



Community Report

Building a robust fishery for all, forever.

May 13, 2019

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE – WE DID IT!!

ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 10, OUR LEAD NEGOTIATOR BRENDA GAERTNER, AND DFO LEAD NEGOTIATOR ANGELA BATE, INITIALLED THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE FRASER RIVER SALMON COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

The draft Agreement had been conditionally approved at the April 9 Assembly in Richmond (see following story). Final language was approved by the Main Table on a conference call on May 10, after some last-minute clarifications between ourselves and DFO.

THE MAIN TABLE IS CONFIDENT THE NEGOTIATING TEAM DELIVERED ITS NEGOTIATION MANDATE.



ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

A BIG THANK-YOU to everyone who attended the April 9th Assembly in Richmond, or sent their vote via proxy. 52 of the 75 FSMC Communities were represented at the Assembly. After presentations on the Draft Agreement, and much discussion, the Assembly conditionally approved the Draft Agreement for taking to all our member communities to obtain their approval for signing the Agreement with DFO.

The “conditional approval” was necessary as DFO committed to provide their final draft but had not been able to meet the deadline we proposed.

The Draft Agreement will be distributed to Member Delegates **during the week of May 13** to take to their Councils for ratifying. Council Resolutions approving the Agreement will be required from a minimum of 75% of the FSMC Member Nations in order for the agreement to be ratified.

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

Darren Haskell, President and Brenda Gaertner, Lead Negotiator, met with Minister Wilkinson on April 18 to provide him with an opportunity to hear how important this Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement is to the fish, to ourselves, and to the Government. He expressed support for the Agreement and committed to working internally to try to achieve final resolution of the wording very quickly.

NEXT STEPS

Within the next two days all Member Delegates will receive a package containing the Agreement, a summary of key points within it, and a Council Resolution template to use for approving the Agreement. **PLEASE REVIEW THIS PACKAGE WITH YOUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS -- EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO CALL A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO DO THIS!!** Your Main Table members and your negotiation team will be available to answer any concerns, either in person or on conference call!

We anticipate the next Assembly will be in late June to sign the Agreement with the Minister. With this aggressive timeline MEMBER DELEGATES WILL ONLY HAVE ABOUT 5 WEEKS to have their Chief & Council review the Agreement *and* provide the Council Resolution to approve the Agreement.

THIS AGREEMENT IS THE HISTORIC CHANGE WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR!!!

Ratifying this Agreement means that First Nations will finally take their rightful place at the management decision-making tables.

We urge each of our member communities' Chief and Council to call a special meeting in order to review and approve this agreement within the next 5 weeks. This historic agreement deserves your highest priority attention!!



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