also work on getting a copy of this provided to the group as well. (Mr. Grout reads through following slides) The first one characterizes fishery reductions. We are looking at a broad suite of measures where we are trying to achieve roughly a 50% reduction in the impact on early-timed Chinook.

Option 1: Fishery Reductions

Fishery	Area	Status Quo	March 1 15 31	April 1 15 30	May 1 15 31	June 1 15 30
Area G Troll	SWVI (Area 123/124)	Closed Mar. 15 to Apr. 15				
Marine Recreational	West of Cadboro Point to Sheringham Point (Subareas 19-1 to 4 and 20-5)		Closed March 1 to April 30			
	Area 29 off Fraser River (Area 29- 7, 9-10)			2 Chinook per day between 45 - 67cm only April 1 to May 31		
Fraser River Recreational	Fraser River Tidal (Areas 29-11 to -17)	Currently closed. Open May 1 with daily limit of 4 Chinook, only 1 over 50 cm		Non-retention of Chinook April 1 to May 31		
	Freshwater (Mission to Alexandra Bridge)	Currently closed. Open May 1 with daily limit of 4 Chinook, only 1 over 50 cm	Closed-Status Quo		Non-retention of Chinook May 1 to June 15	
				Closed-Status Quo		Non-retention of Chinook May 1 to June 15
Fishery	Area	Status Quo	March 1 15 31	April 1 15 30	May 1 15 31	June 1 15 30
Fraser River First Nations	Lower Fraser: Below Port Mann	Mid March: 24 hrs/wk drift nets Mid April: 36 hrs/wk drift nets May 1: 48 hrs/wk	Proposed: Closed later start	Reduced time to June 1		
	Lower Fraser: Port Mann to Sawmill	Mid March: 24 hrs/wk set net, 10hrs/wk drift net May 1: 48 hrs/wk set net, 12 hours/wk drift net	Proposed: Closed later start	Reduced time to June 1		
	BC Interior: Sawmill to Kelly Cr. And Thompson below the Bonaparte	April 1 to June 15: 4 days per week, all gears June 16: 7 days per week until E. Stuart window closure	Closed-Status Quo	Proposed: Reduced time; 2 days per week (weekends) April 1 to June 15 for gill net		
Albion Test Fishery	Fraser River Chinook Assessment starting April 1: 2 sets per day Fishery	with 8" or multi-panel net	Closed-Status Quo	Status quo: required to assess CWT recoveries for inriver fisheries		

We have proposed a broad suite of measure in the main impact areas that we've got, as I mentioned before the early timed Chinook that we are concerned about are these off-shore rearing stocks that are coming into the Interior that rear off the west coast of Vancouver island. It appears that they migrate in just Vancouver Island and come down south and go through Juan de Fuca, Strait of Georgia into the Fraser River. So we are outlining some measures recognizing that particular behavior.

(Continues to read through slide above)

Mr. Grout added these comments as he read through slide:

- *(The reduction on Area G troll fishery) is covering the majority of the timing of when we think these early timed fish are in that fishery.*
- *(Marine Recreational) We had a look at the data on the retention of 2 per day and it is pretty clear through this time period that the fishermen on average are retaining anywhere from 0.1 to 0.7 of a Chinook per day, so in terms of reducing this down from 2 to 1, we didn't think that that would have a major impact, so we focused on for this option looking at a reduction in the number of fish they would be able to retain to try and keep them off of the size of the early-timed fish. Early-timed Chinook, the smallest fish of the four year olds which are smaller, appear to start at about 62 cm and then the mid point of that would be about 67 cm and larger in the 5 year old fish are quite a bit larger than that, so this measure here of bringing in a size restriction of 45-67 cm would reduce the impacts by half on these four year old early-timed fish and probably protect most of the five year old fish which are larger out in that area.*
- *(Off the Fraser River) a bit larger size limit than the Strait of Georgia area has been in place for the past to protect Lower Georgia Strait Chinook, Cowichan is the indicator there, so it is a different size limit in that area.*
- *(The Fraser Tidal Area) under this option that would allow somebody to actually go out and fish for Chinook if they wanted to, they just wouldn't be allowed to retain anything. So it would probably reduce the effort substantially in terms of people going out. It's difficult to quantify that specifically, but that's the thinking for that option.*
- *In terms of First Nations, I'll say right off the bat here that the actual measures are going to be a product of discussions that the Department needs to have bilaterally with the groups. I thought for discussion purposes though I'd put out a proposal of something that we could think about in terms of starting the discussion. For these fisheries, without prejudicing any future discussions that would occur from that. (Reads from slide above) So what we've got, I'll start in the lower part of the Fraser River below Port Mann. In this fishery it is hard to say what a typical year looks like, but generally we've had fisheries starting with fairly limited time in mid-March, in around the mid-march period for 24 hours a week with drift nets, there would be one overnight fishery there, and then roughly a month later, say mid-April you see some increase of perhaps 36 hours on the drift nets to get a couple of evening drifts in. And then on May 1st, a more regular fishing pattern at this time of year would be something in the neighborhood of 48 hours and this is recognizing that there are a number of variations that would occur across years and weeks, but that's just the general pattern here. So in terms of what it would look like, what we would like to discuss for Option 1. Well, in the past we have had this grey not much fishing prior to mid-March, other than perhaps some ceremonial interest. The proposal under Option 1 would be to try and shift this pattern later, so perhaps a later start to the fishery and then looking at some sort of reduced time that extends a bit later through this early-timed Chinook period which would result in reduced impact on these fish. And the actual other measures across the fisheries here are what we would like to get feedback on.*

- *In the Port Mann to Sawmill area, typically we've had in the mid-march starting with 24 hours a week for set net, somewhere in the ballpark of 10 hours per week for drift net with some variation around that number of hours. We haven't usually had this extra step in between here, somewhere around May 1st we tend to move towards the 48 hours for set net and 12 hours give or take per week for drift net, obviously with some differences among spots in the river. Again here we'd be proposing rather than a March 15th start, whether we could look at pushing that time somewhat later and then going with our reduced measures for a bit longer than we normally would to try and generate some savings on early-timed Chinook.*
- *Up in the BC Interior of Sawmill to Kelly Creek area and the Thompson below the Bonaparte are the key areas where the early-timed fish would be picked up. Status quo in this area (unclear) in place in previous years is around April 1st to June 15th fisheries about 4 days a week with set nets. Much lower effort than in the lower river, so roughly four days a week in that time period and then after about mid-June they go to their typical 7 day per week opening until the Early Stuart window closure in that area.*
- *In terms of the Albion Test Fishery, this wasn't something that was I think on all the first presentations when it first started coming out and people have been asking about what measures might be considered here. The Albion Test Fishery is the Department's only Chinook assessment fishery and the Fraser River just at the ferry crossing there between Maple Ridge and Langley, downstream of Mission. This fishery in past years has specifically started April 1st although it didn't start until June last year given Larocque issues. Typically we expect it to start around April 1st, it does 2 sets per day with either an 8-inch or a multipanel net to assess Chinook in the river. It is used to assess coded wire tag recoveries, collect DNA samples, biological information, that sort of thing. So we are showing in most years we wouldn't start until April 1st. The proposal would be to operate that fishery when any other fisheries are operating in the lower Fraser. The main reason for that is we use the information from Albion especially coded wire tagging information to expand the estimate of coded wire tag recoveries for the other fisheries going on in the river.*

