



**Fraser Salmon Management Council**

# **NEWSLETTER**

**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2**

**November 2, 2022**

## **KEY FISHERIES MANAGEMENT JOINT DECISIONS IN 2022**

For the first time since the signing of the FSCMA in July of 2019 the FSMB bi-lateral team successfully agreed to recommend a joint management decision to the RDG's office. On March 7, 2022, consensus direction was provided by a quorum of 76 FSMC Signatory Nations to recommend that their Tier 1 FSMB representatives advise the bi-lateral FSMB of their support to increase DFO prescribed Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) sockeye harvests by 25% across the board for the 2022 Fraser sockeye fishing season. Your feedback on how this process unfolded in your regions will be requested during the upcoming November quarterly Tier 1 Regional Session engagements. ***(Dates and locations noted below under the Regional Sessions heading.)***

## **COVID 19 UPDATE**

With most COVID 19 restrictions lifted the FSMC is slowly getting back into the swing of things with some in-person meetings taking place. However, many of the FSMC smaller committee meetings will continue to be virtual while the larger sessions will be in person, or a hybrid option of both.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

To support our administration, Kristin Hrapchek has been hired on full-time as the FSMC Executive Assistant / Communications Coordinator starting September 12, 2022. This is a huge benefit to the organization as she brings almost two decades of administrative excellence to the FSMC. However, increased capacity is still needed to meet the community engagement and outreach demands of the FSMC, as well as the growing administrative aspirations of the FSCMA partner groups.

Greg Witzky successfully completed his 3-month probation period on September 29, 2022, and is now the full-time FSMC Executive Director. His decades of management experience and a lifetime of traditional wisdom have already benefitted the organization in many ways. Steps are now being undertaken by the ED to employ a replacement for Greg's previous role as FSMC Operations Manager.

## **LONG-TERM FUNDING**

The FSMC receives its funding via an AAROM Agreement but has not yet confirmed consistent and stable long term robust funding outside of this authoritarian mechanism. AAROM criteria and terminology are not yet aligned with the collaborative purpose and intent of the FSCMA, but the FSMC is working diligently to change this through Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation discussions.

A major goal of the FSMC is to obtain robust support funding to effectively implement the FSCMA and build our capacity where needed. The new FSMC Executive Director was successful in securing an Agreement amendment for an additional \$600,000 on top of the core \$525,000, to a total of \$1,125,000 for this fiscal year.

### **MAIN TABLE**

The Main Table still meets monthly to provide oversight and guidance to the staff on administrative matters for the FSMC and support implementation of the FSMCA, and Tier 1 activities. Their terms are 2 years, with an option to be reappointed by a quorum of their regional Member Delegates. Reappointment or new elections will be addressed at this year's Annual General Assembly tentatively ***scheduled for in person on January 16, 2023, in Kamloops, BC.***

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Lately some internal restructuring has taken place to improve our communications. The new EA / Comms Coordinator dual position is tasked with revisiting the FSMC communications policy and conduct regular updating of contact distribution lists. We continue to utilize the IYOOQ meeting overlay system, Mailchimp mass email distributions, quarterly community newsletters and have now invested in a SurveyMonkey questionnaire subscription service, all intended to serve our membership better.

### **FSMC CHINOOK RECOVERY & REBUILDING INITIATIVE (CRR)**

The CRR steering committee still meets every two weeks, and a smaller sub-committee has been formed to work on progress check-in meetings when needed. A CRR project implementation plan coordinator, Marcel Shepert, was recently contracted by the FSMC to provide the project with Indigenous engagement and planning activities support.

The first CRR in-person dialogue session is ***scheduled for November 28, 1-4 pm, and November 29, 2022, 9 am-4 pm, in Kamloops, BC.*** (Please look for the "Save the Date" notice followed by meeting invites.) Along with the meeting notices is a link to access a short questionnaire to help guide the project development process.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQPGMNJ>

### **FRASER SALMON MANAGEMENT BOARD (FSMB)**

Recently the FSMB announced two new DFO representatives Alain Magnan replacing Terri Bonnet and Jeff Grout replacing Jennifer Nener. The FSMB continues to meet monthly and work through a set agenda which is now being formulated by an agenda setting committee. Working with a sub-committee to set agendas is proving to be very productive for the participants. Agenda planning conversations are lively and reflect the areas of priority for the FSMB to work on.

The October meeting was supposed to be a face-to-face gathering in Kamloops, but due to a variety of factors, the meeting was mostly attended via zoom with a small in-person contingent. The tone of the meetings remains optimistic, positive and collegial; however, members are aware that collaborative decision making is not easy and will be done incrementally. Members are aware and are looking for opportunities to get into

the weeds and start making collaborative decisions. To that end, the IC was asked to prepare a timeline for key decision making which will assist the FSMB in further refining agenda topics. The idea is that there are many small decisions that need to be made to build toward the larger more important decisions (e.g., regulating the 2023 recreational fishery, or mass marking mark selective fisheries). To make these decisions the following must occur:

1. Conduct a review of the current exploitation rate targets. Develop advice on effectiveness of current targets in addressing conservation needs.
2. Assess current exploitation rate targets and develop recommended targets for submission to the Minister to guide future management.
3. Continue to review the data and the workings of the analytical methods and processes used to manage and assess these fisheries.
4. Review outputs of the technical work conducted to assess impacts arising from management actions implemented in 2019-2021
5. Development of potential management actions to meet identified exploitation rate targets using the agreed upon tools.

