

**FORUM ON CONSERVATION AND HARVEST PLANNING
FOR FRASER SALMON**

March 28-30, 2011 • Dorchester Best Western Hotel • Nanaimo, B.C.

Tier 2 Minutes – First Nations and DFO

ATTENDANCE:

Ray Silvey, IMAWG	Pete Nicklin, UFFCA/FRAFS
Dan Claxton, Tsawout	Carl Frederick, Lheidli Tenneh
Brian Wadhams, Namgis/MMTC	Rishi Sharma, FRAFS
Greg Wadhams, Namgis	Christina Soto, North Coast Skeena/FNSS
Jerry Alfred, Namgis	David Loewen, Takla Lake
Kirby Johnnie, Tl'azt'en	Cheri Ayers, Cowichan Tribes
Chrissy Chen, Kwakiutl	Robert Hope, Yale
Rupert Wilson, Kwakiutl	Brenda Morgan, Matsqui
Mike Jimmie, Sto:lo Nation	Dalton Silver, Sumas
Ken Malloway, Kwaw Kwaw Apilt/FRAFS	Lee Spahan, Coldwater
Ernie Crey, Sto:lo TC/FRAFS	Tracy Sampson, Nicola Tribal Association
Kim Charlie, Chehalis	Tim Peters, Chawathil
Murray Ned, LFFA/Sto:lo TC	Richard Thomas, Lyackson
Michelle Edwards, St'at'imc Chiefs Council	Kristy Todd, Vancouver Island University
Valerie Diablo, St'at'imc	Karl English, Tsawwassen
Gord Sterritt, Northern Shuswap TC	Neil Todd, FRAFS
Kelsey Campbell, A-Tlegay Fisheries	Susan Anderson Behn, IMAWG
Penny White, FRAFS	Larry George, Cowichan Tribes
Hank Adam, Northern Shuswap TC	Daniel Billy, We Wai Kai/Cape Mudge
Pat Matthew, Secwepemc Fisheries Commission	Aimee Arsenault, FRAFS
Aaron Gillespie, Secwepemc Fisheries Commission	Greg Thomas, DFO
Elinor McGrath, Secwepemc Fisheries Commission	Terri Bonnet, DFO
Tom Hewitt, Secwepemc Fisheries Commission	Debra Sneddon, DFO
Andrew Meshue, UFFCA/Williams Lake	Adrian Wall, DFO
Dolores Duncan, Canoe Creek	Dean Allan, DFO
Mike Baird, Tsawwassen	Jamie Scroggie, DFO
Carl Edgar, Ditidaht	Sheldon Evers, DFO
Darrell Williams, Skway	Diana McHugh, DFO
Shamus Curtis, UFFCA	Ann-Marie Huang, DFO
Mike Staley, FRAFS	Jeff Grout, DFO
	Karin Mathias, DFO

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this series of Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon meetings was to review information related to the fishery planning process associated with the development of the South Coast Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for salmon, with a focus on Fraser sockeye and Chinook fishery planning, as well as a discussion of options for other Fraser salmon species.

DAY 1 – March 28, 2011 (Technical Session – Tier 2 – FN and DFO)

Opening comments (Marcel Shepert, Ken Malloway, and Les Jantz)

- Acknowledged Jeff Thomas from Snuneymuxw, who was not in attendance due to health reasons.
- Following the February 2011 Forum meetings, a letter was sent to the RDG from First Nations Forum participants. A response has not yet been received (for discussion during Tier 1).
- At the February 2011 Forum meetings, community representatives from up river (Nicola, Secwepemc) wanted to discuss planning for spring 4₂ Chinook fisheries. Lower River groups are still waiting for CWT information (April 2011) to assess their impact on spring 4₂ Chinook.
- DFO is looking for First Nations' input on the south coast IFMP (e.g. sockeye escapement). The deadline for feedback on the first draft is April 18, 2011.