So that's Option 1, going into Option 2 is a window closure where we are looking at trying to increase the time period where the restrictions are in place to try and cover off the range in migration timing for early-timed Chinook. You may wonder why it is say so much longer than say the window closure for early Stuarts which is about a month long, well for early-timed Chinook, we've got seven populations in the group and we had a look at the data with the Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Committee last week. There is a range of timing curves there so the migration tends to be more protracted. (Reads through slide below)

- *So what we are proposing again here again in the Area G Troll is extending the closure into the second week of May.*
- *For the Marine Recreational, we've removed the length restriction and have that fishery non-retention of Chinook March 15th to May 31st*
- *Off the Fraser River we move to no fishing for salmon, so that would not even allow somebody to go out and try and target Chinook with the intent of releasing them, we would be asking for no fishing for salmon in this period March 15th to May 31st.*
- *In the Fraser River recreational as well, again we typically open May 1st, we'd push that no fishing for salmon back to June 15th, so nothing prior to that in those two areas.*

- For Fraser River First Nations, again we need to have some discussions here about what the proposed window closure might look like and at what time period it should cover. For early Stuart in the past we have done things like ceremonial permits for unplanned events, for early Stuart we also had a bit different scenario where you could actually, if you entertained some selected fishing for Chinook. At this time of year we don't have other options to go for, so we're constrained, but we'd be looking for some sort of options here to try and reduce impacts probably until the beginning of June if we are trying to cover the migration period of these populations.
- Same thing in the Lower Fraser Port Mann to Sawmill
- And then in the Upper BC Interior area we would stagger that a bit to take into account differences in the migration timing.
- For the Albion Test Fishery under this scenario we would not propose to start the test fishery April 1st. We would wait and our science advice would be to start that test fishery consistent with when we started a fishery in the Lower Fraser so under this option, option 2 here, the Albion Test Fishery proposal would be to keep it closed until a fishery was started up.

Option 2: Window Closure

Fishery	Area	Status Quo	March	1	15	31	April	1	15	30	May	1	15	31	June	1	15	30
Area G Troll	SWVI (Area 123/124)	Closed Mar. 15 to Apr. 15	Closed: Mar. 1 to May 15															
Marine Recreational	West of Cadboro Point to Sheringham Point (Subareas 19-1 to -4 and 20-5)	2 Chinook per day with minimum size limit of 45cm					Non-retention of Chinook: Mar. 15 to May 31											
	Area 29 off Fraser River (Area 29-7, 9-10)	2 Chinook per day with minimum size limit of 62cm					No fishing for salmon: Mar. 15 to May 31											
Fraser River Recreational	Fraser River Tidal (Areas 29-11 to -17)	Currently closed. Open May 1 with daily limit of 4 Chinook, only 1 over 50 cm	Closed-Status Quo								No fishing for salmon: May 1 to June 15							
	Freshwater (Mission to Alexandra Bridge)	Currently closed. Open May 1 with daily limit of 4 Chinook, only 1 over 50 cm	Closed-Status Quo								No fishing for salmon: May 1 to June 15							
Fishery	Area	Status Quo	March	1	15	31	April	1	15	30	May	1	15	31	June	1	15	30
Fraser River First Nations	Lower Fraser: Below Port Mann	Mid March: 24 hrs/wk drift nets Mid April: 36 hrs/wk drift nets May 1: 48 hrs/wk	Closed	Proposed: closed														
	Lower Fraser: Port Mann to Sawmill	Mid March: 24 hrs/wk set net, 10hrs/wk drift net May 1: 48 hrs/wk set net, 12 hours/wk drift net	Closed	Proposed: closed														
	BC Interior: Sawmill to Kelly Cr. And Thompson below the Bonaparte	April 1 to June 15: 4 days per week, all gears June 16: 7 days per week until E. Stuart window closure	Closed-Status Quo	Proposed: closed														
Albion Test Fishery	Fraser River Chinook Assessment starting April 1: Fishery	2 sets per day with 8" or multi-panel net	Closed-Status Quo								Later start if all Fraser River fisheries are closed, consistent with start of Fraser fisheries							

So in terms of where we are at with next steps, we have had a number of meetings with First Nations, commercial and recreational harvesters. We have had feedback from the commercial front from the Area G trollers and the recreational groups.

Specific proposals from the commercial here, just so you are aware of some of the things they have been asking for. They feel that because they are going to be seeing a reduction in the abundance index and a reduction of their catch, they feel they are taking a substantial hit there, this is their feedback to us. They are also very concerned about losing fishing time in April that they would have had in past years and they have said if you absolutely need to take time away from us in April, is there any way you can leave some of the near shore area for some of the locals, some of the harbour areas open for some of the local groups that have smaller boats that are unlikely to move north to still have an opportunity to fish. So that's the type of feedback we have had there from commercial. For the recreational guys in the marine area, they have asked if we would consider a selected (unclear) so in addition to the length guidelines, they have said, well could we keep a hatchery fish as well that maybe was water driven (unclear) given that these early-timed fish are not March fish. So that would, there would be some new ground to consider there for Canada in terms of entertaining a selected hatchery marked fisher. Off the mouth of the Fraser, the other thing they'd also propose is moving their timing window a little bit to line up with Area G and perhaps giving them an opportunity consistent with the May long weekend. We have had that feedback. In the river, they are very concerned about having non-retention for Chinook under Option 1 and they've proposed a motion to retain a larger Chinook, one larger Chinook over 72 cm. And to be frank, on that one I said that's going to be a really hard sell, given that these early-timed fish are larger, they are more likely to retain a large female with that kind of restriction in place. So they've had that in terms of feedback back, but that was a proposal that they made there. The other piece we are working on is an information document to assist development of the management plan, something that we've put out in past years that summarizes a lot of the background on the management information and data and those sorts of things. So we'll be hopefully coming out shortly with that.

Given all of this though, time is still moving along and for myself, it's unfortunate that we are still in February having these discussions, but there is a lot of information that I was asked to pull together this year and this is unfortunately where we've wound up. We are still looking at trying to implement some decisions by the end of February. Area G Troll guys had a meeting here last week and they talked about not starting in March, so that's one fishery that we won't see opening up in March here in the south west of Vancouver Island. So I guess the main point here is time is moving along. We are trying to incorporate and accommodate as much of the feedback as we can, but we need to try and move forward in as timely a fashion as possible.

