



Fraser Salmon Management Council

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

FRASER SALMON COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT: PROGRESS TO DATE

A “working group” consisting of senior staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) personnel Neil Todd, Greg Witzky, and Mike Staley (Co-Chair of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC)) has been discussing bi-lateral preparations for beginning the implementation of the Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA).

In addition, the FSMC has been working through an internal transition in preparation for implementation of the CMA. Our progress to date:

FRASER SALMON MANAGEMENT COUNCIL STAFFING UPDATE

The FSMC Main Table passed a resolution at its meeting on January 21st in Richmond to transfer staff from the Fraser River Aboriginal Fishing Secretariat (FRAFS) – Greg Witzky (Operations Manager) and Allison James (Communications Coordinator) – to the FSMC. Neil Todd (Special Projects) will remain with the FSMC to provide continuity and corporate history, and to carry out transition tasks assigned by our new Executive Director.

FSMC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Main Table has confirmed the appointment of Brent Ryan-Lewis as the FSMC’s first Executive Director. Brent is a member of the Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation, in Manitoba. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Calgary and has also studied at the Universities of Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Brent has spent his last 20+ years providing consulting services to First Nations governments and programs in a wide variety of areas, including restructuring, business affairs, financial management, legislation interpretation, policy development, land management, program evaluation, and providing advice to various Chiefs, Councils, Tribal Council Organizations, and memberships.

A key component of the FSMC’s capacity to implement its responsibilities under the CMA, as well as to expand our corporate engagement with government agencies and a variety of fisheries organizations, lies with the new Executive Director position. As Neil steps back from his Operations Manager position, Brent will work with Greg, Allison, and the Main Table to move our organization forward to meet the fisheries management challenges facing Fraser River salmon in the coming years.

TRANSITION: FRAFS TO FSMC

Greg and Allison will continue their administrative and communications work respectively only now it will be completely under the FSMC “umbrella”. Allison has been the FSMC and FRAFS Communications Coordinator since August 2017. Greg began working for

FRAFS in June 2017 as the Operations Manager, and they have the knowledge and working relationship to support the transition.

The FSMC will continue to support the functions of FRAFS until its conditions have been met and concluded; discussions are ongoing to confirm which activities will move forward under the FSMC. DFO's pre-season fisheries planning processes have started for the 2020 fishing season. The Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning process will continue in its current form over the next three months of this planning season, as will the Forum Planning Committee and the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG).

MANY THANKS TO THOSE THAT ATTENDED THE FIRST OF THREE FORUMS IN RICHMOND FEB 4-6, 2020. YOUR PARTICIPATION KEEPS DFO AND FSMC ACCOUNTABLE.

FRASER SALMON MANAGEMENT BOARD (FSMB)

The bi-lateral Board informally met for the first time on January 31st, 2020 in Vancouver BC. The FSMB has initiated the process to fill the position of the FSMB Independent Chair; other works include beginning discussions on work planning with the JTC that will support convergence of the Forum discussions with the responsibilities of the new management regime. The FSMC members on the FSMB are Christina Ciesielski (Upper Fraser), Tracy Wimbush (Mid Fraser), Mike Baird (Lower Fraser), and Tony Roberts Jr. (Island and Marine Approach). DFO members at present are Corey Jackson; Terri Bonnet; Jennifer Nener; and Linda Higgins.

JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Main Table has confirmed the appointment of Mike Staley to be the FSMC's co-chair of the JTC. As well as co-chairing the JTC, Mike will be in a position to jointly provide technical support and information directly to the FSMB members. The JTC has four FSMC seats (one from each region). Three of the seats have been filled: Shamus Curtis (Upper), Marc Labelle (Mid), and Aidan Fisher (Lower). The Main Table is currently seeking nominations for the Island/Marine seat and will advise once a confirmation is made. It is important to remember that the JTC members have duties, responsibilities, and timelines under the terms of the CMA – but other technical participants in current groups/processes (e.g. the JTWG) will be actively engaged with and supportive of the JTC on Fraser salmon management issues and concerns.

If you have any ideas for our newsletter, or desire information, then please feel free to contact Allison via email at fsmc.comms@gmail.com.