FRSSI model 101 (Ann-Marie Huang)

- Provided an overview of the Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI) process and model. Process: consultative process; workshops; steering committee; working group; decision making. Model: outputs are used by the FRSSI process to inform decisions, provides estimates. Both the process and model evolve based on feedback.
- The FRSSI model aims to find a balance between catch and escapement at different abundances, i.e. find the best escapement plan for sockeye.
- Goals: participatory process to develop a new set of guidelines for setting Fraser sockeye escapement targets; long-term strategy based on clear objectives and assumptions; improve consultation by focusing on a proactive discussion of escapement targets under different scenarios; implementation guidelines (in-season adjustment mechanisms/react to in-season changes).
- The model can do the following: simulate performance of long-term harvest strategies; track aggregate and stock-specific performance measures; assume linear or patterns of change in productivity; assume a minimum harvest rate; apply MA; apply stock-specific escapement strategies; simulate all stocks concurrently to reveal overlap constraints; evaluate effects of aggregating stocks in non-traditional groupings. The model cannot do the following: identify where mortalities take place (outputs total TAM); develop fishing plans (this is done through the PSC/IFMP); assign allocations; make annual adjustments to escapement strategy based on forecast; assume there is any implementation error in applying TAM. Work is currently underway at SFU to develop a model with a spatial/geographic component.
- Data input includes a variety of information, including historical data.

Discussion:

- Concern was expressed about setting an exploitation floor for run sizes below benchmark levels (e.g. 20% exploitation for Cultus). The exploitation floor allows for limited harvest through test fisheries or by-catch (allowing some by-catch allows harvesters to access stronger co-migrating stocks).

ACTION #1 – DFO: Provide a glossary of terms/acronyms that clearly explains terminology.

ACTION #2 – FRAFS: Circulate Mike Staley's FRSSI report that was produced for the Cohen Commission.

- It was noted that the model does not appear to be sensitive to the different IFMP sockeye escapement options presented by DFO.
- First Nations are interested in understanding how the FRSSI model can be used to generate information about catch and escapement in communities and for individual stocks of concern.

Fraser sockeye and pink – 2011 escapement options (Ann-Marie Huang)

Sockeye:

- Options are based on the FRSSI model.
- Strategies specify the following: no fishing at very low run size, except for stock assessment; fixed escapement at low run sizes to protect stocks and reduce process-related challenges (e.g. uncertain run size); fixed TAM of 69% at larger run sizes (cap ensures robustness against uncertainty and protects less abundant/productive stocks).
- New model work for 2011 includes evaluation of moving stocks to different run timing groups and different productivity assumptions.
- Model results will be available in Draft #2 of the IFMP.
- Four options are outlined in the sockeye escapement plan. They cover a range from lower run size and higher TAC (option 1) to higher run size and lower TAC (option 4).
- Birkenhead is included in the late run management unit.
- Fishing opportunities will be provided consistent with allocation priorities and in-season assessment of abundance information.

Pink:

- Above average returns are expected for 2011.
- Harvest opportunities will likely be constrained by objectives for stocks of concern, including Cultus/lates and coho; there will likely be opportunities for selective fisheries.

FSC sharing options – overview of past methods (Ann-Marie Huang)

- If the full FSC allocation of 1 million fish is available for harvest (best case scenario), fish can be shared in the following proportion: 30% BCI, 44% lower Fraser, 26% marine. However, if accessible TAC is lower than 1 million, a different sharing approach must be taken.
- Guidelines: all planned harvest will remain within conservation constraints; the entire TAC of the run timing group that is the constraint will be planned to be harvested.
- Reviewed past methods for sharing FSC. 2008-09: proportional sharing of constraints; group that is furthest behind target is allocated more constraint; keep to strict proportional sharing of catch; multi-step approach to combine above with assessment of fish distribution in BCI (note: results from all methods were examined to make decisions; no single approach was used). Early Stuart sharing agreement in 1996: first priority to First Nations groups with limited access to other sockeye stocks (geographically discrete approach).
- The following sharing approaches were proposed: Scenario A – proportional sharing of constraint; Scenario B – group furthest behind gets more constraint; Scenario C – keep to proportional shares; Scenario D – multi-step proportional sharing (calculate shares of constraint according to Scenario A, assess whether entire constraint amount is needed in each area, and if not, redistribute constraint between remaining areas).
- DFO requested feedback from First Nations Forum participants on their preferred sharing methods.

