



WATERSHED TALK

NEWSLETTER

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Fraser Salmon Road Map: Signatories Assembly, Nov. 5 - 6

The Fraser Salmon Road Map Process will host a Signatories Assembly on Nov. 5 – 6 at the Executive Airport Inn in Richmond.

The purpose of this Assembly is to review Tier 1 governance options as Signatories prepare to enter negotiations with DFO on a joint-management agreement over Fraser River salmon.

It will also be an opportunity for people to meet our Governance Consultants: Guerin-Tetreault Associates. GTA was selected based on their previous experience working with BC First Nations communities on governance matters.

Michele Guerin and Sheldon Tetreault will play an important part in the Road Map Process. Their role is to:

- research and develop Tier 1 governance options; and
- facilitate discussion and build consensus at the Assemblies.



Michele Guerin (Musqueam) and Sheldon Tetreault will assist the Main Table and Signatories in developing Tier 1 governance options.

Michele is a lawyer; called to the Bar of BC in 2007. She's also worked as the Director of Research for the National Centre for First Nations Governance. Michele knows fishing too: for ten years she owned and operated a gillnetter on the Fraser River.

Sheldon brings over 15 years of senior level management and policy experience in First Nations governments. He has a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Victoria. Sheldon has deep roots in the Métis and Francophone communities of Manitoba.

More details on the registering for the Assembly and hotel accommodations later this week.



Annual Ghost Net Removal Program on the Fraser



Submitted by: Janice Billy, Fisheries Manager, St'át'imc Government Services

The First Nations come to the Fraser River every fishing season to catch and preserve (wind dry, canned, salted, smoked, or frozen) food fish for their sustenance. Some of the common St'át'imc fishing gear and equipment include set nets, dip nets, gill nets, and tarps for camping or protection. These belong to fishing stations which need to be respected by its users; however, today we will still have issues with taking out fishing gear at the end of every fishing season.

The Annual Ghost Net Removal Program is a joint environmental approach between the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) of Lytton, the DFO and St'át'imc Government Services (SGS).

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Annual Ghost Net Removal Program

Ghost Nets can be a devastating impact to the waters, if not removed may continue to fish for years after they are abandoned, as a result capturing and leaving dead carcasses, aquatic animals, catching anything that is in its way. The cooperative effort includes removing fishing gear left at the fishing camps or along the Fraser River. These nets that have potential to drift out when high tides arrive, nets that maybe used during the closed season, nets that have clear plastic floats, sunken nets with floats, and tarps. All this abandoned equipment is a danger to our river, fish and wildlife.

The NNTC rents rafts from the Yale Fraser River Raft Expeditions to approach the garbage from the river. The clean-up began at Lillooet and ended at Yale on the Fraser River. The guides provide buffet lunch, served at secluded beaches along the Fraser River. The tremendous scenery was witnessed as the crew goes through some most beautiful country, high cliffs, and waterfalls. The group witness debris left from Railway accidents and potential natural impacts. The volunteers observed St'át'imc, Nlaka'pamux and part of the Stó:lō traditional fishing stations along the way.

This opportunity makes a small but significant environmental change to this section of the Fraser River, where a group of concerned conservation minded citizens form the general public, all volunteers included: NNTC Natural Resources, DFO, RCMP, and St'át'imc members. Special thanks to NNTC, DFO and the Fraser River Raft Expeditions, planners and coordinators of this annual event.

The efforts of educating people were well-received as less nets and tarps and debris were collected, the St'át'imc territory 8 nets were gathered; 16 from NNTC and 8 from the Stó:lō. However, with the consideration and ecologist concerns the Yale Fraser River Raft Expedition will be returning to the Stó:lō area to raise nets left to the high tide mark. One way of keeping track of the gear that is left or found the NNTC encourages its members to mark gear to identify its users. We are overwhelmed it was considerably less than previous years, which would suggest the efforts are working. A strong message when fishing season is over is “to clean up fishing camps”, especially the nets, so that nothing has a chance to get flushed into the river during the high waters and become “Ghost Nets.”

Let us continue our roles and responsibilities as keepers of the earth by united efforts to keep our mighty Fraser River mighty. Just as significantly we continue to encourage neighbors to join us in our worthwhile cause, Ghost Net Removal.



Click this link to see the photo album: [Ghost Net Removal on the Fraser](#)