Also, there is the issue of data timing, quality and analysis, all of which require decision making by JTC and FSMB. This is an iterative process and will require a lot of communications to build a common understanding of why and how decisions are made in the grander scheme of operations. The IC is optimistic that collaborative decision making will occur.

**JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC)**

The JTC regularly scheduled meetings are one week prior to FSMB meetings and one week after on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The JTC is currently working on the Chinook management work plan item. The recent focus is to review the fishing mortality index for Fraser Chinook and estimate the fishing impacts on stocks of concern. While the focus has been on the conservation of depressed populations the JTC will also be working with the fishery data to assist the Board’s work on the issue of Priority.

The terms for the FSMB are two years. The terms for the JTC are one year to start then 2 years offset with the FSMB. Steps are being undertaken for reappointment or selection of new members.

**FSMB & JTC Participants**

<b><u>FSMB FN Caucus</u></b>	<b><u>DFO FSMB Caucus</u></b>	<b><u>JTC FN Caucus</u></b>	<b><u>DFO JTC Caucus</u></b>
Christina Ciesielski	Linda Higgins	Mike Staley (Co-chair)	Les Jantz (Co-chair)
Pat Matthew	Alain Magnan	Nicole Frederickson	Kaitlyn Dionne
Mike Baird	Duncan Stephen	Aidan Fisher	Brittany Jenewein
Tony Roberts Jr.	Jeff Grout	Marc Labelle	Brooke Davis

Shamus Curtis

Maxime Veilleux

## **REGIONAL SESSIONS FOR FRASER SALMON HARVEST MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATIONS CONCERNS**

The last round of quarterly regional sessions was postponed due to staffing issues which have since been semi-resolved. These regional sessions will be a combination of virtual and in person, unless otherwise noted. Please note the dates and locations below.

### **Dates for Regional Sessions**

**Mid-Fraser: Thurs., Nov 10 Kamloops @ 9-12**

**Lower Fraser: Tues., Nov 8 Chilliwack @ 9-12**

**Island/Marine: Mon., Nov 21 Nanaimo @ 9-12**

**Upper Fraser: Fri., Nov 25 Prince George @ 9-12**

**Purpose:** Meet collaboratively to identify, categorize and prioritize key regional concerns for Fraser salmon harvest management and conservation.

Scope out and focus our next steps to bring key fisheries management and conservation concerns to the Fraser Salmon Management Board bi-lateral table, as advice and recommendations to the RDG.

*Important elections information will be provided at the upcoming regional sessions.*

These meetings are meant for Member Delegates to interact with their Tier 1 FSMB, JTC and FSMC Main Table representation, 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 last FSMC Annual General Assembly was held on Dec 6, 2021, via Zoom where the 2022-23 FSMC Annual Work Plan & Budget was reviewed and approved. The next AGA is ***scheduled for January 16, 2023, in Kamloops, BC***. Societies Act notes the AGA must occur no more than 15 months after the previous one.

## **MEMBER DELEGATES**

As a reminder, the duty to notify the FSMC of a change in your Member Delegate is that of the Signatory Nation. Replacing a Member Delegate requires a Band Council Resolution that states the replacement of a Member Delegate and provides the name and contact of the new Member delegate. Please contact [communications@frasersalmon.ca](mailto:communications@frasersalmon.ca) for more info.

## **FORUMS**

The first FORUM for this season will take place in person ***from January 31 to February 2, 2023, in Richmond, BC***, the second ***from February 28 to March 2 in Prince George*** and the third ***from April 4 to 6 somewhere TDB on Vancouver Island***.

These Forums are currently being restructured to better align with the purpose and intent of the FSMCA. This is being undertaken by the Forum Planning Committee, which also in a restructuring process. Currently, these Forums are considered consultation with a broad Indigenous audience that they attract but the intent of the FSCMA is to collaboratively attain joint fisheries management decision-making authority with DFO, so understandably much more work is still needed to bridge the gap.

### **BIG BAR LANDSLIDE**

After a second successful year of salmon passage thru the Big Bar Landslide the response team is confident that their tri-partite landslide remediation efforts are working the way, they were planned. A structured decision-making sub-committee will continue to meet over the winter months to determine best practices and next steps required for the 2023 salmon returns passage planning.

Information and updates on the Big Bar Landslide response efforts continue to be distributed through the FSMC to First Nations. A written info bulletin is provided monthly by the communications team. The First Nations Leadership Panel will still meet when convened by the Joint Executive Steering Committee.

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