



FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

c/o Nicola Tribal Association
PO Box 188 • Merritt, BC • V1K 1B8
Tel: 250-378-4235 • Fax: 250-378-9119
info@frafs.ca • www.frafs.ca

February 10, 2014

To: Lester Jantz, Acting Area Director, BC Interior, DFO
Cc: Sue Farlinger, Regional Director-General, DFO Pacific Region
Adrian Wall, Aboriginal Affairs Advisor, BC Interior, DFO
Jeff Grout, Resource Manager, Salmon Team, DFO RHQ

Via: Email Attachment

Re: Forum on Conservation & Harvest Planning January 28 – 30, 2014 Richmond, BC

First Nation attendees – summary of key points

1. Fraser Spring 4₂ Spring & Summer 5₂ Chinook 2014

- The FRAFS Joint Technical Working Group has attempted to document the steps taken to clarify the un-resolved technical discussion with respect to replicating the historical changes to the Total Mortality Distribution changes for Nicola and Dome chinook. At this point, it is not possible to replicate the work without further engagement and information from DFO Science. *At this point, it is not possible for the FN Caucus of the JTWG to replicate the analysis used to underpin the last 2 years of Fraser Spring and Summer 52 chinook management (as described in a DFO letter from June 2012).* This issue will be outlined in a Briefing Note from the JTWG Co-Chairs to the FRAFS Executive Committee, along with documentation of steps taken to resolve this issue.
- It is understood DFO may initiate Spring & Summer 52 Chinook management for 2014 in Zone 2. At this time Forum Participants have not been provided information related to the technical rationale for this plan, and management information associated with this Zone of management for 2014. The FN Caucus of the JTWG and the participants of the Forum expect this information to be provided as part of the pre-season planning discussions.

2. Sockeye 2014

- The focus of the February Forum will be Fraser sockeye management. There are several issues requiring significant information for a productive discussion:
 - An outline and description of work on the FRSSI model related to Total Allowable Mortality rule options and performance measures used for evaluating the options. These options may include various Lower and Upper Fishery Reference Points, technical work related to TAM caps exceeding 60%, and changes to the escapement plan when considering large escapements in some systems.

- The Fraser sockeye CU status paper was completed in October 2013. To date DFO has not presented the results of this work or its role and consideration related to sockeye management planning for 2014. Forum participants request DFO to deliver a presentation on this topic at the Forum *and* sub-regional processes upon request. *It is unacceptable for this completed sockeye work to remain in the background, especially given the fact Southern BC Chinook and Interior Fraser coho will be utilizing similar status assessments and undergoing similar reporting in the near future.*
- The Fraser sockeye Management Adjustment was a significant issue with respect to constraining FSC fisheries in 2013. The Management Adjustment could also be a major issue for 2014 sockeye fisheries. DFO must be prepared to provide key information related to the MA, including objectives, assumptions and uncertainties associated with its implementation.
- DFO's Draft Use of Fish Policy should be discussed in relation to its implementation and transparency with respect to objectives for management and conservation and the potential interaction of its implementation on priority harvest objectives. It is impossible to see how this policy may be implemented operationally based on existing language. *The 2013 Fraser sockeye test fishery summary shows more fish were caught and sold than required to support the test fishery program for that season.*
- What will be the management approach for Cultus sockeye in 2014? What will be the approach for Late Run sockeye management in 2014?

3. Interior Fraser Coho

- Interior Fraser Coho constraints have severely impacted FSC fisheries since 1998 due to conservation concerns. 2013 Fraser pink salmon management was constrained by IFC conservation measures. IFC is a significant management item requiring full discussion in relation to 2014 Salmon management.
- For the first time in more than a decade, Interior Fraser coho have been given an Outlook status of 2, instead of 1 for the 2014 season.
- An interim assessment of Interior Fraser Coho is being completed in the CSAS process. Current technical information described in the draft document indicates a sustainable harvest rate higher than the 3% domestic ER currently utilized by Canada.
- In 2013, DFO agreed to a full post-season discussion related to the analytical and assessment tools used for pre-season planning, in-season management and post-season accounting. To date, DFO has not provided these analytical tools and a description in order for First Nations to fully understand the assumptions, uncertainties and components related to the distribution of impacts amongst the various fisheries. First Nations participants of the Forum insist upon complete transparency with respect to IFC pre-season planning, in-season management and post-season accounting for 2013 and 2014. What tools are going to be used to assess the possible implementation of various Exploitation Rates that may be considered?
- Given the priority for FSC fisheries First Nation must be integral to and fully involved in these analyses to assist in the transparency needed during the changes in their and others fisheries.

General Comments:

- Forum participants request Mr. Jeff Grout to participate in the February Forum due to his involvement in many aspects of Fraser salmon management and policy development (examples: Salmon Coordinating Committee, Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework, DFO's Use of Fish Policy, IFMP development, etc.)
- The FN vacancy on the Pacific Salmon Commissions Joint Chinook Technical Committee must be filled with a suitable FN technical candidate.

We look forward to DFO's timely response and engagement on these issues in preparation for the February 2014 Forum on Conservation & Harvest Planning.

Sincerely,

Grand Chief Ken Malloway

On behalf of the January 28 – 30, 2014 Forum on Conservation & Harvest Planning participants