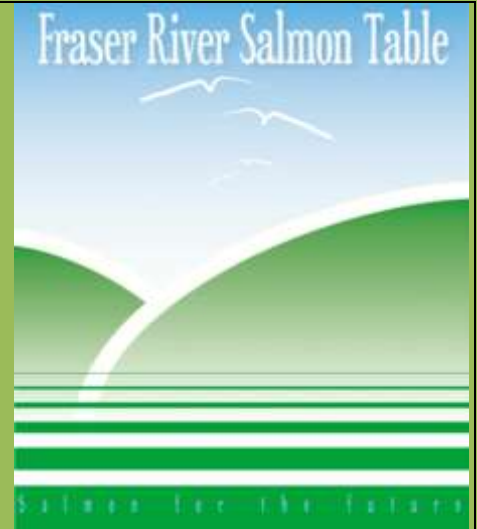


October 21 & 22, 2009



Monitoring and Compliance Observations in the Lower Fraser Fishery



*Dave Moore, Executive Director
Fraser River Salmon Table Society*

*For comments:
davemoore08@xplornet.com*

"There have been lots of accusations around Sto:lo fishery that had little or no basis in fact. Yesterday we were able to see first-hand that the fisheries were being run just like commercial fisheries should." Mike Griswold, Commercial Fisherman, Area H

Acknowledgements

This open-space dialogue was organized through a collaboration of the Fraser River Salmon Table Society and the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum's *Monitoring and Compliance Panel*.

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Special thanks are due to the Fenn Lodge/Sasquatch Crossing for their hospitality provided to out-of-town guests.

Leadership of the open-space forum was provided by Dave Barrett of the Fraser River Salmon Table, Barry Stuart and Glenn Sigurdson of the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum.

This project would not be possible without the openness of the Sto:lo fishers, sport fishers, guides, buyers and regulators. Finally, this project acknowledges the time and enthusiasm of the participants who took ownership of the discussion and have made a commitment to change the fishery for the better.

Meeting notes were provided by Stephen Geiger, SYS Solutions Inc. and Consultant to the Monitoring and Compliance Panel and Saul Milne from the Fraser Salmon and Watershed Program.

The meeting summary report was authored by Dave Moore, Executive Director of the Fraser River Salmon Table. Any miss-interpretations, errors or omissions are the sole responsibility of the author.

Cover photo: Archive photograph by Dave Moore of a Sto:lo fishing crew operating a chum beach-seine in the 2006 economic fishery near Chilliwack BC

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FRASER SALMON MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE TOUR AND FORUM

Tour: Lower Fraser Gravel Reach and Harrison River

Forum: Chehalis Healing House (*Sts'ails Lhawathet Lalem*), Harrison Mills, BC

October 21 & 22, 2009



OVERVIEW

Ways to achieve trust in one-another's catch accounting was the focus at this public meeting for lower Fraser River salmon fisheries. The goal of this work is to foster best practices in the salmon fishery through dialogue and collaboration that will lead to a common agreement on monitoring and compliance needs for the various salmon fisheries that fish the same Fraser River salmon stocks as the foundation for “getting along”.

On October 21, a *Monitoring and Compliance Panel* field tour provided the basis for a case study in the lower Fraser salmon fishery. The lower Fraser salmon fishery is situated around the Harrison River and the Lower Fraser River gravel reach between and adjacent to the confluence of the Sumas and Harrison rivers with the Fraser. The area was chosen for its concentration of salmon and Sto:lo river fisheries, its popularity to both commercial and sport fisheries, and the inherent controversies around monitoring and compliance.

On October 22, an open-space *Monitoring and Compliance Dialogue* was convened to allow the participants on the field tour to share and discuss their observations publicly. Participants and a broader public and government audience reflected upon the observations, lesson learned and discussed ways to move forward, guided by the collective goal to find ways for the fisheries to “get along on the river”.

