



FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

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TERMS OF REFERENCE Updated November 16, 2015

Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning

INTRODUCTION

The Forum had its origins in 2007 when DFO attempted to conduct an in-season conference call with Fraser First Nations to try to make decisions about how First Nations could share a limited harvest of sockeye. In early 2008, DFO sponsored a meeting (the first Forum) to begin discussions with First Nations regarding the development of a sharing arrangement between/among First Nations in the Fraser River and marine approach areas. While no such formal arrangement has yet been made, the Forum meetings have evolved since early 2008 into a fairly well accepted format that provides for First Nations meeting among themselves, and with DFO, to discuss salmon management plans and potential issues.

The Forum was initially guided by an informal steering committee called the Fraser River and Approach Working Group. The Forum meetings are now being planned by a smaller more geographically focused group called the Forum Planning Committee (see accompanying TORs).

The Forum meetings comprise the first steps in what should be a multi-step consultation process about DFO's stock and harvest management plans that could potentially affect the exercise of aboriginal fishing rights.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose

- To provide a venue for DFO to present to a wide range of First Nations post-season and pre-season information on Fraser salmon stocks, and potential management plans for the coming fishing season for those stocks;
- To provide a venue for a wide range of First Nation participants to discuss among themselves their perspectives on the information presented by DFO; and
- To provide an opportunity, if First Nation attendees wish, to provide their advice and recommendations (consensus where possible) on management plans.

2. Composition

Forum meeting participants are expected to consist of appropriate DFO staff members, and technical and political representatives from First Nations throughout the Fraser River watershed and the marine approach areas who have an interest in Fraser River salmon.

3. Process

- Generally, three meetings are held each fiscal year; the meetings can be of varying length but not usually more than three days per meeting.
- Provision for both Tier 1 (First Nations only) and Tier 2 (DFO/First Nations) sessions at each meeting.
- Agendas for each meeting are developed by the Forum planning Committee and circulated to potential participants through the Secretariat; meeting agenda input is put forward to FPC members from potential participants.