Cultus Sockeye (Les Jantz)

- Cultus ER objectives in recent years: 2005 – 10-12%; 2006 – 30%; 2007-2009 – 20%; 2010 – up to 30%, meet recovery objectives.
- Cultus recovery objectives:
 - Ensure genetic integrity of the population by exceeding a 4-year arithmetic mean of 1000 successful adult spawners with no fewer than 500 successful adult spawners on any one cycle (secures genetic variability)
 - Ensure growth of the successful adult spawner population for each generation (across 4 years relative to previous 4 years), and on each cycle (relative to brood) for not less than 3 of 4 consecutive years (ensures growing population).
 - Rebuild population to the level of abundance at which it can be delisted by COSEWIC.
 - Rebuild population to a level of abundance that will support ecosystem function and sustainable use (long-term objective that proposes candidate benchmarks for Cultus sockeye that correspond to current understanding of Cultus sockeye dynamics).
- Recovery projects include captive brood, hatchery program, pikeminnow removals, and studies on water quality and pikeminnow population size.
- ER is estimated based on ER of other late run stocks, excluding Birkenhead and Harrison (assumes similar behaviour to other late stocks, e.g. migrating route, timing, etc.).
- Cultus Escapement in 2010: Sweltzer count – 10,275 into lake + 357 taken for brood stock = 10,632 total fish; highest PSM since 2001 (estimated 81.6%); PSM in females collected for brood stock was 15%; PSM adjusted down in past years based on smolt outmigration numbers, PSM of captive brood, PSM of Weaver.
- 2011 Draft IFMP: meet recovery objectives as outlined in the 2009 conservation strategy; minimum exploitation rate of up to 20% to allow for fisheries on more abundant co-migrating stocks.

Day 2 – March 29, 2011 (Morning Tier 2 – FN and DFO)

Opening comments (Marcel Shepert and Ken Malloway)

JTWG update (Jamie Scroggie and Pete Nicklin)

- The Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) is a joint technical process with participation from DFO and First Nations (allows more transparency of DFO technical data, models and analysis).
- The JTWG is improving communications by providing update reports at Forum meetings.
- The JTWG has been discussing how to improve models and new approaches to fisheries management (Rishi Sharma is currently developing a model).
- Preliminary CWT analysis shows that exploitation on early timed Chinook was lower in 2010 than in previous years.
- FRAFS provided funds for DNA sampling. The JTWG provided guidance on prioritizing the samples (Juan de Fuca fishery 2009-10 will be processed this year). Results will be available in April, and will be reviewed by the JTWG (joint paper to follow).
- Keeping joint management ideas in mind as the JTWG develops (e.g. FNFC CMWG).
- The JTWG has been focused on Chinook in past years, but starting to broaden discussion to include other issues and species.
- Starting in 2009, the JTWG worked on management changes for Fraser Chinook.

- The next meeting is on April 13 (to discuss the IFMP, CWT mortality distribution, and the Albion test fishery).

Fraser River project review (Rishi Sharma)

- Chinook salmon is an important species culturally and economically, and plays a unique role in the ecosystem. Chinook are on a declining trend in Canada and the US. The onus is on us as stewards of the resource to ensure that the stocks are sustained for future generations. Chinook are complicated to manage due to varied run timing (need to know their migration timing to protect stocks).
- In response to declining trends in 4₂ and 5₂ Fraser Chinook, management actions have been taken. The goals and objectives of this project are to organize data that quantifies effects of various fisheries, and develop a tool that can provide guidance for the evaluation of management actions meant to maximize escapement and abundance.
- Data: CWT, indicator stocks program, existing updated indicator stocks; data is common to all negotiating parties.
- Analyses and key outputs: uses presence/absence data and prorates encounters; uses length distribution to assess impacts on slot limits; outputs impacts with precision with reference to a base year.
- Actionable benefits of analysis: closures in certain areas and cutbacks; preliminary information suggests that fish populations have seen benefits of actions, but still needs to be refined.
- Caveats of analysis: only as good as the data input; representative tagging and sufficient gear, time and area sampling; equal weighting to recovery by time; projections are not definite (provides ball-park estimates based on data and historical information with uncertainty that could be narrowed over time; sequential savings might not be seen right away, but over time).
- Conclusions: added coverage is required (CWT) – this goes hand in hand with sampling and monitoring in all fisheries. Algorithms used are simplistic, and can be easily modified. This could be a useful co-management tool, which puts the focus on rebuilding.