Organized by the Fraser River Salmon Table and the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum (ISDF) and hosted by the Chehalis Indian Band, the participants included members of the ISDF Monitoring and Compliance Panel, regulators from BC Fisheries and DFO, as well as area/local public representation from First Nations, sport fishing, commercial fishing industry, and conservation interests. The event received significant attention from the press and was well publicized with invitations to regulators and fishing interest organizations and the general public. A list of participants may be found in Appendix 1.

OCTOBER 21 MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE TOUR – LOWER FRASER RIVER GRAVEL REACH

A 3 hour boat tour of the lower Fraser gravel reach was organized to expose a fisheries peer-group to the peak of the chum fishery, to observe the standards and practices around monitoring and compliance in the area's salmon fishery. Participants were drawn from both regional and local salmon fisheries specialists and regulators, as well as sport, commercial, First Nation, and conservation interests.



Boats were chartered from local tour companies and sport fishing guides and disembarked from the Chehalis Indian Reserve boat launch. Tour guides received instructions to visit the active beach seine chum economic fishery, the adjacent landing sites and buying stations, as well as the private and guided sport fishery. Permission was sought in advance from some fishers, buyers and landing stations to allow interviews, and participants were encouraged to speak freely with those they visited. A photo documentary of the tour is included in Annex 1: Monitoring and Compliance Panel Tour.

The participants were provided with a list of focus questions provided by the Salmon Table and the ISDF, not to be overly prescriptive, but to generate discussion. Other points of interest were noted from the participants. In combination, these included:

- Do both fishers and managers feel confident with the catch accounting from the salmon fisheries in the lower Fraser River?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses around catch accounting in the areas salmon fishery, and why?
- What are ways that individual interests in the fishery can work with managers to overcome weaknesses in catch accounting in their own fisheries?
- How do the sport and commercial fisheries in the area avoid conflict on the water?
- What are the local standards and systems being developed to manage salmon quality and traceability in the economic fisheries?
- How and why are the local First Nations working to manage the local trade environment?

SUMMARY OF TOUR OBSERVATIONS IN AND ABOUT THE CHUM FISHERY

The participants summarized their observations in post-tour interviews, as well as an unstructured evening dialogue with the organizers, and publicly through the Monitoring and Compliance Dialogue organized on October 22.

In the following discussion, these ideas have been captured and edited for brevity.



CONFIDENCE IN CATCH ACCOUNTING, STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

It was observed that this area's economic chum fishery utilizing beach seines was well organized and orderly, and good catch accounting was expected from the close proximity of the buying stations to the fishery as well as the presence of monitors on each beach seine crew.

In the case of the Harrison Fisheries Cooperative, the Chehalis and Scowlitz Band and partners have included landing site monitors and an organized system of landing verification as part of a traceability experiment. Participants on the tour suggested that if catch accounting was an issue in this fishery, it would be from an unseen and unregulated fishery, likely off the main-stem and at night by local reports. A popular underground black market egg fishery is problematic for Chehalis who have tackled local poachers through a system of restorative justice. Non-compliance has been addressed by the Band by banishing members for up to 2 years (see Communities tackling non-compliance).

First Nations chum FSC fisheries occur on week-ends, separated from the economic fisheries that occur during week days. Monitoring standards for the local First Nations FSC fisheries vary between a system of landing site monitors managed by the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Fisheries Society and a census of catch conducted by individual First Nations fisheries staff such as that operated by Chehalis Indian Band.

There were observations of sports fishery monitoring on the river in the area covered directly by the tour, though a creel survey is conducted at key landing sites by DFO contractors, and is coupled with over-flights to generate catch estimates. If there is a weakness in this catch accounting system, it is described by sport fishers as arising from the imprecision of catch estimates and the lack of ability to accurately estimate any catch and release mortalities. Some highlight non-compliance to bag limits as an enforcement problem from some fishers, but the fishery prides itself on their conservation ethic.

COLLABORATION TO OVERCOME PERSISTENT WEAKNESSES IN CATCH ACCOUNTING

First Nations have been working together in the area over the last couple of decades to manage a collective catch monitoring program. Currently, the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Fisheries Society monitors much of the main-stem First Nation fishery from Mission to Hope.