SLIDE:

Next Steps

- Meetings with First Nations, commercial and recreational harvesters to share information and seek feedback on possible approaches for fisheries this spring.
- The Department has developed an 'Information Document to Assist Development of a Fraser Chinook Management Plan' to assist discussions.
- Decision on implementation needs to be made by the end of February.

END OF PRESENTATION

JEFF GROUT:

So a lot to digest there and I'll see if I can answer questions.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Questions for Jeff specific to what he presented. I'd like to go by a show of hands to make sure we get everybody. Yes sir.

FIRST NATIONS DELEGATE (ISLAND):

I think Option 3 was missed there. Option 3 would be to close the sport and commercial altogether. You know we are trying to rebuild these fish stocks. Having been a commercial fisherman for many years. We had a non-retention on our boat and we abided by that. Yet as we traveled the coast we watched the sports fishermen from the Alaska border down to the Fraser River here continually fishing spring salmon all the way. A couple of years I raised at Nanaimo the concern that I had for the Nanaimo river for the spring salmon, I go up there, because here you have a local raider every day going to work. You know the numbers of fish that they are catching of spring salmon outside of Nanaimo. Told by the Department of Fisheries in the meeting in Nanaimo that these weren't the number that were fished, they were just resting, holding out there for a couple of days while they wait for the Cowichan River and the Fraser. So they are fishing right in front of Nanaimo catching fish that are bound, you know I heard a couple of good stories from some sisters in the far North that don't get any more spring salmon right up there in their area. So I think that option 3 is closing the sport and the recreational altogether until we can increase these numbers. You know, does Department of Fisheries have a real hard sell of numbers on what the sports and recreational take like I said from Prince Rupert to I guess Prince George on the number of Chinook that are taken. I would doubt the mortality rate of catch and release? You know, I have never seen those numbers, but I am sure when you are bringing a spring salmon up from 200 feet down and bringing him up and taking nice pictures and throwing him back in the water and hoping he's going to live, you know you are not giving him a very happy lifeline within the next. I think you are missing Option Number 3 and that is to close the sport and recreational and get these spring salmon numbers back into a number where we can catch them again. Heycx^wqa.

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

Thank you and you raise some key concerns and to be fair, that's a concern that has been pointed out at the meetings I've been to, so it is feedback I've taken away. I guess the response from the Department's perspective is we've proposed a couple of Options. We feel the brunt of the conservation measures are being borne by the marine and recreational fisheries. We are talking about fisheries where our data is not good in terms of the stock composition out there but for early-timed Chinook it's very low. We are talking 1, 2, a couple percent, maybe 5. We can debate quite a bit what that composition is. We are proposing substantial measures under Option 1. Certainly under option 2 that's going to severely reduce the catch in those particular fisheries. So in terms of your comment about the recreational catch information. We have creel programs in place in a number of these areas just to make the overall Chinook catch. So in the areas where these early-timed fish may be present, we do have a year-round creel off Victoria. We do have some gaps in the program in between there and the Fraser River. But we also have a Fraser River creel program that gets underway. So we do have some half decent catch information from the areas where we have creel. I'll admit that there's some gaps in our creel information and that's one thing that has also been raised by a number of the groups is the need to collect specific information on stock assessment so we can evaluate whether any actions that are contemplated for 2008 are actually going to be successful. That's one thing all three groups have been responding in terms of saying we need to get a coded wire indicator back on this population of fish and it would be nice to improve

our assessment information. So for whatever option we do proceed with, we have some data when we're back next year talking about whether this was effective or not.

In terms of, the last point was on the catch and release mortality study, we do have some information from previous studies in the marine areas, and depending on which study you want to look at, (*unclear*) and those sorts of things were probably in the neighborhood of 20% for the recreational catch and release mortality and higher for the troll. The Chinook (*unclear*) is somewhere in the neighborhood of 23 or 25%. But certainly higher than the troll fishery. For the Fraser River, I recognize that there is a gap in the information there and where they catch and release mortality data applies in the estuary from the Marine studies for example. There's work underway to try and get a catch and release mortality study done in the Fraser River. Maybe one of our areas staff can get more info on that, if people are interested.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Thanks. Now Charlize Baker, then Fred Fortier, then Stan Hunt.

CHARLIZE BAKER:

I just wanted to make a comment on the recreational fishery. I do have a huge extended family that aren't First Nations and I know that during the fishing season they go out three times a week. And I know they have daily limits and they live by that limit. When you have a family of seven, and you're allowed to keep to fish a day and day out, going out every single week for the entire fishing season, I get to mall food fish from the recreational fishery than I do from the First Nation's fishery. I have never had a DFO or conservation office to come out to me or to my extended family to say "How many fish did you get in that week will in that season. And where are they fishing?" You guys don't know, what the recreation fishers take. And like I said, I get my fish food from the recreation fishing, whether it be halibut, Chinook, Coho, Steelhead. And although these recreational fishers may be going by the book, the fact of the matter is that they do have that daily limit per day and I think, if you take it out 30 days out of the month and get there salmon, two per day, that's a lot of salmon. Thank you.

JEFF GROUT:

Thanks for those remarks. I can't comment specifically on your in-laws, and it sounds like they're pretty good fishermen. In terms of the date on the creel, I think there is a common misconception that the creel program is intended to interview everybody that's been out fishing. It's a very similar program to what we have in place for the set net fishery in the lower Fraser River. We try and interview a proportion of the people that have been out fishing to ask them how much they have caught, and we combine that with information on the relative effort that we have observed over a 24-hour period, and overflights to estimate either the number of nets. In the water or the number of rods. So the creel is an expansion program. And it is reliant on the interview information. So this certainly going to be specific cases where people are catching more were less than the average, but I guess the question then is are the assumptions of the creel program in terms of getting a representative sample of interviews and stuff like that. I will admit there are gaps in the program for both of the programs in some areas.

CHARLIZE BAKER:

I have just one more comment. I just wanted to say that there hasn't been a time, where they haven't met their quota, never. They have always collected two per day or four per day or six per day. And it's that easy.

MIKE SIMPSON:
OK, Fred Fortier.

FRED FORTIER (SECWEPEMC FISHERIES COMMISSION):

There was a discussion that happened in January. At the January 10th meeting, the people who attended that, and one of the statements from DFO was this collaboration on the early-timed Chinook and I'm really not too sure what that means. But I guess they, who ever made that statement, must know. Talking about collaboration, that means there needs to be some discussion with First Nations, that means we need to talk about what the plan is, all parts of the plan, not just one piece here and one piece there. So if we're talking about collaboration, then it's talk about collaboration, let's implement that principle. And if you're going to deal with that collaborate plan, or process, and deal with an early-timed Chinook plan, that means we must be talking about assessment as the assessment of a fishery. And if that assessment over a fishery, like some people have been stating around this table, and other parts of the recreational fishery that happens in specific area, ocean area, that it should be mandatory reporting. You have the Stō:lo, you have everybody else, that have mandatory reporting, but the recreational sector, we heard from Charlize and all other people in the Lower Fraser and Mission area, where if you go fishing down there, the recreational fishermen. They just sort of replace their cooler or with another cooler, once they get their lid up. We see that going on, and a couple of them have been caught. It's not all honest recreational fishermen, I might remind you about.