Discussion:

- First Nations have not been consulted on using Spius and Coldwater as indicator stocks. DFO will discuss this issue with the Nicola Tribal Association fisheries department and keep them updated.

ACTION #3 – DFO: Communicate with the fisheries department at the Nicola Tribal Association about using Spius and Coldwater Chinook as CWT indicator stocks.

- A peer review process is a good idea to get buy-in for this management tool.

South coast Chinook stock assessment (Karin Mathias)

- At the February 2011 Forum meeting, First Nations participants requested information on WCVI troll data. In this presentation, total Chinook catch trends, stock composition of catch, and the DNA sampling program were reviewed.

Overview of Area G Troll DNA program:

- 1998-2001: WCVI troll winter pilot fishery began, along with exploratory DNA collection program initially in response mainly to domestic WCVI stock management: DNA samples collected by onBoard observers and volunteer fishers; collection was opportunistic, not meant

to estimate total stock composition; DFO coast wide baseline was used for DNA analysis (domestic).

- 2002-2005: PSC funding for the program began (changing fishery timing; lower winter catches = lower number of CWT recovered): observer program was reduced; MRP staff began collecting samples; only AFC (adipose fin clipped) Chinook were sampled to reduce cost; objective was to collect samples from at least 2% of the catch, and analyze at least 1%; GAPS (genetic analysis of pacific salmon) baseline used (international).
- 2006-present: PSC funding continues; program was improved to be more systematic, and to provide estimates of total stock composition: MRP (mark recovery program) staff continues to collect samples; total catch is sampled (not just AFC Chinook); objective is to collect samples from at least 4% of the catch, and analyze at least 2% by month and catch region (NWVI/SWVI); number of samples analyzed is proportional to catch; GAPS baseline still used.

Current WCVI Troll DNA program:

- Objectives and protocol: Collect random DNA sample by month and catch region (NWVI/SWVI); sample size for collection is at least 4% of total catch, and at least 2% for analysis; collect samples over the entire month/fishery period; collect samples from as many vessels as possible; priority is to collect samples from single (unmixed) vessels and catch regions; samples are kept separate by mark (AFN and non-AFC); collect samples from the tail fin due to delamination of operculum punches.

Discussion:

- Concern was expressed about the lack of data on Chinook fisheries. First Nations have conservation as their first priority for weak Chinook stocks (4₂ and 5₂).
- First Nations want to be involved in monitoring and data collection for Chinook fisheries.
- DFO has made an effort to distribute most presentations in advance of the Forum meetings; will make an effort to get all presentations distributed earlier in the future.
- DFO policy is often inconsistent with First Nations' fisheries aspirations, and the traditional conceptualization of the fishery. It was suggested that a cultural liaison could translate technical information from DFO for First Nations.

ACTION #4 – DFO: *South coast Chinook stock assessment presentation from the Forum meeting on March 29, 2011 – provide a more detailed breakdown of information (the presentation provided lumps together troll and recreational data).*

South coast Chinook management framework update (Jeff Grout)

- DFO is currently developing a Chinook management framework to deal with Chinook stocks of concern in southern BC (including 4₂). Working with First Nations is essential to ensure that this management framework is successful. First Nations have expressed that they would like to be involved in the development of the framework at an early stage; DFO is currently looking at how to most effectively engage First Nations in the development process. One possibility is to host a technical workshop in order to provide a common understanding and technical basis for the work (possibly April 2011).

