

*A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations*

A REPORT FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY FRAFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

By Neil Todd, FRAFS Operations Manager

On December 4 the FRAFS Executive Committee and operational “staff” were involved in a conference call meeting to learn about the Department’s desires to consult with Fraser First Nations regarding fisheries management in 2008.

As we all know, the outlook for chinook and sockeye fisheries in the Fraser in 2008 is not optimistic. It is feared that returns of these two species may be insufficient to meet all Fraser First Nations needs in 2008.

DFO wishes to discuss this potential situation and receive input and advice from First Nations leaders. They are therefore planning to hold two or three watershed-wide meetings during the period January to April to try to encourage a full discussion of the issues and possible solutions.

FRAFS role in this initiative was a large part of the December 4 discussions. In a nut-shell, the watershed-wide consultations, are the responsibility of DFO. DFO also has the responsibility of consulting with those First Nations who cannot attend the DFO-sponsored meetings.

The role of FRAFS will be to support 4 geographically “local” technical workshops for First Nations who wish to learn about the potential status of species and stocks in 2008, and how that status might relate to their own fisheries. The FRAFS support biologists will be providing the information and participating in the discussions. If desired by First Nations, there will be a second round of technical information workshops prior to the end of March.

More information will be forthcoming. The Department will be communicating formally with all Fraser First Nations in regard to their proposed schedule of watershed-wide meetings. FRAFS will communicate with you in regard to the locations, agendas, and timing of the proposed “sub-regional” meetings.

Inter-Tribal Fishing Treaty Conference Announcement

**Hosted by Kamloops Indian Band and
Shuswap Nation Tribal Council**

**Mount Paul Centre - Kamloops, BC
January 30 and 31, 2008**

Day 1: Technical Session

Day 2: Political Session

Purpose: Treaty Implementation Discussions
and Dialogue

Participants: Senior political and technical leadership
from sovereign Tribal Nations (within the Fraser
and/or Columbia River watersheds)

Map and agendas to follow.

**For more information contact:
Murray Ross or Pat Matthew,
Secwepemc Fisheries Commission
Ph: (250) 828-2178**

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**Fraser Watershed Joint
Technical Committee
Tuesday, December 11
Ramada Plaza, Abbotsford**
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The Watershed Talk is available
for download at
www.frafs.ca