You also talk about the management of a reduced exploitation for this year. We already have exploitation on this stock, of this early-timed Chinook. From September to December 1 of last year, that fishery went on. So we can to have another fishery maybe this fall that's going to fish on next year's stocks? And so should I think, you talked about as well. The ability to have all this information, you give us to the end of February before you make a decision or DFO. When we make the decision, not you your self, DFO makes a decision about the fishery that's going to happen off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Well who's talking about a West coast Vancouver Island fishery when we don't even have a plan yet? And it doesn't have to wait until March 1, because somebody wants to go into the river to catch an allocation.

The other thing that you haven't taken into consideration, and there's been various arguments, various reports, and research done about it, and you hear a lot of people talking about First Nations and recreational people and NGO's about the hook and seal mortality that's occurring. There's been a huge debate for the last 20 to 30 years around the Pacific Northwest. And has that been taken into account? They also talked about the use of Chinook for other species, like the orca whales take a certain amount of Chinook salmon. And then we read the article in yesterday's paper, the Globe and Mail, I think it was on the amount of Chinook salmon that was called up in the north. What did they say it was 40% Canada and US, was it Puget Sound, Columbia, what ever. What percentage of that would be fish coming back for the early summer component, or is it? We don't know. So I think that there's lots of things to be discussed amongst ourselves in the so-called collaborative process. But we shouldn't be put into time frames, that says that we have to have this decision before we are going to allow somebody else to tell us when we should be going fishing. And I think he might get into serious problems on doing that. So if we see a really intent on the principle of collaboration, and we should have this is a priority of First Nations and the DFO to devise this plan. And say that of people when they should be going fishing, not when they want to be going fishing. Thank you.

JEFF GROUT:

Thanks for the comment Fred. You touched on a number of points. I think your first one on collaboration is an important one. I think we have made a fair number of strides on that front this year. I think one of the most important things for building up a good collaborative relationship is a common understanding. For early-timed Chinook, that's been very challenging, given the uncertainty related to the stock composition information in the marine areas, in particular, and the lack of coded wire tag data. But on that front, we have put together a big data summary, and shared it with the First Nations technical help, and others that have been interested in having a look at it to try and understand the data together and explore where the uncertainties are. We have had a meeting specifically to review the run reconstruction model that estimates abundance of Chinook salmon in the Fraser. We have had joint session looking at the limitations, works and what ever else, are associated with this model in a joint group together. That's part of the buildup to the common understanding and collaboration of working through the options. I share your concerns with the timing for all of this. It is definitely not ideal, it would be nice to have more time. I think we will next year, if we can build on the base that we have laid here. But the reality is that the fish are still moving in, so we have to make some sorts of decisions. And as mentioned, Area G troll we have already got to plan, where they are not going to be fishing in the South from March 1, as they maybe would have intended under the IFMP that was laid out. You did raise some concerns about impacts on these early-timed fish that maybe occurred in the fall. I thought I should clear that up because although the data is not everything that it could be, the information that we do have from coded wire tags and DNA indicates that the fish are recovered on the west coast of Vancouver Island in the spring period – March, April, May. And then May, June through the Fraser river. We do not recover these fish in numbers throughout the rest of the year. So it's pretty obvious that they are not susceptible to our fisheries, during the other time periods of the year when they appeared to be rearing off the west coast of Vancouver Island. The exception is Birkenhead, we have seen some of those tags turn up in a northern troll for example. That is the one stock that appears to be doing something differently. What else did you raise here? Just in terms, I guess your one point is troll fishery and how it's managed. I didn't think we've hidden anything about how we manage that fishery. The timing is a bit inconsistent with the IFMP. It is managed based on the Chinook calendar, which starts in October. It is based on an aggregate abundance index. Largely because of the way that that fishery has been shaped, they are largely fishing on US populations at that time of year. And that's been the subject of discussion at the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and topic for another day. But there have been concerns if you move fishery out of a particular time period, and even if the catch is reduced, they are going to catch some stocks. It's just a question of whose are they. What we are proposing is to push them off of the early-timed fish where we think there's larger numbers in the south during the spring landfall. We are also anticipating that they're being quite a reduction in the abundance index in Chinooks which will reduce their catch target for this year as well. So that combination of options or actions and there we think will have a substantial reduction in terms of early-timed Chinook.

MIKE SIMPSON:

If Barry wants to answer that... Stan Hunt and then Ken Malloway and then you, sir.

BARRY ROSENBERGER:

Yeah, just to add a couple of .. one of the first, Fred you pointed out, was that the sport fishery should have a mandatory landing (*unclear*) same as the Stō:lo fishery, as Jeff pointed out to begin with, the sports fishery is very similar to Stō:lo now and

it's a sample survey program. In the past economic fisheries for the Stō:lo is a mandatory landing, but the main fishery is a very similar kind of study design. The second one is on the Bering Sea fishery. I know there was an email going around to some people earlier and it's obviously of considerable concern to everybody. I don't have all the information, but I am waiting to pass on what I have. So there's a newspaper article for those of you haven't seen it that talks about this Bering sea trawl fishery, a trawl fishery, not troll. So it's dragging a net behind a boat. It's impacting on Chinook. They talk about 130,000 fish last year. They reported that there was a percentage of those are BC stocks. We've been trying to get the data on that for quite a number of months to understand the information we've got that reports the DNA. We haven't seen it yet, so we don't have specific stock compositions by any of the populations. What we do have is that this fishery has been going on since, I'm not sure, I know since the 70s, it may have been carrying on earlier than that. It has an encounter on Chinooks through this whole time period. There was a couple of years, when it was a foreign fleet fishing in the US, versus today it is largely a US domestic trawl fishery. The tags that we know that are covered from B.C. off primarily from the trans-boundary rivers up in southern southeast Alaska. There are also some tags, this is the coded wire tag, not the DNA data, and we do have access to the coded wire tag information. Sub tags from the (*unclear*) so that's part of the Bella Coola system in the Central Coast, and there's one tag in the (*unclear*) River which is in Smith Sound north of Vancouver Island. There is no tags from the Fraser, coded wire tags, that is in the data set. So we are trying to get more information. Canada has been pushing to try to get caps on this fishery, you might have read in that article, they talk about 37,000 as a cap. So that's something we are aware of and have been interacting with it for a while, and the US is also (*unclear*) recovery to try and manage it.

MIKE SIMPSON:
Ok Stan Hunt.

