

April 2024



Attention: Chiefs and Councils
Fisheries Programs, Managers and Technicians

**Subject: First Nation Food Social & Ceremonial (FSC) Fisheries Sharing Framework
Letter of Introduction and Background of Project**

Good morning Chiefs, Councilors & FN Fisheries Reps

The Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) is seeking your feedback and input regarding FSC sharing framework for Fraser sockeye salmon. We would like to hear your views with respect to sharing salmon on the Fraser and approach marine areas. We are interested in such areas as:

- The main issues or concerns with respect to sharing scarce salmon resources.
- The main obstacles to First Nations reaching agreements regarding sharing plans.
- Sharing of fish stocks among First Nations and with other users of the resource.
- First Nations current and future involvement in fisheries management.
- Role of the fishery in sustaining salmon and communities in the future.
- Cultural approaches and any potential barriers.
- Principles and sacred teachings to advance salmon sharing.
- Other issues you feel are relevant to future management and allocation of salmon.

Marcel Shepert has been appointed by the FSMC management to lead this project.

The objectives of the project are to basically examine and analyze how to best develop a framework for a functioning Tier 1 (Nation to Nation) sockeye sharing plan to advance a consolidated approach to contribute to DFOs fisheries management.

Other objectives include:

- 1) Prepare a plan for investigating the interest and capacity of Fraser River and Marine Approach First Nations commitment and ability to participate in the development of a framework for a sockeye sharing plan amongst each other.

- 2) Prepare a plan for investigating how the diversity and behavior of Fraser sockeye salmon plays a role in the development of a Sockeye sharing plan.

To begin with Marcel will be seeking direction and feedback from the FSMC management and then slowly broaden that to include community and fisheries organizational interest as well. Marcel and the FSMC management want to explore potential principles, arrangements and approaches for future fisheries management and FSC sharing arrangements in consideration of aboriginal rights, conservation, sustainability and the economic needs of First Nations. In addition to reviewing existing background information about the fisheries, Marcel will start planning visits to communities throughout the Fraser watershed and Vancouver Island. It is important to hear from First Nations about cultural, spiritual, economic, social, political and technical perspectives in relation to sockeye sharing. In short Marcel wants to hear from as many Nations as possible this spring and summer and he wants that to be in-person since that is more in line with our traditional practices.

To assist in preparing feedback a list of questions that will help us focus on the work with the input of First Nations is included as well as a brief biography of Marcel Shepert is attached.

To ensure that we schedule sufficient time in each area, we would appreciate receiving early notification from those who anticipate making presentations. **Please note that you may also submit a written presentation without attending any of the hearings.** Written submissions will be accepted via mail or e-mail until April, 2025. Please submit your questionnaires or any other correspondence to the following: communications@frasersalmon.ca

Sincerely,

Marcel Shepert
FSMC FSC Lead