



Community Report

Building a robust fishery for all, forever.

June 26, 2017

NEGOTIATIONS: AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS

DFO and the FSMC have been discussing the governance structure that would support nation to nation joint decision-making processes for the management of Fraser River salmon. DFO's negotiating team confirmed they will benefit from further support from Ottawa so that they can proceed with negotiating the details on how the structure and processes will work, and how they will be implemented.

To that end, the FSMC has made considerable effort recently to acquaint Ottawa personnel (both DFO and INAC) with the proposed arrangement and the benefits that would accrue to the federal government, to First Nations, and to the salmon resource when implemented.

The proposed structure/arrangement being discussed includes a Minister/FSMC President-level "Executive Committee"; a Joint Management Board; a Joint Technical Committee; and a Secretariat. The Secretariat would provide management, administration, and communications services to facilitate and support the work of the FSMC Main Table, and the work of the three components of the management structure.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to encourage DFO (Pacific Region and Ottawa) to provide the necessary support and direction required for DFO negotiators to move forward in the creation of a Tier 2 joint management decision-making structure (the FSMC has already

provided its own negotiating team with such a mandate);

- Work on our internal governance mechanisms to effectively link our Tier 1 governance structure to our future representatives on the Joint Management Board;
- Negotiate the functions (terms of reference) of each component of the management structure, and negotiate a draft management agreement and implementation plan for the new arrangement.

MAIN TABLE NEGOTIATING TEAM – Highlights of work accomplished in recent months

- A negotiation meeting was held in late April, and another will be held later this month, before taking a two month break during July and August. The negotiating teams have jointly completed a concept paper that describes our proposed governance structure for joint management. The intent is to assist the DFO negotiators to obtain an internal mandate to negotiate a draft management agreement and implementation plan as noted above.
- Some members of the Main Table and Negotiating Team met with Terry Beech, Liberal MP for Burnaby-Seymour, on May 24. Terry is Minister LeBlanc's Parliamentary Secretary and his eyes and ears on the west coast.
- Darren, Brenda, and Neil met with a contingent of senior people from DFO on May 29 in Vancouver: Rob Lamirande, Director-General Aboriginal Affairs DFO,

Ottawa; David Leech, Senior Negotiator, Aboriginal Affairs DFO, Ottawa; Gor Ruseski, Director Aboriginal Reconciliation DFO, Ottawa; plus senior staff from DFO Pacific Region: Angela Bate, Tyler Collie, and Cindy Wong.

- Darren and Brenda met with senior officials in two separate meetings in Ottawa on June 14. The first meeting was with INAC: Perry Billingsley, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Governments; and with him was Meghan Perry, INAC. The second meeting was with DFO: Kevin Stringer, Associate Deputy Minister; Ann Lamar; and Dillon Wooley-Berry, Special Assistant to the Minister.

These inter-government meetings were extremely valuable in informing senior people in the Government of Canada about the legitimacy of the Fraser Salmon Management Council as a formally organized Tier 1 governance body; the need for a joint management process for Fraser River salmon; and the timelines that FSMC negotiators are working under.

PROPOSED TIMELINES

- While the negotiating teams break for July and August we will continue to work on proposed contents of a Draft Agreement, including steps for implementation, to take to the negotiating table in September.
- Objective: negotiating table to arrive at a Draft Agreement by mid-November for Member Delegates to review at the Assembly in late November or in the first week of December. (MEMBER DELEGATES: PLEASE MARK THIS IN YOUR CALENDARS NOW!)
- Allow a period of time – December 5 to January 5, 2018 – for some final adjustments to the Draft Agreement.
- Member First Nations to approve/ratify the Agreement during the period Jan 5/18 to Mar 15/18.
- Objective: The FSMC in Assembly to meet with the Minister to sign the Management Agreement by March 31, 2018

SUMMARY

Our proposed timetable above is ambitious and our ability to achieve it will depend to a large extent on three factors:

1. Canada (DFO) political will to seriously engage with the intention of reaching an Agreement by March 31, 2018 – an agreement that is consistent with the Prime Minister’s commitments to Indigenous Nations, and is consistent with the mandates he has assigned to his Cabinet Ministers.
2. Achievement in a timely manner of the funding level required for negotiations.
3. Having a full complement of our Member Delegates at an Assembly to review the Draft Agreement and provide appropriate direction to the Main Table.