STAN HUNT (NAMGIS):

I take issue with the comment about the commercial fisheries and the recreational fisheries saying that they are taking the brunt of the conservation issue. I really take issue with that. Because I believe the Fisheries Department sit specifically with those two groups. And I think the onus is on them to explain, however they want to explain it, where we sit as native people, in terms of, I hate to keep repeating Sparrow. Thanks to the Musqueam people, he's here. He's here with us today. They know, the Fisheries Department know absolutely that we have that right. That they pretend not to know. They keep it quiet, and what ends up happening is, if you don't say anything about it, nobody's going to question you on it. I think the onus is on them to talk about that, the commercial side of it there. They should be telling the commercial fleet where we stand. Do you know that if there's a conservation issue. You know that very well, that the Sparrow case said that if there's a conservation issue, the commercial fleet and the recreational fleet don't even enter into the picture. It's native people first. You know that. So don't try to bypass and gloss it over as if it's not there. And I think the onus is on you because you're presenting this, so you're obviously presenting to other people when you are doing things. Maybe as a commercial fisherman, I have to have a survival box. Fisheries made me buy a box for almost 500 bucks for that damn thing. So you've got water pumping through that thing all the time to keep that fish alive when you catch it. Catch and release. So the end result is, after you have it in your box for about half hour or so, what do you do, it becomes your problem. You want to steady into it, you pick him up and let him go because now theoretically it is revived. Now the

sport fishermen, you should make them do that too. Every fish I have ever picked up off my deck, I hate to admit this, every fish I have picked up and put back as gently as I can is a dead fish. I don't care who the scientists ... you don't have to be a rocket scientist to see that. I don't know how much you been talking about the spring fishermen because you don't have to target them because Parson's Bay used to be big, we used to catch all kinds of springs there. Our springs. (*Unclear0* for years now, we have never touched them, never ever. If I catch two springs a year with my (*unclear*) that's a lot of springs for me. But you guys gotta remember too. I heard the lady talking about her family there that goes out catching springs. Every one of us has the ability to go out and get a \$2 license at the hardware store to go sports fishing. You have the same right too. Either you go sports fishing, maybe sports logging we'll cut down all the trees, I really want to do that. I just wanted to remind Sparrow to me is still here. He was one hell of a guy and the tribe is one heck of a tribe. That (*unclear*) so just remember that.

JEFF GROUT:

Thanks Stan, I think you are mainly making a comment there, but I will say that I am very aware of the constitutional and legal priority that FSC fisheries provides. On the commercial and recreational fisheries you've discussed, in the marine areas, we know early-timed Chinook are present off the southwest of Vancouver island, they come through Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia. When we look at our data on the stock composition and try and assess what the impact of those fisheries might be, we are a little bit hamstrung, because if I look at the data and see 1% in March, 0% in April and 0.8% in May am I to assume that it's 0 in April, well no, probably not. So I know there's fish there and my job is to put together some options to go and get feedback on that should reduce or eliminate under Option 2 as the case may be the impacts on early-timed Chinook and pass them through to the in-river fisheries and to the spawning grounds as well.

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK, Ken Malloway and then the gentleman at the back.

GRAND CHIEF KEN MALLOWAY:

If I stand up here, the warrior will back me up here. You told the discussion about the creel survey and it was mentioned twice here and both times compared to the work that's done in the Stō:lo territory. That's bullshit. I'm telling you. That's bullshit. How can you compare that to what our people have to go through. It's bullshit and it's misleading. My brother Tony, he's right here. He's the manager of (*unclear*), he's been working for us since the early 90's counting fish. Mike Staley sitting over there he has been crunching our numbers too for years, since the early 90s. When we have what he is calling a creel survey, when we have an operation like that in our territory, they capture about 50% of our fishermen. So all of the fishers that land at the Yale Beach, every one of those was interviewed. And we have people there 24 hours a day. Our monitors sleep there and if a boat comes in at 2 o'clock in the morning they get up and go and count the fish. There is no way of doing that on island 22 and I'll tell you there's nobody doing that out in Victoria or Vancouver. When a (*unclear*) comes in at 2 o'clock in the morning or at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, there is nobody running down and counting their fish. And to try and say its proportional is BS. That's bullshit and it's misleading. And what is the proportion? Half of our people are interviewed. That's what we have a regular fishery. Half of our people are interviewed. When we have a mandatory landing program in place during our sales fisheries, virtually 100% of our fish is counted and they count at least twice. You can't compare that to any other fishery that is going

on. Anywhere in Canada. But to say, and I heard twice, there's Barry and Jeff both said it, they compared the creel survey of rec fisheries to our fishery and to our creel surveyor or whatever you want to call it. There's no comparison, there's no way you can compare them. 50% of our fishers are talked to and their numbers are taken and they're crunched. You take 50% of the sports fishery? I don't think so! There's about 400,000 of them. Do you talk to 200,000 of them. Don't mislead these people and say that you can compare what you're doing with those guys to what you're doing with our fishery.

The other thing that was mentioned was the Alaska fisheries. And there was a story in the Globe and Mail about 130,000 Chinook that were taken in the trawl fishery. They are trying to stop a trawl fishery over in the Mi'kmaq territory over in the Maritimes. They have been trying to stop that trawl fishery out there because it's a killer, it kills everything. We should be doing the same bloody thing out here, trying to stop them. They are out there killing fish they're probably the ones that (*telephone interference on mic*) and they take 50% of all the fish in BC – the trawlers. There's only a handful of those and nobody even knows about it because nobody talks about it. We should be trying to stop those buggers from doing what they're doing. They're strip-mining the oceans. They (*telephone interference on mic*) and they've got a plate bigger than this table just to steer it. Just to steer it. It's a great big thick steel plate that's bigger than my car that they use to steer these nets that are bigger than a football field. You could catch a Jumbo Jet in them bloody things. And they're out there raping the ocean and they're killing the fish. And those guys up there they admitted to taking 130,000 fish but we don't know much more than that. And like he said, we are trying to get the information. I'm on the working group and we are trying to renegotiate the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the part about Chinook fisheries. And I look at the stuff that they are doing up there and I'm looking at the stuff that they're not telling us. Because it's not compulsory for the Alaskans to tell us how many coded wire tags they got. It's not compulsory for them to even report how many (*unclear*) fish they got. It's not compulsory for anything. The Alaskans don't want to talk to us about anything because most of the fish they catch are ours. They don't want to talk about it. The Alaskans think they're sovereign. They don't even think they're bloody Americans! When they talk about the lower 48, they go, psht the Lower 48 like that. They don't even think they're Americans up there and they don't want – these guys down here (*telephone interference on mic*) the people from (*unclear*) they have to sue them guys to try and get the information. They have to go to the Supreme Court to sue them to try and get the information. We don't know what the hell they're doing and they won't tell us. Because they think they're sovereign. So there's all kinds of stuff that's going on up there and we don't know about it. 40% of those fish, of those 130,000 were from BC and Pacific Northwest states like Washington. So they're catching our fish.

