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December 18th, 2013

To: First Nation members and Stakeholders,

Re: Salmon 2014/15 Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) for Northern and Southern BC

This letter is intended to bring to your attention to the Department's plans to develop the 2014/15 Northern and Southern BC Salmon IFMPs, identify the changes from last year's process; and alert you to the important dates and deadlines. Salmon IFMPs for Northern and Southern BC are developed annually and the current plans are effective from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014. The process to develop salmon IFMPs is consistent with National guidelines for IFMPs which can be found at: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/ifmp-gmp/index-eng.htm>.

Attached is a Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) process timeline comparison table. You will note that the process to develop the salmon IFMPs is similar to recent years with the exception of the following changes effective this year:

- a) Post-season meetings of the Northern and Southern IHPC Committees will occur in early December (no change for Northern BC but Southern BC used to occur in late January). Aboriginal consultations will continue to occur in December and into January.
- b) A deadline will be set for January 31st for First Nations and stakeholders to submit proposals on proposed changes to the IFMP for the coming year. This is intended to improve transparency and clearly identify proposed changes for discussion during the IFMP development process. This will also allow the Department time to consider any additional analysis or discussion that may be required. Key changes associated with proposals will be highlighted in the draft IFMP for comment.
- c) A draft of the Salmon IFMP will be distributed for a 30 day comment period as per National guidelines. Unlike previous years, a second draft will not be

distributed. Responses to key IFMP feedback will continue to be circulated in spreadsheet format, not in a second draft version.

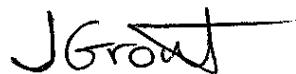
DFO is looking at ways to make the IFMP into a more flexible and dynamic plan to address a range of possible conditions in-season. The IFMP will provide transparency on what DFO's objectives, harvest decision rules, and guidelines will be for managing salmon fisheries.

We recommend that you work from last year's 2013/14 IFMP to develop and submit proposals on what you would like changed for the coming year; this will help better structure the discussion by capturing proposals early in the process. As some of the forecast or escapement plan information might not be available before the January 31st deadline, proposals may necessarily be made more general in some instances with specific details developed as information becomes available. Any demonstration fishery proposals should also be submitted at this time.

The objective of these changes in the Salmon IFMP process timelines is to improve the IFMP process and assist with meeting our target of the final Salmon IFMPs being approved by June 1, 2014.

Please forward any proposals by January 31st, 2014 to your local area Resource Managers or to Kelly Binning, Regional Salmon Officer at Kelly.Binning@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. She can be reached at 604-666-3935 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this process.

Yours sincerely,



Jeff Grout
Regional Resource Manager, Salmon

Attachments (1): Salmon IFMP Process Timeline – 2013 and 2014 Comparison

SALMON IFMP PROCESS TIMELINE - 2013 AND 2014 COMPARISON

Milestones	Purpose	2013	2014	Considerations
Outlook	<i>Release via email</i>	<i>Nov-23</i>	<i>Nov-27</i>	<i>Online meeting in November</i>
<i>First Nations Salmon Coordinating Committee (SCC) & Integrated Harvest Planning Committee (IHPC) members</i>	<i>WebEx and Conference Call</i>	<i>Nov-28</i>	<i>Nov-29</i>	
2013 Post Season Meetings				
South Coast Regional Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB)	Preliminary Post-Season	Dec 1-2	Nov 30 - Dec 1	
IHPC Post-season - North Coast	Post Season Review	Dec-07	Dec-05	No change
SCC Post-season - North Coast	Post Season Review	Dec-07	Dec-10	No change
North Coast Regional SFAB	Post Season Review	Dec 8-9	Dec 7-8	No change
<i>IHPC Post-season -South Coast</i>	<i>Post Season Review</i>	<i>Jan-22</i>	<i>Dec-11</i>	<i>One month earlier</i>
<i>SCC Post-season -South Coast</i>	<i>Post Season Review</i>	<i>Jan-22</i>	<i>Dec-12</i>	<i>One month earlier</i>
Other post-season consultations	Post Season Review			To be completed by end of January
Pre-Season Planning				
SFAB Main Board	<i>Pre-Season Planning</i>	Feb 2-3	Jan 25-26	Late January (Halibut Commission - Jan 13-17, 2014)
<i>Salmon Integrated Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) Proposal Deadline</i>	<i>New</i>	-	<i>Jan-31</i>	<i>Proposals for changes which require analysis/discussion.</i>
Draft IFMP circulated	<i>Release of draft IFMP that includes all the proposals and any changes for upcoming fishing season.</i>	Mar-01	Mar-03	No change. All proposals included in first draft and highlighted as a proposed change.
SCC	<i>Pre-Season Planning and discussion of draft IFMP.</i>	<i>March 6-7</i>	<i>Mar-12</i>	<i>1 week later. Additional time for stakeholder review and discussion prior to meeting.</i>
IHPC	<i>Pre-Season Planning and discussion of draft IFMP.</i>	<i>07-Mar</i>	<i>Mar-13</i>	<i>1 week later. Additional time for stakeholder review and discussion prior to meeting.</i>
Deadline for public comments (internet)	Posted online for one month for external feedback.	Apr-01	Apr-07	No change
SFAB South Coast	Pre-Season Planning	April 6-7	April 5-6	No change
SFAB North Coast	Pre-Season Planning	April 6-7	April 5-6	No change
SFAB Main Board	Pre-Season Planning	April 13-14	April 12-13	No change
Easter Break			April 18-21	Holiday
<i>DFO responses to IFMP proposals</i>	<i>Spreadsheet circulated that includes responses to key IFMP feedback.</i>	Apr-24	Apr-25	<i>Draft 2 of the IFMP will no longer be done.</i>
SCC	<i>Review of DFO summary of feedback and responses on IFMP.</i>	<i>May 1-2</i>	<i>Apr-30</i>	<i>One week earlier.</i>
Full IHPC	<i>Review of DFO summary of feedback and responses on IFMP.</i>	<i>May 1-2</i>	<i>May-01</i>	<i>One week earlier.</i>
Approvals				
<i>Target Public Release</i>	<i>Distribute electronically and post final IFMP on website</i>	<i>Mid-June</i>	<i>Early June</i>	<i>2 weeks earlier. Posting of final approved IFMP</i>