Response to recommendations on Chinook from the last Forum (Jeff Grout)

- At the February 2011 Forum meeting, First Nations presented recommendations and information requests to DFO. DFO staff indicated that they will address some of these topics during the present Forum meetings (e.g. information on WCVI Chinook assessment).

- Chinook management: The management approach for early timed Chinook was changed to manage according to PSC management units (e.g. spring 4₂, spring and summer 5₂). The IFMP outlines objectives for each management unit, but escapement targets have not yet been developed (with the exception of Fraser lates). Still need to develop biologically based escapement units, and a method for addressing management that falls short of escapement objectives.
- In 2010, management focused on protecting 70% of the spring 4₂ Chinook migration (wide migration timing – March to August). Preliminary data suggests that exploitation on spring 4₂ was significantly reduced in 2010 (still waiting for CWT data; currently estimating ~10% exploitation). DFO is planning to use similar management actions in 2011.
- DFO provided a table showing management actions taken in 2010 for various fisheries by area.
- First Nations also presented a number of recreational fishery closure recommendations. DFO indicated that their management actions for recreational fisheries in 2011 will aim to protect 70% of Chinook from the Juan de Fuca to the mouth of the Fraser (size limit restrictions in the Juan de Fuca recreational fishery expected to protect 80% of spring 4₂, reduced daily limit in Georgia Strait, and closures for Fraser River recreational fisheries).

Discussion:

- Concern was expressed about Chinook mortality from catch and release fishing (cut plugs).
- It was suggested that the current IFMP process is backwards – DFO sends out the IFMP, and First Nations review it to see if it meets their needs. It would be more effective to have DFO work with First Nations to determine FSC needs, and then develop the IFMP based on that. DFO needs to recognize that First Nations have first priority after conservation. DFO noted that part of the challenge is that many First Nations communities are reluctant to quantify FSC needs.
- Concern was expressed that DFO is unable to accurately evaluate the success of their management actions (e.g. slot limit sizes intended to protect 80% of spring 4₂ Chinook).
- Whether DFO is meeting First Nations priority depends not only on meeting the right to “fish” as a noun, but also the right to “fish” as a verb, i.e. the act of fishing.
- Concern was expressed about DFO’s plan to use management actions for Chinook 4₂ in 2011 that are similar to the actions used in 2010. The 2010 return had a significantly higher brood year (2006) than the 2011 return (2007 brood year); therefore, management actions used in 2010 are not adequate for sustainable management in 2011.
- DFO committed to talking to island groups about First Nations participation in monitoring recreational fisheries in coastal areas.
- DFO has stated that the management actions they implemented in 2010 resulted in a significantly reduced exploitation rate on spring 4₂ Chinook. First Nations are concerned that DFO has not documented First Nations’ efforts to protect these fish (the 2010 moratorium on fishing spring 4₂).
- Concern was expressed about DFO’s slot limit sizes for Chinook retention (many endangered Coldwater spring 4₂ Chinook fall within the allowable retention size).

Things to think about during Tier 1 (Les Jantz)

DFO needs feedback on the following items:

- Sockeye: Early Stuart management – window closure (3 weeks more or less?); minimize test fishing impacts (assess using Whonnock gill net only). Early timed/early summer – add 1 week closure to Early Stuart window? Late run/Cultus approach – past approach (set exploitation rate e.g. 20% and/or Cultus rebuilding objective, TAM rule). MA approach for 2011 (10/11 cycle line,

all years). Also MA approach for each stock grouping. Spawning objectives – which TAM rule options for each stock group? First Nations sharing arrangement on stock/stock groupings with insufficient harvest to meet all needs – Early Stuart sharing as per recent years; sockeye sharing by 3 geo areas; other approach?