And the other thing that I wanted to mention. I was up in Chilko Lake and I was up at Chilko Lodge, really expensive to stay there, about 350 bucks a night to stay there. But I was up there with the Pacific Salmon Commission, the Fraser Panel was up there meeting. And every day right after the fishery a whole bunch of DFO guys would run down the Chilko River and fish. Get out there and fish. Those fish are in their spawning grounds. They're allowed to go out there and fish because they're sport fishermen. My brother Tony he don't fish no more. He's been working for Stō:lo Fisheries since about 1993 and he's not allowed to fish, that's part of the regulations that DFO has. Those guys can't fish. And all the monitors, like my sister, she's not allowed to fish either. And my nephews and nieces and cousins and other monitors. They're not allowed to fish. Is DFO doing the same thing to its people? Are you a sports fishermen? Are you? They're allowed to go out and sport

fish. The law doesn't apply to them. Like it applies to us. Like there's two laws in this country, one for the First Nations, and one for everybody else.

JEFF GROUT:

Thanks Ken. I'm a crappy fisherman. I spend most of my time in meetings! In terms of the, you take the comparison. I made between some aspects of the creel program for recreation and First Nations. Certainly I intended no disrespect in any specific aspect of the comparison. I think I was more going towards the comment that perception all the recreational creel that we need to interview everybody to have an accurate estimate made on the catch. I think the big issue on the creel stuff myself is that it speaks to the need for improved understanding amongst the groups – First Nations and recreational and commercial, in terms of understanding how the catch is estimated, and whether we can stand behind those numbers and put them forward and say, yeah, we believe these. And I think what I'm hearing from you is that we are not too sure that that recreational catch number is accurate. I think that suspicion I've heard from others as well. And I think we need to try to work and move through it as best we can, because until we are able to do that we are going to have a real hard time getting different feedback of, ok we know what the recreational fishery is catching, it's less. Now maybe I can have a discussion about what the options are for my own fishery. I think that's a problem and we need to work towards dealing with it, and I think that to be fair, the sports sector has also recognized that they need to work through ways to improve their catch monitoring as well. So they're looking to do that is what is the commercial. On the commercial one, we are looking at stop some discussions and get some feedback on catch monitoring and fishery reporting standards in those fisheries to try and bring the level of in terms of what we're getting in catch data there. So I think that's a key issue that you raised. It's one of the things that prevents us I think from getting us into a deep discussion about what we might do in terms of a package across all sectors. I agree with you, I think we need to work to gain a better understanding.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Yes sir

PHILLIP EDGAR (DIDIDAHT):

My name is Phillip Edgar. I participate in the creel survey out on the West Coast in Dididaht territory. Back 13, 14 years ago, what the DFO called stakeholder's meetings. They did say at that time, that a lot of the AFS guardians that was around at that time, that we also set the time that the recreational sector used to monitor and report their catches. To report stations, to the creel survey or designate some report stations instead of getting the information at the end of the season on their licenses. And the other one that I noticed, the Fraser River approach area fisheries closed. All those boats moved to the West Coast. It closed there but not there. But they moved to the West Coast. Our neighboring tribe went from 200 to 500 in one season with recreational boats. And it's the same thing up north of us, past Tofino area. Of those boats just moved from the approach area here to the West Coast. They're just moving, they're not, they're just going out to where there are less restrictions, less management, less reporting stations and so forth because it's so remote. So that's my observation today, but they just move from the Fraser approach area to the West Coast. Thank you.

JEFF GROUT:

Thanks for the comments. In terms of vessels moving around, that is certainly something that can happen. There is still a lot of resistance from the recreational

sector for any of the measures, on some of the measures proposed, because, particularly for lodge owners and some of those folks, they know that these measures are going to reduce effort. So, even though some people may move, there are significant numbers of those that won't, especially if it means extra travel, buying fuel, all that kind of stuff. It is a consideration that we need to work on. It's a fair point.

FIRST NATIONS DELEGATE (name not clear): *Off microphone*

When you talk about A catch ... you have to hail out, get a number, go fishing, you have to hail in, come in give our statistics and that's the daily report into DFO for our numbers. Now, I don't know what more you need to keep our numbers. There's observers out there, there's (*unclear*) I don't see this done to the sports people, not one. You say you need clearer information, I don't know how it can be policed any better than it is right now. If there is I'd like to hear it.

JEFF GROUT:

Yeah, well we're getting a lot of questions on fishery monitoring and catch recording and I don't mind talking about it, but I'd personally like to get feedback on the early-timed Chinook. But just on your point, we've certainly seen for commercial fisheries that we can get better and we've heard that and one of the things we are trying to do there with the Pacific Fisheries Reform is to improve accountability there. A number of our demonstration fisheries that we've planned and some of what we've got underway, some of which we've done and some of which we didn't – sockeye last year for example. In those fisheries, we've gone to mandatory landing to validate catch and that is something that's been acceptable to the fleet. So I think there's progress being made there. In recreational side, I can also point to progress being made for example, some of the lodges, someone at this table was pointing out this morning the larger number of clients they're bringing through, it's a commercial venture, that sort of thing. We are working with some of these lodges now to do e-logs, electronic log books where they can report their catch and submit the information in real time. We are also doing that in some of our First nation fisheries. So I think it goes towards improving the understanding of what the catches are in the fisheries and I think it will ultimately improve the credibility for all of the groups to say yes, here's what our catch numbers are and we can stand behind those. But I think there's been room for improvement identified across all of the sectors to be honest.

VOICE: (*off microphone*)

Just one comment. A lot of them don't cross check the figures. I don't know if that can be done.

MARCEL SHEPERT:

I've had a couple of people ask about the presentation and I just wanted to confirm that we shall be able to get this up on our website?

JEFF GROUT:

Certainly, do you need me to email that to you, or is there a copy on the minute taker's computer.

DISCUSSION ABOUT WHO TO SEND IT TO AND UPLOADING ONTO WEBSITE

MARCEL SHEPERT:

People want to know that they can actually see your recommendations.

MIKE SIMPSON:
Next, it's Jordan I believe.

