

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

Fraser Salmon Roadmap Update - Campbell River Workshop, June 22-23, 2011

The Fraser Salmon Roadmap Planning Committee (FSRPG) and the Campbell River Band put on a successful Roadmap Workshop at the Thunderbird Hall on June 22nd and 23rd, 2011. It was attended by approximately 35 delegates from DFO and First Nations communities throughout the Fraser River watershed and Vancouver Island. The workshop was facilitated by Marcel Shepert and Donald Golob of Delaney and Associates.

Following a welcome to the Campbell River territory by Councillor Curtis Wilson and an opening prayer by respected Elder Alberta Billy, a number of documents prepared in advance of the workshop by the FSRPG were presented to participants in a Roadmap Workbook format. The Workbook documents are available for download on the FRAFS website at www.frafs.ca.

The first part of the workshop was focused mainly on introducing the Roadmap process and sharing information with participants about its objectives, phases, timeline, actions, progress to date, and linkages to other co-management processes in BC.

Much of the workshop was structured as breakout groups in order to gather input and feedback from participants on various proposed elements of a future Watershed Agreement for Fraser River salmon, which were presented in the Workbook as an Engagement Framework. Included in these elements were the proposed agreement template, scope of topics and activities for collaborative management, collaborative management components, leadership engagement, and communications. Workshop participants provided a wealth of excellent input, which will be used by the FSRPG over the summer as they plan the next Roadmap workshop.

A key outcome of the workshop was a recommendation to develop a Letter of Understanding (LOU) between First Nations and DFO as an interim step toward establishing a formal Watershed Agreement. This recommendation was strongly supported by the workshop participants. The LOU will serve as a foundational document that sets the table for future discussions, and will include information about the vision, goals, principles, and scope of a future co-management arrangement. The FSRPG collected a great deal of information from participants about what should be included in the LOU, and the plan is to have a

draft for discussion at the next Roadmap workshop. The LOU will be accompanied by a briefing note that clearly describes the Fraser Salmon Roadmap process.

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to complete an evaluation questionnaire about the Campbell River Workshop and the Roadmap process in general. Twenty-seven completed questionnaires were collected by the FSRPG. The results of the evaluation indicate that in general, both DFO and First Nations are growing more optimistic that these workshops are helping us to move toward a collaborative management agreement for Fraser River salmon, and that the Roadmap process is a valuable initiative. Many participants indicated that they see the LOU as a very positive step forward. A summary of the evaluation results will be available in the Campbell River Workshop Report.

Overall, the tone of the workshop was positive, and many participants noted that significant progress is being made. The FSRPG would like to thank all participants for providing valuable input into the process.

For more information about the Roadmap process, visit the FRAFS website at www.frafs.ca and click on the "Fraser Salmon Roadmap" tab. A more detailed summary of the workshop will be provided in the Campbell River Workshop Report, which we hope to finalize and distribute next week. Also check out next week's edition of the Watershed Talk, which will feature an article for communities and leaders on the Fraser Salmon Roadmap process.

UPCOMING ROADMAP WORKSHOPS:

October 12-13, 2011: Quaaout Lodge, Chase, BC

December 6-7, 2011: Location TBA - Richmond, BC

February 8-9, 2011: Tzeachten Band, Chilliwack, BC

FORUM MEETING DATES FOR 2012:

January 24-26: Lower Mainland, BC

February 27-29: Kamloops, BC

March 20-22: Tsawout First Nation, Saanichton BC

May 8-10: Prince George, BC

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