- Chinook: Management plan for FSC fisheries – same approach as 2010? Request for ceremonial license to provide fish for an elders gathering in the lower mainland in July.
- Coho: Coho objective 3%; selective approach when harvesting pink (highly selective gear only); seeking to develop management rules for various coho return levels into the future. How should additional exploitation between 3% and 10% be distributed?
- Pink: Optimize pink catch while minimizing by-catch of other species. Sockeye by-catch rules during pink fisheries (5% sockeye to sockeye and pink ratio, 1% mortality).
- Chum: As per current decision rules?
- Agenda items for next forum meeting in May.

First Nations Forum participants finished the day with a Tier 1 session starting after lunch.

DAY 3 – March 30, 2011 (Afternoon Tier 2 – FN and DFO)

First Nations Forum participants met in a Tier 1 session for the morning (afternoon Tier 2).

Forum Planning Committee Update (Adrian Wall)

- Forum meetings are funded through an agreement with FRAFS.
- The next Forum meetings are May 10-11 in Kamloops. The FPC is planning for 4 meetings next year (May, January, February, March – similar to this year's schedule).
- The FPC will try to add a day to the Forum on May 9 or 12 to discuss catch monitoring.

Recommendations presented to DFO by the First Nations Forum participants (Ernie Crey)

CHINOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Statement: The 2010 management restrictions for Fraser spring 4₂ Chinook were a reflection of the 2006 brood year spawner numbers. The 2007 brood year spawner numbers were 75% lower than those of 2006. Repeating the 2010 regulations in 2011 is clearly inadequate to sufficiently protect the 2011 returns. DFO's refusal to implement the measures put forward by First Nations at the February 2011 Forum is an insult to the Forum participants, and could have dire consequences for 2011 Fraser spring 4₂ Chinook.*
- **Recommendation #1:** Based on available data, effective immediately all marine recreational fisheries where spring 4₂ Chinook stocks are known to occur should be closed to all fishing until July 10, and all Fraser River recreational fisheries should be closed to all fishing while spring 4₂ Chinook are present.
- **Recommendation #2:** Have the JTWG review available management tools such as Albion, and examine the feasibility of others such as Qualark (starting the DIDSON earlier), in order to meet the needs for assessing marine and in-river areas.
- **Recommendation #3:** Have the JTWG design and apply a DNA sampling process for marine sport fisheries to determine stock composition of their catch (timeline: implementation in 2011).
- **Recommendation #4:** Conservation concerns for Chinook are not exclusive to the Fraser; island Chinook stocks are also declining and require protection. Declining coastal stocks means more

pressure on Fraser stocks. Recognizing that DFO is currently developing a South Coast Chinook Management Framework, DFO must commit to meeting with Vancouver Island First Nations to discuss a rebuilding plan for their stocks.

- **Recommendation #5:** Have the JTWG look at the option of having cameras installed all sport lodges and major landing sites to capture recreational catch and species composition (or other options for assessment in areas where there is no creel survey).
- **Recommendation #6:** Implement catch monitoring programs to account for catch beginning January 1. There needs to be catch monitoring for all fisheries in all areas at all times of the year. First Nations must be involved in the design and implementation.
- **Recommendation #7:** Increased monitoring and enforcement, and decreased fishing time and retention limits, are required in the Georgia Strait and Juan de Fuca recreational fisheries.
- **Recommendation #8:** ONA and UFFCA have collaboratively developed methodology for measuring the efficacy of DFO's slot sizes for partial mark selective fisheries (discussion paper tabled at the IHPC 2 years ago – JTWG to review). DFO should implement a monitoring program to measure the efficacy of size restriction measures for protecting Chinook.
- **Recommendation #9:** The management tool presented by Rishi Sharma should be reviewed through a peer review process with DFO and First Nations participation, and if required, reviewed by CSAP.
- **Recommendation #10:** Use traditional knowledge to address the seal issue at Albion; local knowledge may be applicable and should be considered.

Discussion:

- First Nations are still interested in having area-based licensing for recreational fisheries, with licensing fees going back to the areas to improve monitoring programs and restore habitat. The User Fee Act is an obstacle to area-based licensing, along with government financial policies. DFO is trying to work through these issues.
- DFO is facing significant budget cuts. In order to act on some recommendations provided by First Nations, funds might have to be reprofiled.
- First Nations would like to have someone attend the May Forum meeting to discuss seals, sea lions and orcas.

