



Fraser Salmon Management Council

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

August 26, 2021

COVID 19 UPDATE

COVID 19 restrictions are cautiously being lifted however the FSMC is continuing to meet virtually until all our member First Nations are confident that we can safely meet in-person. The FSMC Administration are available through email and phone and remain conducting business as usual.

IN-SEASON FISHERIES INFORMATION

The staff and biologists at the FSMC are re-evaluating the purpose and scope of the in-season Watershed Talk newsletter which has evolved from a narrative piece featuring different aspects of the Fraser Watershed in 1996 to a technical distribution summarizing the Fraser Panel In-season information.

For the past many years Mike Staley has hosted a conference call on Thursday afternoons to review the information available from the PSC's Fraser Panel Technical Committee calls. In recent years the attendance has waned to a very small number of

The Pacific Salmon Commission hosts the Fraser River Panel meetings **Tuesday and Friday 11am. Only the Panel members can actively participate but observers are welcome and can use the details below to listen in.**

<https://psc-org.zoom.us/j/99871243193?pwd=eTk3NXg4ZkMvN2d3U09LTUdPQXhYUT09>

Passcode: 745099

Or Telephone:

Canada: 855 703 8985 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 998 7124 3193

Passcode: 745099

For more information on the Fraser Panel [Fraser Panel In-Season Information](#) | [Pacific Salmon Commission \(psc.org\)](#)

To get on the distribution list for Fraser Panel information please register for their Newsletter [eNews Registration](#) | [Pacific Salmon Commission \(psc.org\)](#)

Observers are urged to contact their regional Indigenous Panel representative if they wish to have them ask questions on their behalf.

participants, perhaps correlated with the number of Sockeye returning to the Fraser River. There has also been an increase in the number of folks that participate using the PSC's listen-in line for the main Fraser Panel meetings. For 2021 the return of Sockeye and Pink is expected to be modest at best.

Both Watershed Talk and the technical calls with Mike Staley will be paused for the 2021 season and re-evaluated prior to the 2022 Fraser Panel season.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Governance and operation of the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) is carried out by the Main Table which provides oversight to the FSMC Executive Director who in turn oversees and directs FSMC personnel.

The FSMC is Party to the Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement with the DFO, signed in 2019. Since the signing the DFO have continued to systemically oppress the FSMC by controlling our access to adequate funding, undermining the Authority of the FSMC and uses the collaborative Board as a consultation process.

The systemic racism is appalling and painful as we endeavor to build a collaborative Board to co-develop and co-manage all the fisheries impacting Fraser River Salmon. The express intent of the Agreement is to manage fisheries that impact Fraser Salmon as a whole, and not segregated which is why the migratory route language was included in the Agreement. The DFO push to only focus on First Nations fisheries which is very colonial.

“First Nations fisheries are closed unless they’re open and recreational fisheries are open unless they’re closed.” – Ken Malloway

FSMB UPDATE

There are countless issues presenting at the FSMB:

No fish have been saved to date as the FSMB has made no decisions on management regimes. The express intent of the Collaborative Agreement is for the Board to make joint recommendations to the Minister and while no joint decisions have been made, the DFO continues to provide its own, unilateral recommendations to the Minister. The DFO is not transparent about how recommendations are currently flowing to the Minister.

The DFO dictates the FSMB budget under the veil of DFO employees' roles and responsibilities which gives the illusion of FSMB sign off. Furthermore, there is not enough funding available to do the work identified in the work plan, agreed to by the Board. The DFO is providing AAROM funding when A-based funding is required. The DFO expects the FSMB to seek additional funding. The DFO reps on the FSMB refuse to acknowledge any disparity in economies of scale between the FSMC and the DFO.

The DFO pushes to use the Executive Component of the CMA for administration purposes which is outside the specific scope of the Executive – this certainly undermines the authority of the FSMC as the Party to the agreement.

Recently the FSMC's Mid Fraser Board representative resigned. There is currently a vacancy on the FSMB. As a result, the recent correspondence regarding unauthorized Sockeye fisheries went out without any Mid-Fraser review or consent.

Joint Technical Committee

The FSMB has an agreed to work plan with 10 items of which 7 were assigned to the JTC to develop a more detailed JTC specific action plan. However only 2 items were identified by the Board as priority for work by the JTC at present: Fraser River chum and Chinook management.

<i>FSMB Work Plan</i>	<i>JTC Work Plan</i>	<i>Status</i>
1. <i>Fraser River Chum Management</i>	➤ <i>Fraser River Chum Management</i>	• <i>In Progress: evaluating data for Chum ie assessing background information.</i>
2. <i>Test Fishing</i>	➤ <i>Test Fishing</i>	
3. <i>Sockeye Enhancement</i>	➤ <i>Sockeye Enhancement</i>	• <i>In Progress: evaluating DFO's current decision making "tool"</i>
4. <i>Fraser River Sockeye management, including Pink interactions</i>	➤ <i>Fraser River Sockeye management, including Pink interactions</i>	
5. <i>Fisheries Related Incidental Mortality – Fraser River Chinook</i>	➤ <i>Fisheries Related Incidental Mortality – Fraser River Chinook</i>	
6. <i>Fraser River Chinook Management</i>	➤ <i>Fraser River Chinook Management</i>	
7. <i>Chinook Rebuilding and Recovery</i>	➤ <i>Chinook Rebuilding and Recovery</i>	
8. <i>Implementation work for the FSCMA Governance Process</i>		
9. <i>Development of a joint Communication Plan</i>		
10. <i>FSC Access and Allocation for Fraser Salmon.</i>		

Of the 7 Work Plan items assessed by the JTC, work on Fraser River Chinook Management and Fraser River Chum Management is actively in progress. With regards to Chinook, the informal “tool” developed by Wilf Luedke and currently used for Chinook Management decisions is under evaluation. With regards to Chum Management a backgrounder presentation on how Chum are managed was presented to the FSMB on June 29, 2021.