JORDAN POINT (DFO AND MUSQUEAM)

Afternoon everybody, I've got to be me. For those of you that don't know me, I work with Fisheries and Oceans but I am also a member of Musqueam Band Council. So Stan I appreciate your words, I'll pass them on to Council. One thing that I am observing here, and for those of you that know where I come from. I worked with Tony many years ago, I was a Musqueam guardian, I went through the learning program, transferred over to C & P, came up through Fisheries C & P. What I am observing is process here. And I don't know how many of you are enjoying this, but we are going through the motions here and we are getting up here and we are spouting off this is the plan, and Jeff is repeating back every comment. And its just like we are grinding here. And I think what we have to do is come to a place where we can really move our relationship forward between the Department and First Nations because neither one is going anywhere. And what I would really like to see is us really focused on process, because part of the process in this discussion, I think we have looked at the Department and FRAFS putting together a package – I think we invested \$100,000 towards this process. And at the end of the day, we are still getting up and we're spouting the same things and getting the same response back, where I think we really should be identifying the process where the concerns and legitimate issues that come from First Nations go to whether it's the Ad Hoc Transition Group and say "these are the issues that we have, these are the things that we need to see adjusted." The presentation from Paul Ryall about the fixed no-fishing times and the window of where we have limited exploitation to a limited, you know... that's the type of process we need to have concrete recommendations on how to change that process to meet the priority access issues that I am hearing round the table. So I think we really need to move on towards discussion on process and clarifying how we move forward, because I have sort of a selfish self-interest here. Because I don't want to be going out in my job with the Department and meeting with the client groups and say that the damned DFO didn't listen to us again. Because everybody has got up and said stuff, but its been like scattered around. And realistically from a Departmental perspective, I know that the plans that are being presented here. You're going to say, well we've heard what you've said and we'll take that into consideration. But realistically I have not heard today from First Nations a concentrated "This is our recommendation on this specific issue and this is how we want to see this changed, and this changed." The amount of money we've invested into this process and the amount of intelligence that we have in the room collectively from First Nations and DFO side that we can really make some progress here. But I think we got to talk about process because I think we are just grinding through the regular, you know, let's get in and say the same things, and DFO's going to regurgitate the same things back. And I'm getting tired of it myself, I don't know if everybody else is, but I am. I may be speaking out of turn today, but like I said, I got to myself. So hopefully, Mr. Chair, hopefully, next time we have a presentation, stop looking at your Agenda. You know, at our Council table I sit through meetings, and in DFO I sit through.. I live in meetings. Perpetual meeting syndrome. So if we can have, like somebody get up and make a presentation, that's fine, but we got an Agenda and you've got a pressed agenda with 2 hours worth of time, and I don't know how we're going to get through it. So if somebody gets up and makes a presentation we should just hold our comments and then just blast them out at the end, or put it to the Transition Group. Because we have spent half the day here and I don't know if we're making progress. So I am

just trying to encourage the group to say let's focus on process and let's see where we can make meaningful input into Departmental Planning, modeling, the fishery and where we want to go. We know we've got constraints around early-timed Chinook and we know we've got constraints around sockeye, but somewhere along the line, we've got to come an understanding of how we are going to sort that out. So I apologize if I've offended anyone, but I figured, but like I said I wanted to speak.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Ok. Your comments are well taken. There was lots of questions and I thought there was a good discussion going. Jeff do you want to respond to that, if not, we've got Mike Staley, Dave Moore and then Marcel.

MIKE STALEY:

Just wanted to comment on some of your comments about what the technical process has been to date. I appreciate getting the huge data file last week or two weeks ago. Unfortunately neither Peter nor I had a real opportunity to sit down and look at it. I think that's necessary. We're doing it right now. One of the things we have heard a lot about for example is the difference between the north and south of the west of Vancouver Island and where these stocks are. And we are just going through the CWT data that's in here and the DNA data and I can't come to the same conclusions. Maybe some help with that analysis and some presentation about how you came to that conclusion might be appropriate. I notice that, on that point though, I was speaking to (*unclear*) he was part of this analysis that helped you get to that conclusion several years ago and he actually remarked to me that he used the Nooksack CWT as a surrogate for that. And I made that same recommendation about a month ago for these stocks that is a totally different animal so it's not relevant. So I need now to sort of have some concentrated time and effort to go through the data and discussions with you. If I can feel confident for you to use the words "collaborative technical process". I don't feel that this, kind of comfortable with using that language for the stage of the process that we are at to date. In terms of your presentation, I think I heard Barry say, or maybe it was you, that you now have a management objective to reduce the exploitation rate by 47%, I am not sure if I heard that correctly, but that's what I heard. So I guess the question would be have you estimated what the reduction would be out of your two options and if so, how did you do it and what were the comparisons between the various elements of the options?

JEFF GROUT:

Thanks Mike. Yes you've raised a number of good technical issues, and I think we would be happy to work on setting up some further discussions if that would be helpful.

MIKE STALEY:

Before February 29th?

JEFF GROUT:

It will be challenging, we have a variety of options available I guess, but we'll see what we can do to respond to your questions. To be fair I think we have been trying to respond to the questions as fast as you can generate them, but it's a tall order keeping up with you.

In terms of where the early-timed Chinook are impacting on the west coast. The past management measure have been in place have been in the southern south west

of Vancouver Island. And as you point out, looking at the data, you can find coded wire tags along the west coast in any given month in any given year, all in such low numbers that you can't actually do an exploitation rate analysis like the Chinook tech committee would do. There is a bit of hope that we might get some information on the Nicola coded wire tag information, but to date I haven't seen that. A couple of weeks, (*unclear*) but I guess they've had the usual problem of trying to get those things sorted out in the Chinook Check Committee. As far as Nooksack goes, we can't remember where our discussion occurred there, either it was online or in a meeting or not, but those fish certainly appear to be encountered year round in the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound and that information we are thinking a more locally resident population that the early-timed Chinook. But again, I mean the point is if these early-timed Chinook are so rare in our DNA and coded wire tags, I can't say with certainty that they are or are not in any given area. So we've got a general hypothesis I guess that they are offshore resident, come in, land on the west coast of Vancouver Island, come down through Juan de Fuca, largely because we've never found these fish in Johnson Straits, up in through that area.

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK, Dave Moore and then Marcel and then we'll cut if off at that.

MIKE STALEY (*off microphone*)

What about the Options and the plan, is there an objective for 50 to 70%...

JEFF GROUT:

In Option 1 we are looking at a rough reduction in fishery impact by about 50% overall. It is difficult to figure out in terms of numbers of fish what that might mean, given that we don't know the composition of the stocks in marine areas. So we put it roughly at what a reduction effort may mean to the catches.

MIKE STALEY (*off microphone*)

Question unclear

JEFF GROUT:

I haven't got a tabulation of that information of that, no.

MIKE SIMPSON:

OK, Dave Moore.

DAVE MOORE (Chehalis Fishery):

Thanks. Careful, I'm going to use the F word here. FSC. I am a technical guy, so I've got three questions. I'm not sure if they can be answered. Kind of segue way from what Mike was asking. I think the package I've got in my hand is a package that Jordan was referring to – the background materials that were put together as information for some of these discussions. I've got one titled "the Average Fraser Chinook FSC catch by area 2000-2007". The question I have first of all is sort of a general one. How might the numbers that are presented here in FSC catch by area be used and some might not be used. That's a difficult question for everybody to answer, it might not be answerable. But here, I've got kind of an idea where they came from, and if they're going to be used, perhaps something constructive from this group might be collectively figure out a protocol for how they are being used, how they are generated and what they mean, and perhaps what they don't mean. Secondly if we can get over that hump how much is of this Chinook harvest, FSC target, how much of this is actually spring Chinook? If we have the capacity to

report on how much of these catches in each of these areas, see how much of this is spring Chinook and how much is summer Chinook and the other Chinook populations. And maybe that's just asking too much of the data. Thirdly, and you can see where I am going with this, vis a vis Mike's question, if there are some management objectives that DFO's exploring, how might that affect some of those numbers that are here that we are looking at. And it might be kind of a segue way into this discussion about management scenarios and sharing scenarios and so forth. If fishing patterns remain the same and we are looking at reduced exploitation in other areas, it gives us a bit of traction to start looking at what we might be able to change here. And that's assuming that all these other things, political things are (*unclear*) as we do really have two paths to work at/ What about dealing with the other fisheries and the priority FSC fishery, and secondly we need to develop some performance measures to see how we are progressing with respect to the priority FSC fishery. Thanks Jeff.