ACTION #5 – Forum Planning Committee – Arrange to have a presentation at the May Forum meeting to discuss the impact on Chinook by seals, sea lions and orcas (presentations on this topic were delivered at the PSC and IHPC).

Sockeye Recommendations:

- **Recommendation #1:** Implement a 3 week moving window closure to protect Early Stuart sockeye.
- **Recommendation #2:** Implement an additional 1 week window closure (following the 3 week Early Stuart closure) to protect early summer sockeye, and where necessary, additional measures to keep the exploitation of early summer miscellaneous stocks to a maximum of 25%.
- **Recommendation #3:** A method for evaluating the efficacy of closure windows for protecting Early Stuart and early summer sockeye is needed. (Has there been a response to conservation efforts from the Early Stuart population? If they have not been responding to management actions, why not?)
- **Recommendation #4:** In response to the need to minimize test fishery impacts on early Stuart sockeye, we recommend using the Matsqui fish wheels to provide the information on species

composition and sockeye stock composition samples during the migration period for early Stuart sockeye. Many of the early Stuart sockeye caught by the Whonnock gillnet test fishery are lost to seals. The Matsqui fish wheels are a proven effective method for sampling the sockeye return during the early Stuart migration period and all fish caught (sockeye, early timed Chinook) can be released alive. (Les will bring this forward to the FRP.)

- **Recommendation #5:** Data request: Have DFO provide the TAC sheets by management group with the forecast run size under each proposed TAM rule option (1-4) for discussion at the April 13th JTWG meeting.
- **Recommendation #6:** The JTWG will provide further calculations to the First Nations Forum participants following their meeting on April 13th. The Secwepemc Fisheries Commission is proposing TAM rule option 4 for late runs (still under consideration by other First Nations).

Response to RDG letter (Ernie Crey):

- First Nations Forum participants felt that the response letter from the DFO RDG was inadequate, as no commitments were made to accept recommendations from First Nations Forum participants on the protection of early timed Chinook stocks. First Nations feel that there has been enough talk; now is the time for action.
- First Nations were unhappy with the implication from the letter that First Nations are simply stakeholders like other users (First Nations are rights holders in the fishery).
- First Nations were looking for a commitment from DFO to close recreational fisheries, not just vague management actions in marine and freshwater sport fisheries.
- First Nations' needs are not being met, and need to be met according to constitutional authority of aboriginal priority.
- DFO's lack of action on recommendations from First Nations Forum participants could serve to undermine the relationship that First Nations and DFO have been building over the last several years.

Discussion:

- On behalf of DFO, Les Jantz acknowledged that these are difficult issues to deal with. The complexity of the recreational fishery in marine areas (many species of salmon, along with other fish species) makes it difficult to implement full closures.
- The new south coast Chinook management framework might help to address some of the recreational fishing issues, as well as habitat issues, possibly enhancement opportunities, etc.
- A number of changes to the fishery have been made as a direct result of the discussions with First Nations at the Forum meetings.
- DFO recognizes First Nations as rights holders in the fishery.
- Les recommended that First Nations Forum participants respond to the RDG's letter in writing in order to capture some of the issues discussed.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION #1 – DFO: *Provide a glossary of terms/acronyms that clearly explains terminology.*

ACTION #2 – FRAFS: *Circulate Mike Staley's FRSSI report that was produced for the Cohen Commission.*

ACTION #3 – DFO: *Communicate with the fisheries department at the Nicola Tribal Association about using Spius and Coldwater Chinook as CWT indicator stocks.*

ACTION #4 – DFO: *South coast Chinook stock assessment presentation from the Forum meeting on March 29, 2011 – provide a more detailed breakdown of information (the presentation provided lumps together troll and recreational data).*

ACTION #5 – Forum Planning Committee – *Arrange to have a presentation at the May Forum meeting to discuss the impact on Chinook by seals, sea lions and orcas (presentations on this topic were delivered at the PSC and IHPC).*