



FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

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Regional Director-General, Pacific Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Vancouver, BC

VIA E-MAIL ATTACHEMENT ONLY

RE: DFO-RDG and FRAFS First Nations Caucus meeting June 22, 2018

Dear Ms. Reid:

The First Nations Caucus of the FRAFS Executive Committee (EC) and FRAFS staff were happy to meet with you in-person on June 22nd, 2018. The FRAFS First Nations Caucus proposes to continue meeting in-person twice per year to discuss fisheries issues at the Fraser River watershed and marine approach scale level. The following summarizes some of the key discussion points and next steps:

1) Introductions/Opening Remarks

K. Stringer, Associate Deputy Minister, stated that “fundamental and irreversible reconciliation is a priority”. Challenges in managing Fraser River fisheries are extraordinary. Almost one third of Canada’s First Nations communities are on the Fraser River Basin. R. Reid noted that there are challenges with UNDRIP implementation at the policy level. Moving forward with changes to the 1999 Salmon Allocation Policy should help bring us closer to the co-development of a better policy. Implementation funds are expected from the Indigenous Program Review. P. Matthew mentions that First Nations appreciate the direction DFO is going but remember that FN are to be involved in the interpretation of rights & reconciliation at the very onset of the policy, management and technical processes.

2) Review of Action Items from the September 19th, 2017 meeting

<u>Action Item</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Next Steps</u>
Follow up with Province regarding the Steelhead rec fishery catch & release.	Why are Steelhead still being harassed and harmed if they might be COSEWIC listed soon?	Jennifer Neener	Bring FN to the table in the Fall to discuss with other Ministries.
Share Steelhead model with FN.		Jeff Grout	Model shared with JTWG on Dec.5/17.

Ensure Steelhead is on the next RDG meeting agenda.	DFO & Province need to collaborate more.	Andy Thompson	Completed June 22/18.
Organize a 3-Party Steelhead meeting.	DFO & Province have different models. More collaboration needed.	Andy Thompson	In the beginning stages.
Assemble a draft framework for ESSR/terminal fisheries and provide it to JTWG.		Jeff Grout	Is included in the 2018/18 IFMP.

3) UNDRIP/Reconciliation

Please see the introductions/opening remarks at 1) above for discussion on this.

4) Consultation Updates

a) Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Chapter 4 Renegotiations Regional Sessions Update:

PST Chapter 4 update by M. Staley on the four recent regional engagement sessions has identified some common themes which will be brought forth at the upcoming July 9th, 2018 Tier 1 Forum. FRAFS will provide a summary letter, meeting notes and a final report of the Tier 1 sessions to J. Neener soon after it's over. DFO thought the collaboration between PST Chapter 4 and SARA White Sturgeon worked well.

b) Southern BC Chinook Strategic Planning Initiative (CSPI):

A substantive draft document with potential strategies is available so we need to determine where to go from here. The suggestion is to hold a conference call with the key players on this ASAP. Rebecca Reid thinks this is a great example of collaboration and a joint release of the document would be helpful in getting more funding to continue with the project. FRAFS EC members have concerns about re-evaluating CSPI against the CHK 5-Year Review, next steps in developing implementation strategies, CSPI ties with the WSP implementation and how best to involve the Province.

Action 1: J. Neener/J. Grout/K. Malloway/M. Staley to participate in conf. call to strategize next steps required by the CSPI. This may include how and when to release the CSPI and how to develop an implementation plan.

5) Science and Technical Collaboration

Discussion on the need to make technical work truly collaborative and concerns were raised related to how work is currently undertaken and data is shared.

a) Chinook 5-Year Review

M. Staley notes that technical aspects have been challenging and not all data has been shared. The original TOR called for the review to have some sort of analysis complete before the 2018/19 IFMP but DFO stopped communicating at a crucial time (February). FRAFS wants a commitment from DFO to continue this work. R. Reid indicated a desire to see this work completed. J. Neener agreed that this should be done as a check in to ensure management objectives have been achieved.

Action 2: R. Reid committed to doing some internal work with DFO to figure out how to complete the 5-Year Review.

b) Information Used for Chinook Reductions

To date First Nations have not been informed how the proposed 25-35 % further reductions will meet conservation objectives. C. Whelan assured the FRAFS EC that W. Luedke will provide the information in two weeks. FRAFS EC concerned that FN **again** are **not** being informed or involved at the forefront of DFO discussions regarding proposed reductions.

Action 3: The JTWG will convene a conf. call to analyze the information to increase understanding of how the data was used for the 25-35% reduction.

6) SARA Updates

An update on Steelhead and an explanation of the difference between the SARA regular and the emergency listing processes.

Action 4: K. Leslie committed to providing some sort of graphic or one pager (critical path) to more readily understand the differences.

Action 5: In general FN technical staff want model inputs and a clear understanding of how the models interpret data.

7) Salmon Allocation Policy

Concerns with current implementation of the allocation policy specifically relate to how priority access is interpreted. There is long standing disagreement on how the Sparrow Decision is interpreted and implemented. The Minister has committed to reviewing the Policy.

Ms. Reid we look forward to meeting with you and your staff as soon as possible to discuss the above requests to ensure they can be incorporated into the FRAFS 2018/19 AAROM agreement and related budget.

Respectfully,



Ken Malloway

FRAFS Chairperson

On behalf of the First Nations Caucus of the FRAFS Executive Committee.