



Community Report

Building a robust fishery for all, forever.

October 2, 2018

NEGOTIATIONS SUMMARY

After producing the Draft Management Agreement last January and having only two bilateral meetings since, management agreement discussions with DFO finally resumed on August 21. As the FSMC President I had to have a very frank phone call with the Regional Director-General in late June to get things moving again.

At the conclusion of the August 21 session the negotiation teams agreed to meet again on September 27. This turned out to be a two-hour conference call between the teams. While DFO has not yet provided the FSMC with their written comments on our draft agreement, some substantive progress was made during the meeting.

Much of the discussion occurred between Andy Thompson (DFO) and our Lead Negotiator, Brenda Gaertner. DFO's concerns about some parts of the draft agreement were explored in detail. It became apparent that DFO is taking this initiative very seriously, and are now diligently working internally to come to grips with our proposed changes in how Fraser salmon will be managed in the future.

NEXT STEPS

The DFO committed to provide a draft with their written comments to the FSMC by October 5. The teams have scheduled an in-person meeting for October 25. We are looking forward to more progress toward an agreement on the difficult issues such as the priority principle and First Nations representation on the Pacific Salmon Commission and its committees.

NEXT MEETING

The next negotiating meeting is on October 25. Stay tuned, we anticipate another community report to be distributed shortly after that.

SAVE THE DATE

The FSMC will be holding a Special Assembly, in the first week of December (to be confirmed) with the intention of putting a draft management agreement in front of you. And, the Main Table positions expire December 14 and we also need to fill them at the Assembly. IT WILL BE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A QUORUM SO PLEASE CLEAR YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS MOST IMPORTANT SPECIAL ASSEMBLY.

Mussi Cho,

Darren Haskell