



Watershed Talk

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations

TECHNICAL UPDATE

By Pete Nicklin, Assistant Stock Management Coordinator – indiseaent@shaw.ca

After a four month hiatus, Ken Wilson, Mike Staley and I are back working for FRAFS on the technical side of things. Our contracts will go until March 31st, so there is a lot of work to be done between now and then! Even though the actual FRAFS agreement has not been received by the Secwepemc Fisheries Commission, we are working and assuming that the “cheque is in the mail”.

I am working on the first draft of a technical analysis of the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP), and hope to get that report out to Ken and Marcel for review within the next few days. At the Tier 1 meeting in Kamloops I asked all Fraser First Nations to please contact me with any advice, comment or technical information that would be appropriate for me to include in my report (from a technical perspective). Since I have yet to hear from anyone, I will go ahead and submit the first draft analysis to Ken and Marcel for their review. We need to get the final WSP review out for Fraser First Nations by the end of February, so I would ask that all information be forwarded to me no later than **February 25th** in order for me to get that into the final report.

The public submission deadline for comment on the Wild Salmon Policy is February 18th and First Nations are apparently supposed to submit their response to the policy around the first week of March. At the Tier 1 meeting I made it very clear that this deadline is not acceptable for Fraser First Nations to finish a comprehensive technical review of the policy. A letter has been sent out to DFO (by Marcel Shepert on behalf of FRAFS) stating that more time is needed to engage DFO technical staff in working through specific Fraser salmon fisheries management examples in order to analyze how DFO is planning on implementing the policy, and FRAFS is awaiting a response from this letter. A few examples that we could work on with DFO technical staff have been put forward, and they are Early Summer run sockeye management, Interior Fraser Coho and Birkenhead chinook.

If DFO stands firm on the submission deadline for the technical response from FRAFS, it doesn't look like Ken, Mike or I will have the opportunity to see how the policy will effect Fraser Salmon fisheries management before the policy is finalized. The heart of the WSP is in implementation, and part of the implementation that

may have an immediate impact on Fraser First Nations is the pre-season planning, in-season management, post-season review and response to annual salmon fisheries management.

After I have completed the WSP review, the next thing on the agenda is to review the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP). The IFMP will likely be released some time in March, and Ken and I will be going on the road for a series of three workshops to be held in Vancouver, Kamloops and Prince George. The dates and locations of these meetings will be announced in the next couple of weeks. The focus of the workshops will be to present our review of the IFMP and to obtain further information for the Fraser Sockeye Conservation & Management Plan document that will “plug into” the IFMP response, and be made available to Fraser First Nations.

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STOCK MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR CONTACT INFO

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WEB LINKS

The FRAFS website is at www.frafs.ca.

The Pacific Salmon Commission's website is at www.psc.org.

DFO's Wild Salmon Policy consultation web page is at http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/wsp/default_e.htm.

The BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission website is www.bcafc.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance: March 10, 2005, Sandman Inn, Quesnel

BCAFC: Wild Salmon Policy Meeting: March 1-2, Musqueam, Vancouver

DFO: Multi-interest Dialogue Forum on the Wild Salmon Policy, March 2-3, Vancouver, BC