

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

BARRY HUBER OF DFO HONOURED AT FEBRUARY ROADMAP WORKSHOP

At the recent Fraser Salmon Roadmap Workshop, held at the Tzeachten First Nation on February 8 and 9, 2012, a ceremony was held to honour Barry Huber, a member of the DFO staff who plans to retire later this year.

The Fraser Salmon Roadmap Initiative is aimed at building a joint Fraser salmon management arrangement between DFO and First Nations from the Fraser River watershed and Marine Approach areas. The February workshop marked its final scheduled session, and it is appropriate that Barry was honoured during this session, as his participation was crucial to the development of the Roadmap process. A great deal of progress has been made this year toward building a collaborative relationship between First Nations and DFO on the management of Fraser River salmon. In particular, the participants have planned a signing ceremony on March 20th to sign a Letter of Understanding to confirm their commitment to working toward an agreement. As the Chair of the Fraser Salmon Roadmap Planning Group (FSRPG), Barry was instrumental in bringing this attempt at collaborative management to this stage.

Prior to the start of the honouring ceremony, Thomas Alexis (UFFCA, FNFC, FRAFS EC), Chief Hank Adam (Canoe Creek FN, FNFC), Grand Chief Doug Kelly (FN Summit, Soowahlie FN), Cliff Atleo (NTC, FNFC) and Barry Rosenberger (DFO) were called as witnesses to the honour ceremony. During the morning's discussions Barry had been quietly taken out of the hall to prepare for his ceremony. As the ceremony started, the troupe of dancers entered the hall with Barry in the middle of the procession, wearing a large ceremonial blanket and a head band. Drummers and a group of young dancers honoured Barry with traditional drumming, singing and dancing. Each of the witnesses spoke about Barry's contributions to BC fisheries, and his work to advance the interests of First Nations. It was noted during the ceremony that the purpose of the head band was to help Barry keep his thoughts collected and focused. Barry was also presented with the beautiful red blanket with the image of a native art style fish that had been wrapped around him for the entrance procession. He was also presented with a carved plaque representing the life cycle of the coho salmon.

Barry was clearly moved by the ceremony. With glistening eyes, he addressed the crowd and spoke about the importance of relationship building and working together to protect the fisheries resource that is so vitally important to First Nations. "We hope to foster this teamwork between ourselves in DFO and with First Nations", he said. "I hope we can reflect on the work we've done and know it was worth it because we see the results of our efforts."

Barry - The Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat would like to acknowledge you for all the great work you have done to build collaboration between First Nations and DFO. We are grateful to you for your years of service, and we wish you all the best of luck in the future. We will miss you!

