

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations

Your Guide to the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat: A Program Outline

By Neil Todd, FRAFS Operations Manager

The core program of the Secretariat (FRAFS) is devoted to providing communications and technical support to Fraser First Nations in relation to the management of Fraser River salmon and the fisheries that are implemented on them. The long term goal of the Secretariat is to assist First Nations and DFO to reach a more collaborative relationship in the management of the stocks and the fisheries on those stocks.

In the last few years a number of initiatives have been added to the basic annual FRAFS program. As with any organization that experiences a rapid expansion of its interests and activities, there are growing pains. These have been exacerbated in the last couple of years by having these “add-ons” put into place when the fiscal year is half over. It is no wonder that confusion has been created.

In recent months we at FRAFS have tried to simplify and clarify the various projects that we are responsible for delivering. Following is a brief description of each of the main components of the current year program:

1. Executive Committee (EC): Comprised of six First Nation and two DFO members, the EC is responsible for oversight and successful program completion within budget. Provides direction to the Operations Manager. Current members: Terri Bonnet and Adrian Wall (DFO); Ernie Crey, Mike Jimmie, Fred Fortier, Murray Ross, Gord Sterritt, and Thomas Alexis (FN). (Ken Malloway is the EC Chairperson.)

2. Operations Manager (OM) (Neil Todd): responsible for providing support to the EC as needed, project budget tracking and fiscal control, and coordination of information and technical services. Supervises the Communications Coordinator.

3. Communications Coordinator (Aimee Arsenault): provides communication services among First Nations and between First Nations and DFO; meeting records; maintenance of website; meeting support (venue arrangements).

4. Biologists (Mike Staley, Penny White, and Pete Nicklin): participate in technical processes and committees/work groups with First Nations and DFO; interpretation and analysis of DFO management policy and decisions for use by First Nations in consultation processes.

5. Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG): DFO and FRAFS/First Nations’ technical staff; detailed examination of information and data used as a basis for management decisions and actions; provision of the results to First Nations and DFO for use in consultation processes.

6. Fraser Watershed Joint Technical Forum (FWJTF): a watershed (and marine approach) wide gathering of technical and political leadership, and DFO, for presentation and discussion of technical topics to better understand technical issues in relation to management of Fraser River salmon.

7. Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning (“Forum”): a watershed (and marine approach) wide gathering of technical and political leadership; to discuss specific fishery management issues for the current fishing year and attempt to arrive at common understanding among First Nations, and between DFO and First Nations, on anticipated key conservation and harvest management issues.

8. Tier 1 Structure and Process Development Support: financial support to the Intertribal Treaty Organization to assist that organization with building a watershed wide First Nations (“Tier 1”) organization that can support and put forward common First Nation policy and rights issues in relation to management of Fraser River salmon.

9. Visions Workshop: an annual watershed wide gathering where up to date information and progress on technical and political issues and events is shared.

10. Cohen Commission technical/administrative assistance: a budget allocation to assist with communications and assistance to the legal team for the First Nations’ Coalition group in its involvement with the Cohen Commission hearings.

11. PST Chapter 4 Consultations: follow-up informational meetings as part of a consultation process initiated 1.5 years ago regarding the re-negotiation of Chapter 4 of Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, i.e. the Fraser River Panel process.

12. Vancouver Island and Marine Aquatic Working Group (IMAWG): a budget allocation to assist their participation and attendance in FRAFS’ Fraser Watershed activities.

