



Fisheries and Oceans
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Forum Renewal Update

Context and Status of Work

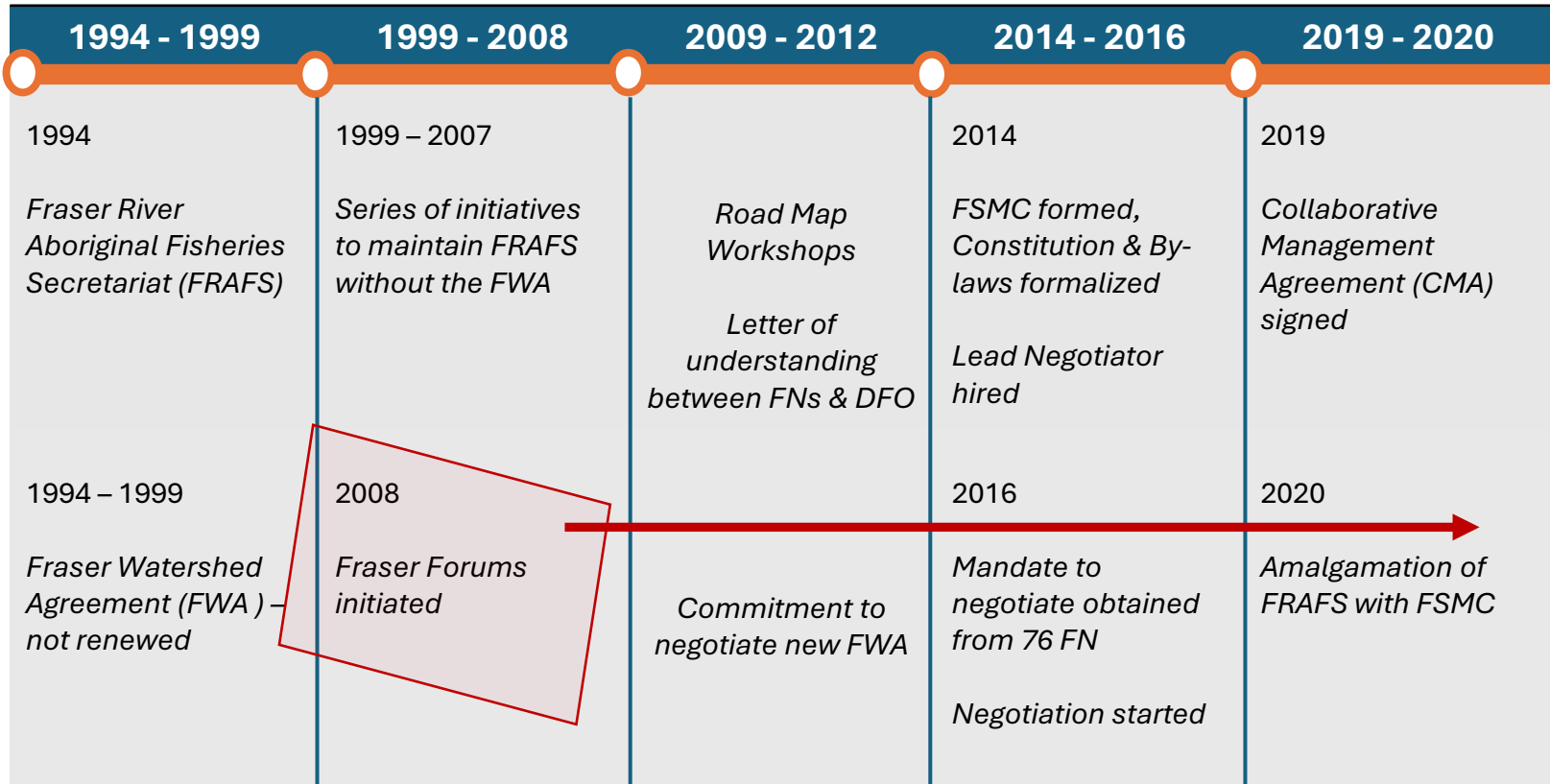


Greg Witzky, FSMC
January 28, 2025

Photo Credit: Nature Trust BC

Snuneymuxw FN and NTBC crews collecting sedge for Nanaimo River estuary restoration