Since the summer of 2009, area sport fishers and First Nations have been meeting regularly since the summer to discuss the area's lower Fraser salmon fishery and have come up with a list of ideas to improve the interaction between the fisheries, improve the accounting of the sport catch through a collaborative monitoring program (utilizing First Nations monitors), and enhance the monitoring of the sport fishery by jointly developing landing sites, parking and camping areas that would also provide economic benefits from the sport fishery to First Nations.

Sport fishers are encouraging a greater level of monitoring and enforcement of their fishery and suggest that the proposed collaborative monitoring initiative could also provide a means for information sharing between the fisheries.

AVOIDING CONFLICT BETWEEN SPORT AND ECONOMIC FISHERIES



Participants on the tour observed that during the economic chum fishery, sport fishers moved off the main-stem and into the Harrison River. Reportedly the Vedder and Stave also support popular sport fisheries.

According to Chehalis Indian Band, their economic chum beach seine fishery, when active on the Harrison, concentrates its effort at the mouth to avoid spawning fish prevalent upstream of the Highway #7 bridge.

Much of the angling for chum on the lower Harrison and near the mouth is from boats, while sport anglers fishing from shore were observed predominantly upstream of the Highway #7 bridge where the river is shallower.

A local angler access trail built by Chehalis and the BC Federation of Driftfishers provides access to the lower Chehalis River, but the relationship has led to discussions on broader

access issues. Opened just a few weeks before this workshop, the trail is an area icon in a changing fishery that draws competing interests together to find common ground.

This is particularly important in light of DFO's Fisheries Reform and plans being made with First Nations to transfer allocation for commercial purposes into the Fraser River. The issue of managing shares is being considered in these new economic opportunity fisheries. Managing these effectively alongside the new sport fishing opportunities will depend upon good catch accounting systems and the ability for the interests to communicate their progress through the season.



COMMUNITIES TACKLING NON-COMPLIANCE

The tour visited the Harrison-Scowlitz landing site and observed both the fisheries cooperative landing site and that of the independent brokers operating adjacent to the cooperative. One adjacent broker was non-compliant (Yves Antaya, Sr. BC Fish Inspector) and operating without a Band council business license, while another was unavailable for inspection. Tour participants also observed that the buyers on reserve were operating without a Band business license. Free-lance buyer observed were sorting and combined landings from multiple fishers making traceability difficult. Cash was paid to the fishers from these buyers, bypassing any community revenues to invest in landing site upgrades and security.

Restorative justice processes have been increasingly utilized in the lower Fraser First Nations to address non-compliance out of the courts. The process may involve a mix of local community leaders and elders and may include a mix of peers from a roster of RCMP, DFO, and sport fishers that meet with fishers that are ready to accept responsibility for their actions. Chehalis Indian Band has demonstrated how a system of restorative justice and community sanctions for non-compliance can curb unregulated fishing. In 2009, the Band Council banished 4 members from the Community as part of a system of staged sanctions. The Band took control of its allocation in 2006 and has been working with DFO, BC Fisheries, and its neighbor the Scowlitz First Nation in the development of a “demonstration” commercial fishery with a community friendly trade environment. Agreements with their fishers limits participation in open market brokering that is a place for black-market sales from their adjacent spawning grounds.



SYSTEMS TO MANAGE QUALITY AND TRACEABILITY IN THE ECONOMIC FISHERY

A traceability experiment was visible to the panel tour through the Scowlitz landing site on Harrison Bay. Under the auspices of an emerging fisheries cooperative, Chehalis and Scowlitz Bands are working with volunteers from the adjacent Sto:lo fishery and upstream First Nations involved in the demonstration fisheries to develop a watershed-wide system of quality controls, and traceability. The collaborative marketing system that supports it is designed to improve economic returns to fishers who participate, and acts as an incentive to fishers that participate. It also provides an alternative to processors and fish buyers to river-bank brokering.