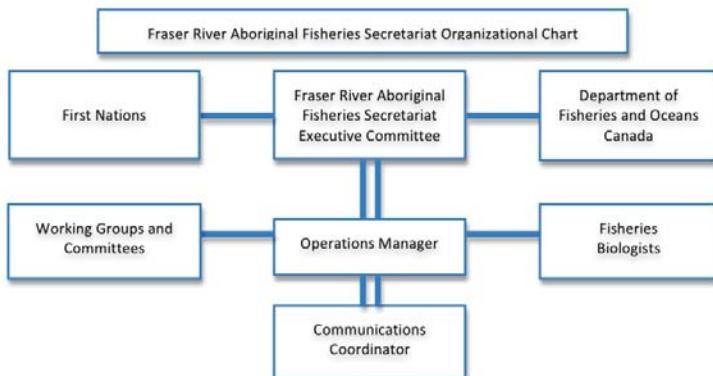
13. Development of an Agreement between DFO and First Nations for the management of Fraser salmon (commonly called the “Roadmap process” in the past; will now be referred to as the “Fraser Salmon Roadmap”): an ambitious and proactive initiative to try to assist Fraser First Nations and DFO to conduct discussions toward an arrangement that provides for meaningful participation by First Nations in the fishery management decision-making processes.

14. Strategic Planning Group (SPG): currently under formation, the SPG will (with the assistance of a facilitation professional) assist and guide both parties in the development of a management agreement between DFO and First Nations (project #13). This group will now be referred to as the “Fraser Salmon Roadmap Working Group” to more clearly align it with project #13 above.

15. Forum Planning Committee (FPC): formerly referred to as “the FRAWG”, this is a bi-lateral committee, with majority being First Nations participants, tasked with preparation of agendas for the Forum (project #7).

16. Catch Monitoring Workshop: a topic-specific workshop designed to provide a better understanding of the range of types of monitoring for all fisheries that target Fraser River salmon including their locations, relative strengths and weaknesses, and identification of fishery harvest monitoring gaps. This workshop was held in Richmond in November.

17. Mid-Fraser capacity development for a co-management/collaborative structure: a budget allocation to support exploration of the potential for First Nations in the mid-Fraser area to form an AAROM-funded collaborative working group/structure/process.



Important Meeting Notice: Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning

A reminder that a Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning will be held at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel (Westminster Room) on January 25th (Tier 1) and 26th (Tier 2).

The workshop will discuss specific fisheries management issues for the current fishing year (2011) and attempt to build common understanding between First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada on key conservation and harvest management issues.

Accommodations information: The Executive Airport Plaza Hotel is currently offering the government accommodation rate of \$99.00 (plus tax) for attendees (reduced rate in effect until January 24th). Upon reservation, guests are to quote "Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat" and secure their reservation with a valid credit card. All guests are responsible for full payment of room, tax and incidental charges. Individual reservations can be cancelled up to 4:00 pm the day prior to travel.

January 25 & 26, 2010

Executive Airport Plaza Hotel

Address: 7311 Westminster Highway, Richmond
Hotel contact: (604) 278-5555

If you are interested in attending,
please confirm by email at info@frafs.ca
or by phone at 604-836-1909

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Aquaculture Community Dialogue Sessions Hosted by the First Nations Fisheries Council

The First Nations Fisheries Council and the Aquaculture Working Group will be hosting a series of community dialogue sessions in February 2011. The sessions will kick off with a joint DFO and Aquaculture Working Group meeting to discuss the development of Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans and the management framework for aquaculture in British Columbia. This joint session will be followed by a series of First Nations regional community sessions.

These meetings will be an opportunity for First Nations to learn more about the proposed aquaculture management framework for B.C., ask important questions, and provide feedback to the development of the management framework for B.C. aquaculture. These sessions will provide a unique opportunity to influence emerging management systems and policies to better reflect the views, priorities and perspectives of B.C. First Nations.

All meetings are open to B.C. First Nations or persons working with B.C. First Nations who have an interest in how aquaculture (shellfish, finfish, and enhancement activities) will be managed in B.C. under the new DFO lead regime.