JEFF GROUT:

Ok, if I followed your questions. In terms of the Chinook numbers and how they are used, I think you are referring to the summary for average catches for FSC. That was put together for the meeting – did all the sub-regional meetings have that? N In terms of the Chinook fishery itself, we are managing largely based on effort and time, so we are not managing specific quants of fish, any individual groups. That said under treaties, that's how we envisioned doing things you know. With the Tsawwassen Agreement we are envisioning over time moving towards more of an abundance based management system where we deliver a specified amount of fish given the overall abundance. We are certainly not there yet on Chinook. That's something that we are hoping to work for over time and to define share that's outlined and responsive to abundance. Maybe more similar to what we've got for sockeye. In terms of how much a spring run Chinook in our various areas, a couple of data sources that we've got. In terms of the Fraser River fishery, we've got a run reconstruction model that we can try and estimate what the composition of the catch is and we've had some discussions about the utility of that model for looking backwards about what's happened and whether we can adapt it as a sort of forward projection about what might occur in an upcoming year. That work still needs to be done, it hasn't been done. In terms of the marine fisheries, the most widely recognized most important method for quantifying impacts by all the various users is coded wire tags. As I pointed out, we don't have that information for early-timed Chinook. We have had plenty of feedback that we need to look at trying to improve that, but that would be the ideal way for me to come to you at the table and say here's who's catching what of these fish and unfortunately right now, I don't have that to give you. In terms of the advice on how the numbers might be used for 2008, I mean, those are average catches I think reflected in that document. I would expect that in the early time period, we would be working on lower numbers of catch relative top last year given the weakness in the 5-year-old spring component. Interest in trying reduce the impact as well. So we'd be looking at Option 1 plans for quite a bit lower catch and significant reduced if there was a window closure during that time period. So now specific advice. Chinook management is quite a bit different from sockeye. We try and plan FSC fisheries to deliver to be the licensed harvest targets were laid out where we have a TAC to do that.

MIKE SIMPSON:

Ok last question to Marcel.

MARCEL SHEPERT:

OK, just to respond to Jordan – with all due respect, you guys weren't in the room when the First Nations were meeting in their caucus. But the process is already underway. I can assure DFO that the sub-regional meetings that are coming for the next steps. There are very focused questions around the framework and principles. That will be discussed at those levels. There's going to be talk about how their management plans are going to feed into a larger group. Now we don't know if it is going to be the Ad Hoc Technical Committee, we haven't had that discussion, but that's the discussion that is going to take place at the sub-regional level. So presumably when we meet again as a larger plenary and as the watershed as a whole, when we get back in the room, those are the things that are going to be finalized at our next meeting. So although we can't give you an answer, the Agendas are set now for the sub-regions that will discuss and tackle just those things you brought up in your talk. In your rant! And that's good. It's all good, I think you know, don't stop being you and I have the same sort of patience as you. At the same time I really do respect the hard work that the people have put into this room the last day and a half, it's been some of the most grueling work we've done but I think it's been a good session. We do have a process in place and you guys will be, you'll hear about that as we start to move forward. The next sessions are going to be First Nations only, the sub-regions, there'll be no DFO in the room, and they have got highly focused tasks and then when we get together the larger group, then I think that we'll be able to solve some of those – I guess it would be a bit of a conundrum right now in terms of how those management plans are going to be brought to a larger group for some sort of sign off or some sort of way to bring that forward to DFO. That's what I know of as of today, and if I have missed that, please correct me, but I think that's what I heard today. And I think we need a break.

MIKE SIMPSON:

So thanks very much Jeff for a marathon round of questions and to Barry as well. So what we heard from Jeff is some management options the DFO is considering for the early-timed Chinook, they are going to be making those decisions by the end of February. There are going to be bilateral discussions potentially. And they are still getting input on that. But the message that I am hearing clearly from First Nations is there is lots of concern about the recreation fishery and the commercial and the principles of allowing those to go ahead when Food Social and ceremonial and FSC is not being met. So that's clearly heard. Looking at our Agenda. Do you want to break at 3 o'clock and we'll see what else we want to cover to the end of the day.

END OF SESSION

FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION (NO RECORDING AVAILABLE – TECHNICAL FAULT)

FN REPORT BACK FROM REGIONALS:

- Chinook – definite conservation concerns
- Conservation first, FSC next – priority access
- Upper Fraser – inability to meet FSC targets, inequity of share
- 2008 – challenges, but opportunity for FN to deal with FSC amongst themselves
- Moving out to sub-regions, create some kind of group e.g. as well as Ad Hoc Transition Committee, FRAFS, centralization of management plans
- Agendas set for sub-regions
- Want DFO to incorporate First Nations management plans into IFMP
- Inter-Tribal Treaty

- Allocation sharing process to guide management planning
- FSC data insufficient to make conclusive management decisions
- First Nations creating mechanism for this work
- Focus of discussions early timed Chinook. All FN willing to work on conservation and preservation
- Consider date for next watershed-wide conference with DFO
- Message – social/societal - damaging to Aboriginal people in terms of loss of traditional sustenance and nutrition
- Building on momentum of First Nations meeting with First Nations and addressing these issues collectively, coast and in-river groups. Principles will be the result of these sub-regional and watershed summary meetings.
- FN are being asked to compromise along with recreational and commercial – FN have constitutional right
- Test fishing – should be using First Nations boats to access those fish
- Careful management processes already in place and implemented

DFO PERSPECTIVE ON PROCESS SO FAR:

- Both sides to look at big picture – what is conservation and what is management? Move this process forward to developing active protocols.
- Clarification – steering group? TBA – DFO to meet with Ad Hoc Transition Committee shortly, followed by plenary session
- Technical questions? DFO to provide detailed information to Nations at next watershed meeting (Treaty allocation, community allocations, sector allocations).
- Specific FSC figures (i.e. spring Chinook data) prior to sub-regional meetings
- Sharing arrangements, in-season process, protocols for this bilateral negotiating/discussion process? (Sockeye)
- Looking for feedback from experience of summer 2007 – multi-species

THIS SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4.35pm.

Verbatim transcription under direction of DFO by Persis Tozer (250) 574-0086