The First Nations web-based marketing tool called a “Virtual Warehouse” is being piloted with seed funding from DFO coupled with industry partnerships that tracks all landings by lot, species, weight and quality at landing. The concept is part of a First Nations strategy in the Fraser called “River to Plate” designed to self-certify their fisheries, building upon their selective nature to increase their value and market acceptance.

MANAGING THE LOCAL TRADE ENVIRONMENT

River-bank brokering and open trade of fresh salmon has led to conflicts between and within First Nations members that are recruited by buyers/brokers. This problem has become acute at Chehalis and Scowlitz where uncontrolled brokering of salmon has created conflicts between and within families and the two communities. The Chiefs have also noted that this provides a vehicle through which black market salmon eggs destined to caviar markets can find their way into the legitimate market place. This devalues the local trade and undermines conservation objectives in the fishery.

Chehalis and Scowlitz reported that the unmanaged trade environment also supports economic leakages and is a disincentive to community investment in landing sites and other fishery infrastructure that benefit their fishers.

The fisheries cooperative they are developing in the area engages community fishers in mandatory landings along with other local rules of conduct, and requires the fishers to aggregate and direct market their catch the “Virtual Warehouse”. The system has minimized conflicts over “favorite” brokers by committing their fishers to the Harrison Fisheries cooperative, increased profits to participating fishers by a reported 40%, and introduced the system of traceability and quality controls designed to improve the over-all economic performance of the fishery.

The local fisheries cooperative is also establishing a system of licensing of brokers operating on reserve, in addition to their fishers, to impose rules of conduct and mandatory quality controls and traceability. The business licensing system will also secure the local landing fees for the Bands to invest back into the fishery.

QUALITY CONTROLS



As part of the effort by fishers in the budding First Nations area cooperative, the First Nations fishers are encouraged to aggregate their catch for marketing purposes. Key to aggregating their catch, quality controls are being developed to meet market needs (species, gender, size and maturity).

Standards for handling and icing have been set by the cooperative to maximize the quality of the catch. The cooperative also provided landed weights of all fish signed out of the fishery which aided in meeting the traceability objectives for both regulators and so that independent crews could keep track of their profits. Fishers are instructed as part of a pilot certification program in proper handling techniques (bodies cradled and not carried by the tail), proper icing techniques to preserve caviar egg qualities, standard bleeding practices etc.

The fish landed by the cooperative are handled once (into iced and tared and pre-labeled totes and sorted by gender), while fish landed in the adjacent river-bank buyers were handled up to 3 times – by the fishers (some into the bottom of boats or totes), from totes into the transport vessels totes, and again into the buyers totes.

OCTOBER 22 MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE WORKSHOP

October 22, 2009. Lhawathet Lalem (Chehalis Healing House)

INTRODUCTIONS AND CONTEXT SETTING

The welcome to Chehalis territory provided participants with a perspective of an ancient fishing community grappling with the modern realities of the Fraser salmon fishery. Piecing together the observations from the field tour, participants in the workshop were encouraged to see how monitoring and compliance needs are being defined broadly by Sto:lo leaders to fully encompass the local and ancient values that will sustain this fishery for everyone.

Currently, work led by Chehalis and partners around the Fraser watershed is trying to grapple with matters of conservation and terminal harvest as part of creating prosperous and sustainable fisheries in the modern world, while respecting ancient traditions and cultures. Their community focus on traceability, management of the local trade environment, and sharing is meant to ensure that there are incentives in place to attract the fishers to work together and in a manner that is respectful to their community's fishing rights and the fish.

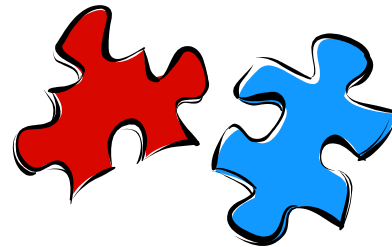
OPEN SPACE AND LEARNING FROM OUR LESSONS

Dave Barrette (Fraser River Salmon Table), Barry Stuart and Glenn Sigurdson (Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum and Monitoring and Compliance Panel) emphasized that the growing body of work in the salmon fishery, focused today on the lower Fraser River, must look at building trust in catch accounting and compliance to regulation as the foundation of getting along, sharing, and more complex management matters.