The Joint Technical Committee (JTC) has been meeting bi-monthly to review select work plan items, assigned by the FSMB. The DFO reps have changed their participants 5 times, while the Indigenous reps remain the same. See below for Members of the JTC and FSMB.

Fraser Salmon Management Board (FSMB)

FSMC Caucus

Christina Ciesielski

Mike Baird

Tony Roberts Jr.

DFO Caucus

Linda Higgins

Terri Bonnet

Duncan Stephen

Jennifer Nener

Joint Technical Committee (JTC)

FSMC Caucus

Mike Staley (Co-chair)

Roger Dunlop

Aidan Fisher

Marc Labelle

Shamus Curtis

DFO Caucus

Les Jantz (Co-chair)

Yi Xu

Brittany Jenewein

Luke Warkentin

Matt Mortimer

REGIONAL SESSIONS FOR CONSERVATION & HARVEST CONCERNS

The FSMC hosts Regional Sessions with its four unique geographical regions and their respective representation on the Board, Main Table and JTC. The purpose of these sessions is to identify, categorize, and prioritize regional conservation and harvest concerns for Fraser salmon (Task A) and, scope out a framework of best practices and processes to bring conservation and management concerns to the Fraser Salmon Management Board (Task B). *This is the process for bringing issues to the FSMB.*

Upcoming Dates for Regional Sessions

Lower Fraser: Mon., August 30 @ 1 – 3

Upper Fraser: Thurs., Sept 16 @ 10 – 12

Mid-Fraser: Mon., Nov 29 @ 10-12 (TBC)

Island/Marine: Thurs., Dec 2 @ 10-12 (TBC)

These meetings are designed for Member Delegates, if you are not a member delegate but would like to attend these meetings you can attend with an invite from the Main Table representative in your region.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The FSMC is looking at hosting an AGA or strategic planning session later this calendar year, where the Annual Work Plan will be reviewed and motioned for approval.

MEMBER DELEGATES

As a reminder, the duty to notify the FSMC of a change in their Member Delegate is that of the Signatory Nation. Replacing a Member Delegate requires a Council Resolution that states the replacement of a Member Delegate. Please contact communications@frasersalmon.ca for more info.

FORUMS

We expect the Forums will resume in-person starting in February 2022. The Forum Planning Committee (FPC) has the express purpose of determining agenda items and presentation topics for the upcoming Forums and will be the official contact for all Forum activities. Ken Malloway has been the Co-Chair on the FPC for many years. The DFO Co-Chair rotates with different job titles. Information on the Forum will continue to be distributed from communications@frasersalmon.ca.

These forums are considered as consultation by the DFO. Each year the outcome of

The 2022 Forum schedule:

Forum #1: Feb 1-3, Richmond

Forum #2: Mar 1-3, Nanaimo

Forum#3: Mar 29-31, Prince George

these forums provides recommendations from participating First Nations to the DFO for possible input into the IFMP. Indigenous groups that participate in the forums seek to ask DFO to collaboratively include FN in the co-design, co-delivery, co-implementation, and co-monitoring of DFO's management

regimes. Indigenous groups unanimously remind DFO each and every year to promptly address Indigenous priority access issues, including FSC.

MESSAGE FROM THE OPERATIONS MANAGER:

Although very limited progress has been made on the FSCMA implementation, and inadequate funding support from DFO compounds the problems, the Indigenous teams working diligently to ensure it success are tireless in their pursuits to achieve the purpose and intent of the FSCMA. Which is to ensure Indigenous peoples get the respect and recognition they deserve as the first natural protectors and managers of the land, water and all the materials it provides to survive, thrive and grow. As the original collaborative decision makers, it is become evident to Indigenous peoples that the colonial government powers are making promises that they don't intend to keep, and this is far from the spirit and intent of Canada's commitment to reconciliation with the Indigenous people of this land.

BIG BAR LANDSLIDE

Information on the Big Bar Landslide continues to be distributed through the FSMC to First Nations. Written updates are provided biweekly by the communications team. There are also technical updates via MS Teams almost monthly. The First Nations Leadership Panel meets occasionally, when convened by the Joint Executive Steering Committee.

To sign up for FSMC distributions including BBL notices, click [HERE](#).

The DFO hosts weekly in-season technical calls for DFO and First Nations participants in the BC Interior. Wednesdays, 10:00 to 11:00 am via teams to review in-season technical information from the Fraser Panel (test fishing info, adopted Fraser Sockeye and Pink run sizes, river conditions, Big Bar passage) and other DFO activities

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 647-484-5913,326065577#](#) Canada, Toronto

Phone Conference ID: 326 065 577#
You may also contact your regional DFO Resource Manager for DFO In-season fisheries distributions.