Scheduled community session dates and locations:

Monday, January 24th, 2011
Aquaculture Workshop (Tier 2)
Richmond, BC

Westminster Room at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel

Monday, February 7th, 2011
Port Alberni, Great Room at Tseshah First Nation

Tuesday, February 8th, 2011
Alert Bay, British Columbia (Location TBA)

Thursday, February 10th, 2011
Bella Bella, Elder's Room at Heiltsuk First Nation

Tuesday, February 15th, 2011
Prince Rupert, British Columbia Room at Crest Hotel

Wednesday, February 16th, 2011
Kamloops, Salon A at Kamloops Convention Centre

**For more information please visit the
First Nations Fisheries Council website at
www.fnnfisheriescouncil.ca**

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES

SECRETARIAT MEETINGS:

January 17, 2011: Joint Technical Working Group Meeting

January 18, 2011: FRAFS Executive Committee Meeting

January 25-26, 2011: Forum on Conservation & Harvest
Planning for Fraser Salmon (Richmond)

February 8-9, 2011: Roadmap: Co-Management
Development (location to be determined)

February 15, 2011: FRAFS Executive Committee Meeting
(date subject to change)

February 22-23, 2011: Forum on Conservation & Harvest
Planning for Fraser Salmon (Richmond)

March 29-30, 2011: Forum on Conservation & Harvest
Planning for Fraser Salmon (Vancouver Island)

May 10-11, 2011: Forum on Conservation & Harvest
Planning for Fraser Salmon (Kamloops)

OTHER MEETINGS:

January 10-14, 2011: Pacific Salmon Commission

January 11, 2011: Lower Fraser Sport Fishing –First
Nations Joint Working Group (Location to be Determined)

January 14, 2011: Tentative IMAWG Post Season Meeting
(Vancouver Island)

January 17, 2011: Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance Forum
(Chilliwack)

January 18-19, 2011: Lower Fraser Peacemaking Course
(Sumas First Nation)

January 20, 2011: Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation
Alliance BOD Meeting (Prince George)

January 21, 2011: Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation
Alliance General Meeting (Prince George)

January 24, 2011: FNFC Aquaculture Workshop
(Richmond)

January 27-28, 2011: Coastal Visions – Island and Marine
Habitat Workshop (Tsawout First Nation)

January 31, 2011: Economic Access Workshop – Tier One
(Richmond)

February 1, 2011: Economic Access Workshop – Tier Two
(Richmond)

February 7, 2011: Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance Interim
Coordinating Meeting (Sumas First Nation)

February 7, 2011: FNFC Aquaculture Community
Dialogue (Port Alberni)

February 8, 2011: FNFC Aquaculture Community
Dialogue (Alert Bay)

February 10, 2011: FNFC Aquaculture Community
Dialogue (Bella Bella)

Tuesday, February 15, 2011: FNFC Aquaculture
Community Dialogue (Prince Rupert)

February 16, 2011: FNFC Aquaculture Community
Dialogue (Kamloops)

February 15-16, 2011: Lower Fraser Peacemaking Course
(Sumas First Nation)

February 24-25, 2011: FNFC Co-Management and Food,
Social and Ceremonial Workshop – Tier Two (Richmond)

February 28-March 1, 2011: Lower Fraser Fisheries
Alliance Forum (Location to be Determined)

March 7, 2011: FNFC Co-Management Community
Dialogue Session (Nanaimo)

March 8, 2011: FNFC Food, Social and Ceremonial
Community Dialogue Session (Nanaimo)

March 10, 2011: FNFC Co-Management Community
Dialogue Session (Prince George)

March 11, 2011: FNFC Food, Social and Ceremonial
Community Dialogue Session (Prince George)

March 15, 2011: FNFC Co-Management Community
Dialogue Session (Terrace)

March 16, 2011: FNFC Food, Social and Ceremonial
Community Dialogue Session (Terrace)

March 17-18, 2011: Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance
Forum (Location to be Determined)

March or April, 2011: Tentative IMAWG Pre-Season
Workshop – Island and Marine Areas

**For further information about important meetings
please visit our website at www.frafs.ca.**

**FRAFS now has a calendar to post meetings related to
Fraser River fisheries issues. To add a meeting please
email us at info@frafs.ca**