Open-space dialogue at the regional and now watershed level is delving into ways the various interests in the fishery can focus their collective energies on problem solving instead of posturing in front of the regulator, leaving old issues and baggage in the annals of history. It has proven to be wiser to get together, to know each other and build relationships and trust, before embarking on working with DFO in isolation. Open-space forums like this allow formerly diverging interests to apply lessons learned.

IMPROVING DECISION-MAKING IN SALMON FISHERIES

Some key activities are ongoing in the region and lower Fraser fisheries that can inform the discussion. It is important to understand their purpose and how they fit within our respective efforts.



TRUST, DECISION-MAKING, AND VALUES

The role of forums like the ISDF is a “high beam” role, while groups like the Fraser River Salmon Table, the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board, and local Sport Fishing Advisory Board (and member organizations) are focusing on helping local interests make sense of things between the regional, watershed, and community fishery levels. Together we focus on 3 fundamentals

1. Getting past the numbers/Getting the numbers right. If we cannot trust each other’s numbers, the likelihood of building trust and a working relationship is lost;
2. How can we improve decision making at a level (or levels) that can be successful in meeting our societal goals, while embracing the knowledge and values inherent at the fishing community level; and,
3. How do we build our societal values into our fisheries and communities at all levels? This is an enhanced level of discussion that delves into things like traceability, certification, access and value principles, where we build a greater sense of what the resource means to communities of fish and people.

A JOINT SPORT-FISHING AND FIRST NATIONS DIALOGUE IN THE LOWER FRASER RIVER

A rolling dialogue was initiated late in the summer of 2009 by sport fishing representatives and First Nations in the lower Fraser River for the purpose of finding workable solutions to conflicts on the River. The goal of participants remains to find ways for the two fisheries to get along on the river, and is largely based on building trust and acknowledgement of the legitimacy of the respective fisheries within the laws and policies that govern salmon fisheries in the Fraser.

Facilitated by the Fraser River Salmon Table, the initiative for this dialogue was led by the BC Wildlife Federation, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Sto:lo Tribal Council, and the RCMP Native Liaison, and then the Chehalis Band, the Fraser Valley Angling Guides

Association, the BC Federation of Drift-fishers, the Fraser Valley Salmon Society, and others contributed significantly (both directly and indirectly) to the understandings that have begun to emerge. Currently meetings convened by the working group are looking at ways to implement ideas in the area (Appendix 2, by request of the forum).

Teaching or modeling appropriate behavior (river manners/etiquette) for fishers when the gears/fisheries intersect was identified as the highest priority over-all by the joint working group. A video reenactment of the incident on the river was proposed (*Youtube* or local TV targeted) focusing on a demonstration of the right way to interact. A proposal to the Fraser Salmon and Watershed Program is underway that would be led by individuals from the joint working group. The RCMP are concurrently building a crime-stoppers video reenactment and plan to collaborate with the group on a joint release.

The working group also identified the lack of developed access points to the Fraser River and separate monitoring programs in this area as a significant inhibitor to effective monitoring and reporting in the area's salmon fisheries. There are few developed boat launches, parking spaces, washrooms and campsites along the Fraser between Mission and Hope to meet this need.

The idea of jointly developing this infrastructure with First Nations was raised as a mechanism to provide access to the sport fishing economy for the area First Nations, while providing much desired facilities for the public. The group will be exploring synergies with a BC Government initiative announced in the spring called "Experience the Fraser" that embraces a similar vision.

A collaborative monitoring program is being looked at as a way to build trust in the catch accounting based on a common monitoring system, and flagged the enhanced communications links between the fisheries arising from the project. This proposal is currently being explored by the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Fisheries Society.

