



WATERSHED TALK

NEWSLETTER

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Selecting a new Main Table

FSMC Member Delegates to decide in two weeks.

Much has been accomplished by First Nations in their efforts to build the **Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC)**:

the governance body by which First Nations will enter into negotiations with DFO on a joint management agreement over Fraser salmon.

And it's going to be busy between now and next fishing season for the new Main Table.

Accomplishments

In March, First Nations who've signed the Letter of Understanding with DFO achieved consensus approval of the FSMC Constitution and By-laws.

Since the spring, 40 First Nations have passed a Band Council Resolution (BCR) confirming their participation in the FSMC and appointing a Member Delegate. The most recent BCRs have come from **Seabird Island** in the lower Fraser, **Cowichan Tribes** on the island and **Westbank First Nation** in the Okanagan.



Selecting a new Main Table

The term for the current Main Table has come to an end. At the FSMC Assembly on November 26th, Member Delegates will select their regional representatives to the Main Table (two for each region in the watershed, three for the Marine/Approach area). Only those who've been appointed by BCR can select, or be selected to, the Main Table.

Between now and next fishing season

There are three objectives to reach:

- (1) operationalize the Tier 1 governance structure;
- (2) conclude the Negotiation Framework; and
- (3) secure BCRs for a Request for Mandate to begin negotiations with DFO.

For more info, click: [FSMC Questions and Answers](#).

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Stellako Run Fishery on Fraser Lake



This inland sockeye fishery is a selective purse seine fishery targeting Stellako River sockeye: a component of the Summer Run Fraser Sockeye management group that had been identified in-season, through several enumeration methods, as an abundant and healthy stock returning to the Upper Fraser.

The Stellako River flows into Fraser Lake at the west end of the lake. The migration route is up the Fraser, into the Nechako through Fraser Lake and into the Stellako River. The proximity of the fishery to the spawning grounds allowed for near real time information during the fishery. This also let us know that sockeye continued to migrate to the spawning areas while the fishery was occurring, thereby confirming the strength of the 2014 run.

The UFCFE Seine Boat (*Knotty Buoy*) was modified to a “packer boat” for this fishery and was piloted by Gord Sterritt. The seine boat was piloted by an experienced commercial fisherman under contract to the Upper Fraser Commercial Fisheries Enterprise. Crew members involved fisheries technicians from the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Fisheries Program - including the CSTC “tow” boat piloted by CSTC fish techs.

In-river fisheries are designed to protect weak stocks and/or species while targeting the stronger stocks of salmon; they are highly selective. This fishery was a tremendous success in terms of conservation, viability, fish quality, capacity building and overall support from Upper Fraser First Nations and DFO. It shows real potential for future growth and success.



Stellako photos and text: Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance
Fraser River photo (Page 1): Janice Billy (St'at'imc Government Services)