Forum Evolution (17 years)



Outline

- Forum Evolution
- Steps taken toward Renewal
 - West Coast Aquatic Recommendations
 - Forum Renewal Team & Workshop Discussion
 - Actions and next steps



Steps taken toward Renewal

West Coast Aquatic Review highlighted following:

- Context for Fraser Salmon management has changed because of shift towards co-governance and co-management
- DFO and First Nations have different areas of focus
 - DFO primarily focused on annual operational delivery of fisheries
 - Nations focused on holistic conservation of salmon and the ecosystem for 7 generations



Strengths and Areas for Renewal

Strengths

- Collaborative discussions and relationship building
- Joint Technical Working Group support

Areas for renewal

- Clarity on Forum objectives and FSCMA structures
- Transparency and what was heard follow-up for First Nations
- Establish lead times for effective preparation & delivery for Forums



Recommendations

- Define FSMC and FSMB roles, responsibilities, and relationship to Forums
- Develop clear connection between Forum discussions and outcomes for co-management and co-governance
- Create communications & feedback mechanisms for follow-up with First Nations
- Strengthen processes for regional planning
- Refine and define the JTWG role and purpose for Forums

**FSMB RESPONSE: FORUM
RENEWAL TEAM**

Renewal Team

Forum Renewal Team

- Fraser Salmon Management Board (DFO, FN, and Independent Chair)
- DFO regional and area resource management staff
- Joint Technical Committee and Joint Technical Working Group co-chairs
- AAROM Executive Directors

Purpose to

- Identify improvements to better engage Fraser and Marine Approach First Nations
- Improve linkages to the Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement
- Develop an incremental plan to advance Forum Renewal



Renewal Workshop – January 2025

Forum participation is not as robust as it once was because people aren't really seeing much of a value or impact, especially since most fisheries are in decline and fishing opportunities have become less & less

Some rationale for this is:

- too much focus on information sharing vs strategic, actionable and mindful discussions
- a need for enhanced engagement on key priorities & concerns
- a lack of clarity on roles, responsibilities and decision-making processes of involved Parties
- disconnect between Forum discussions and actual fisheries co-management decisions
- need to better communicate and engage with those First Nations yet to sign onto the FSMC / CMA



Renewal Workshop – January 2025

There is also:

- Recognition that First Nations technical capacity has grown and there is improved capacity for strategic discussions at Forum
- Interest in shifting DFO's role of presenter of information to a collaborative workshop partner
- Need to redefine Forum from both DFO and First Nations perspectives



Ideas for Renewal

- Focus on priorities, strategy development, and collaborative decision-making processes
- Include FSMC regional caucus sessions at Forum
- Improve linkages between Forum discussions and FSMC/JTC work
- Increase transparency and communication of co-management & co-governance outcomes and decisions
- Create briefing note processes to Forum through regional AAROMs
- Provide opportunities for insertion of traditional knowledge at Forum
- Consider extending Forum to 4-5 days



Forum Renewal Short-term Actions

Start with small changes this year:

- Add a FSMB process presentation (*January*)
- Consider Regional Tier 1 breakout meetings during Forum (*February and/or April?*)
- Improve integration with regional AAROMs processes
- Seek feedback on Forum purpose & objectives
- Commit to providing renewal updates throughout the Forum season

Next Steps

- ✓ Provide renewal update at January Forum
- ✓ Add a Tier 1 discussion on renewal to January Forum agenda
- Work on new Forum purpose statement & objectives
- Explore options for restructuring Forum format
- Collect and bring renewal ideas to Forum Planning Committee
- Forum Renewal Team to meet regularly during the 2025-26 Forum cycle

Questions and Suggestions



Photo Credit: Nature Trust BC

Contact :

Greg Witzky, FSMC (communications@frasersalmon.ca)

Robin Hawes, DFO (robin.hawes@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)



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