The group also identified crowding as a significant and growing issue. Although numerous models and examples from elsewhere were considered that could reduce crowding between sport and aboriginal fisheries on popular salmon fishing sites (i.e. alternating sides, days, or week-ends, restricting some sites, or limiting drift-netting). It was decided that the one suggestion that seemed to have some support by both groups and thus potential for significant success was if First Nations would be allowed to fish at night time. A small pilot is being proposed that would demonstrate safety and effective catch accounting, while not inhibiting the manageability of the fishery.

A table is provided in Appendix 2 as requested by participants, with a synopsis of the ideas and their rankings arising from their discussion.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

DFO is currently looking at the need to get everyone to common comparable catch monitoring standards. The M&C Panel is working with DFO on this project to identify standards and systems appropriate to different fisheries. It does not make sense to apply the same monitoring standard to a small isolated and easily monitored fishery as would be needed for a complex multi-stakeholder popular fishery as in the lower Fraser. The mission/vision is to get to an improved level of confidence for all on catch monitoring.

Work on a project to assess the level of monitoring on all fisheries coast wide is nearing completion. The intent of this work is assign a “grade” to each fishery starting with unmonitored and moving through basic, general and enhanced assessments. These data have been vetted by DFO management staff and are intended as a tool for management staff and the Monitoring Panel.

When finished the work will allow the comparison of catch monitoring across species groups (salmon, pelagics, groundfish and shellfish) as well as fisheries (commercial, FSC and recreational) and gear (gillnet, seine and troll). It will also enable people to assess monitoring programs for specific areas (i.e. central coast or just Area 6).

GUIDANCE FROM BREAK-OUT GROUPS

Three break-out groups delved into a more focused discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of monitoring and compliance in the area’s salmon fishery. Participants generally felt confident with the catch estimation from the area’s economic and sport fisheries, and highlighted multiple-layers of accounting introduced by experimental traceability work. However, the participants emphasized various weaknesses that could undermine the ability for various interests in the fishery to do anything more sophisticated among themselves like share-based planning, dealing with crowding, or in-season catch reconciliation. All groups identified the need to work towards a higher level of understanding and responsibility for monitoring and compliance targeted at the individual fishers.

The economic opportunity fisheries in the area were seen as well run, orderly, and with many layers of monitoring achieving, and in some cases exceeding, the current norm in the industry. Similarly groups felt confident that the creel surveys were providing sufficient numbers over-all for fisheries management, with the exception of the catch-and-release component that is difficult to quantify and may skew over-all catch estimation. A local sport fishing catch and release mortality study is making some progress in addressing the incidental mortalities from catch and release, however there remain many unknowns. This

study does not address a perception that creel surveys are improperly expanding (over-reporting) the sport catch based on exaggerated or miss-reported catch and release data.

Over-all it was less clear about whether the system was adequately accounting for the less structured FSC and sport fisheries that do not currently share the same level of monitoring intensity as the economic fishery, or are more spread out over time and space. The potential for unregulated fishing in these other fisheries was significant, and all of the groups saw the value in ensuring that good traceability systems were in place for the economic fisheries to isolate black-market fish. The potential for individual cheating on catch reporting from the sport fishery could not be addressed by traceability systems though, and many sport fishing groups are encouraging a higher level of enforcement presence on the river. Work towards a collaborative monitoring program between First Nations and sport fishers (taking advantage of Aboriginal Fisheries Monitors) was identified as a positive step to address this, with benefits beyond catch accounting.

The lack of funding by both DFO and the province for catch monitoring and enforcement was highlighted by all groups. Notably all groups also saw a wide range of benefits from “official” catch monitors in the fishery. Increased revenue from the growing sport fishing salmon tags was identified as untapped. The underfunding of a monitoring presence by DFO in the sport fishery transcended the need for basic catch estimation and included benefits towards compliance, communications across interests in the fishery to avoid conflicts and addresses management changes in-season.

