



# WATERSHED TALK

## NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

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### The Roadmap Process: Towards a Fraser Salmon Management Agreement

*Update from the Main Table*



The goal of the Roadmap Process is to reach an agreement between First Nations and DFO on the collaborative management of Fraser salmon stocks. “It’s about working together with DFO and making sure that our fish are healthy, so that our communities are healthy,” said **Greg Wadhams (Namgis)**.

Over 60 First Nations from the freshwater north, to the saltwater Marine Approach areas and the Island, are Signatories to a Letter of Understanding with DFO to work towards a negotiated agreement. For **Ken Malloway (Sto:lo)** it’s important that we create “a united group with the mandate to talk about Fraser salmon management.”

*Report continued on the next page.*

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## Fraser Salmon Roadmap Process *(continued)*

On June 25th the Main Table met to ensure that Roadmap work continues during fishing season. Greg and Ken were joined by **Janice Billy (Statimc)**, **Murray Ned (Sto:lo)** and, via conference call, **Thomas Alexis (Tl'azt'en)**.

Main Table Coordinator **Neil Todd (FRAFS)** led us through the Agenda. As a first order of business, Thomas volunteered to be Interim Chairperson of the Main Table for the next three months while **Pat Matthew (Simpc'w)** is on leave. Thomas will be the key link to the Main Table for Neil and **Walter Quinlan (FRAFS)** as they tackle the Work Plan.

The Main Table reviewed the Work Plan with the goal of starting a schedule of Signatories Assemblies this November. Neil outlined two current priorities:

- 1) Start discussions with DFO on the Negotiation Framework. Neil advised that he and Walter work on a template and report to the Main Table in mid-August. We're aiming to have a document for DFO and First Nations to review by December 31st.
- 2) Recruit and select an expert on Tier 1 governance. The goal is to find someone with a proven track record in governance by August 31st.

Walter then guided the team through a communications strategy session (see whiteboard in photo). The Main Table talked about the messages that they wanted to share with their communities. They also decided to make a team effort to go out to the communities to explain what the Roadmap is. We'll let you know when we're coming to your area; for updates, check: [FRAFS on Facebook](#).

After a productive morning, The Main Table agreed to meet again by conference call in August. As Janice said, "It's about everyone coming together for salmon."





## The Fraser Panel's Listen-in Line for First Nations

The Fraser Panel will meet by conference call on Tuesday, July 2 at 1:00 p.m. A listen-in line will be available for First Nations. The Toll Free number is **1.800.273.9672** and the password is **Sockeye**. Here's the schedule:

Date	Start Time in BC	Type
July-02-13	1:00 PM PT	
July-09-13	11:00 AM PT	
July-12-13	11:00 AM PT	
July-16-13	11:00 AM PT	
August-02-13	TBD	
August-06-13	11:00 AM PT	
August-09-13	TBD	
August-13-13	11:00 AM PT	
August-16-13	TBD	
August-20-13	11:00 AM PT	
August-23-13	TBD	
August-27-13	11:00 AM PT	
August-30-13	11:00 AM PT	
September-03-13	11:00 AM PT	
September-06-13	11:00 AM PT	
September-10-13	11:00 AM PT	
September-13-13	11:00 AM PT	
September-17-13	11:00 AM PT	
September-20-13	11:00 AM PT	

All calls:  
Listen Only

\*Please note: There will also be four in-person Panel meetings, held on Fridays, starting August 4.



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## News from the Fraser Panel

The Fraser Panel met June 19-20 for its final preseason session.

There were minor updates for the forecast timing of some of the stocks; forecast diversion through Johnstone Strait is 35%. Environmental forecasts for the season suggest that the flow will be below, and the temperature slightly above, normal.

This information resulted in a change to the Management Adjustments for the Early Stuart, Early Summer and Summer management groups. The changes for Early Stuart and Early Summer resulted in lower Management Adjustments than had been presented at the Forum meetings this spring, and a slightly higher Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for both management groups. The current forecast TAC for Early Stuart is approximately 35,000. This is up from previous estimates of 25,000.

The Fraser Panel approved a preseason fishing plan based upon “modeled fisheries”. With the larger Total Allowable Catch forecast for Early Stuart, FSC fisheries were penciled in for July during the window closure period set out in the IFMP and recent fisheries notice. These fisheries are to be scheduled after an in-season run-size and management adjustment update is available. The in-season update will be used for management decision-making purposes.

The relatively small abundance of both Early Summer and Late Run management groups will constrain fisheries on the more abundant Summer Run.

In the model, the United States (Washington State) were able to harvest their agreed to share of Fraser sockeye. Harvests in FSC fisheries were assumed to meet license targets for in-river First Nations.

Given the low diversion through Johnstone Strait, the Marine First Nations are expected to have difficulty harvesting the target for their fisheries. Also the Canadian commercial catch that could be taken without impacting Early Summer and Late Run constraints was significantly less than the calculated commercial TAC (less than 10%).

## Sockeye Test Fisheries

Sockeye test fisheries started last Monday, in the Juan de Fuca Strait, and, in the Fraser River at Whonnock.

Initial catches in Area 20 are promising. Although co-migrating Lake Washington stock is tracking larger than forecast, some stock identification from this week's catches should be available by Tuesday. A small catch of sockeye in the river indicate their presence.



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## Fraser Sockeye Updates with Mike Staley

The 2013 Fraser sockeye season has begun. In-season technical updates with Mike Staley (Fisheries Biologist, FRAFS) start this Thursday, July 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Mike's first session will cover some of the preseason assumptions made by the Fraser Panel in the course of its planning. More detailed technical information will come into the conversation following the first meeting of the Panel's Technical Committee on July 18th.

Please note that our first two conference calls (July 4 and 11) are scheduled for a 2:00 p.m. start. As of Thursday, July 18, they will move to 4:00 p.m. and will likely remain at that time for the rest of the season. Weekly reminders will be sent out. The dial-in number is 1.866.512.0904 and the participant code is 4954972#.

## FRAFS on Facebook

FRAFS is on Facebook. We'll be posting a mix of media on stories related to fisheries and communities in the Watershed and Island/Marine Approach areas.

Please visit our page at: [FRAFS on Facebook](#) and kindly click the "Like" button.

We also have a new email address: [frafs15@gmail.com](mailto:frafs15@gmail.com)

*Thanks to Mike Staley for his reports and collaboration.*