The lack of mandatory landing sites was identified as a weakness in area First Nations chum and pink economic fisheries, as well as in the area’s sport fisheries, and in some of the more intense FSC fisheries. The introduction of mandatory landings by the local cooperative was seen as a positive step, the proposed infrastructure (launches, parking, bathrooms, camping etc.) to attract sport fishers to key landing areas was identified as an positive innovation, but the need for mandatory landing for FSC fisheries and for “hike-in” sport fishers was not as clear, or seen to be un-implementable. The potential to also utilize development of this infrastructure as a way for First Nations to benefit from the sport fishery was highlighted in local ongoing discussions between sport fishing groups and First Nations.

All of the break-out groups emphasized the need to provide incentives to fishers to “do the right thing” by helping to achieve accurate and timely catch accounting. The strength of career-based monitoring programs, enhanced economic returns from the catch such as seen in the local cooperative, and clear, tangible benefits in securing catch shares was considered important. The leadership of fishing communities (from First Nations, commercial or sport fishing groups) was seen as a common strength in the ability to work with their fishers, and between interests.

The concern was raised about barriers to accurate catch reporting and how some coded wire tag recovery problems still exist in the lower Fraser Aboriginal fishery and the marine

sport fishery for spring Chinook (by example). Participants highlighted how the in-river CWT data collection problem was driven by concern about how the government would be using these numbers. In one case example they felt the government would use this information as the basis for estimating future treaty rights. It was noted that this was overcome in the Yukon by agreeing that this information was without prejudice to treaty rights. The sport fishery CWT recovery problem (if it exists – this was unclear) was perceived to be due to a lack of creel survey effort.

A similar barrier to by-catch accounting was flagged within some of the marine approach fisheries, where commercial fishers are worried that accounting for all by-catch could result in closing of their fishery. Groups identified however that this is a “double edge sword” where good by-catch accounting could be used to identify times and places that can accommodate higher fishing effort.

There was a poor understanding outside of the commercial fishers present of how e-licensing systems might work. Electronic licensing was introduced in the marine sport fishery a few years ago and has just been introduced by the province for the fresh water sport fishery. The transition to e-log and the potential for mandatory catch reporting or random catch audits was discussed as a potentially good idea.

The effective introduction of traceability systems for the commercial fishery was strongly supported, and the value of developing certification systems for monitors and guided fishery operations was acknowledged and an important evolution in the fishery over-all.



PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

Traceability [systems] in *River to Plate* was amazing – now have numbers that people can feel confident in. Robert Reyerse, Angling Guides Association

We want to see more paymasters like Kim Charlie yesterday – give her the tools to get the job done and we can be confident that we will not have any problems with counting fish. Wayne Saito, Consultant to BC Fisheries.

The Sockeye sport fishery is a big part of history – can be 100's or a 1000 times multiplied what we saw yesterday – so we need to ensure we build relationships to help deal with that level of interaction between communities to make the fisheries all work properly. Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Driftfishers.

Every fishery has “outlaws” – great to hear about how these are being handled by communities like Chehalis and about the positive incentives that are being put in place for fishermen to do the right thing. Mike Griswold, Commercial fisherman.

Been at conservation work for 20 years and have never seen this kind of panel and effort in adaptive co-management working. [It is working] because various folks are not coming as sectoral representatives, they are coming representing their own insight and experience and skills – coming together to ensure we get the catch monitoring numbers right. If we can get that in place, lots of other things are possible. Craig Orr, Watershed Watch

This session is overwhelming – there is not enough time to get ideas out and really flush them out – so there is a need to do more of this. No matter what we come up with– there will be a lot of skepticism – only thing that will give confidence is a track record – really critical to do it right – if it isn't done right we may be worse off than we are now. Rod Wiebe, Vice President, BC Wildlife Federation

[The] rank and file (commercial)fishermen are concerned about the fisheries outside the realm of the observed/reported. Bob Rezansoff – Area A

In 5-10 years out we will not be talking about traceability, we'll be doing it because unless salmon can be traced people will not buy it unless they know where it comes from. Bert Ionson, former DFO Fraser salmon manger.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS

Province in position to help with conditions of license – talk to legal people about making it condition of license that buyers report out (tonnage/species/license/pieces/etc.) – get that information and then use it to report back. Yves Antaya, Sr. Inspector, BC Fisheries

Map out the traceability chain of custody – then identify places where some novel change can really interrupt/disrupt “outlier/bandit/outlaw” activity (entry points for Black Market fish). Stephen Geiger, M&C Panel

Traceability is our future – really not sure how the fishery has been able to get as far as it has without traceability – no longer acceptable to have meat/anything on the shelf that we do not know where it comes from. Peter Sakich, CSAB

Invite CSAB/SFAB to explain to their constituencies how this process works to a Board meeting – raise profile and increase understanding. Bert Ionson, Former DFO Fraser Salmon Manager.

Fishermen are problem solvers – no matter what it is, let’s fix it and get back to fishing. Traceability of fish will cut out illegal/outlier stuff that is now driving a lot of this stuff – like to see some hard concrete action on this – how do we do traceability. Bob Rezansoff – Area A

Chehalis EO fishery monitoring is cost-shared by fishermen through their local cooperative, while the main-stem monitoring is paid for by AFS. The fishers have never complained because they get a greater financial return from working together and with their community, and monitoring just creates another form of fishing employment – alternatively, the more monitoring and traceability gets isolated into 3rd party companies, the more it becomes a cost that is some external responsibility. So spend the money on governance and the communities will take care of their fishery. Dave Moore, Experiences as Fisheries advisor for Chehalis/Scowlitz.

Creel monitoring program is operating on a fraction of the original program budget and this is not enough even by our own fishing standards– need to fund it and not starve it so that we can work together – the number one thing is that system will not work unless it is paid for. Ed George, BC Wildlife Federation.

Guides – Certification – non-tidal waters all are certified and have to meet a certain standard – no problem at all to give guides a log book and get them to fill in a logbook and report in a timely fashion. Robert Reyerse, Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association.

Certification of monitors by educational institutions or 3rd Party monitoring agencies can do training would be a big step and could be for any type of fishery – across fisheries and across species – may make it attractive to good people and help them keep good people. Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Driftfishers.

Recreational fishery requires mandatory reporting of all catches – perhaps in order to qualify for next year's license you need to surrender last years catch report– currently only Chinook needs to be recorded. Folks could even institutionalize random audit procedure for all sport fisheries. Wayne Saito, Consultant, BC Fisheries.



OUR SALMON FUTURE - WRITING THE NEXT (OR FINAL) CHAPTER

“What we saw yesterday, where folks are working together to build traceability into their legitimate fishery; that will isolate the non compliance fisheries by market forces – this is the future of our fishery.

We need to invest our time on efforts like these, and the so-called black market fisheries will become a thing of the past...”

Pete Sakich,
Commercial
Salmon Advisory
Board.

This monitoring and compliance workshop was focused on the ways for competing interests to agree on catch accounting. Participants only hinted at the bigger challenges ahead in the fishery, but conceded that without good catch accounting any efforts to solve them would likely be futile.

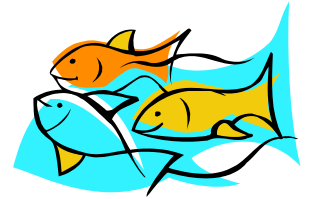
The field trip and discussion that followed concluded that good catch accounting could be expected from the area’s orderly economic chum fishery. However, the chum fishery is small when compared to the sockeye fishery, some 70-100 times this size. The more popular Fraser River sockeye fishery comes with many more policy and procedural complications, including a higher level of non-compliance in both fisheries.

The salmon fishery of today is also very different than what it once was when the St:olo managed it - perhaps then populations were less dense and technological advancements in the fishery were kept in check by more sustainable lifestyles. Therefore, without the luxury of going back, a larger modern fishery with more complex demands must do a better job at addressing the shared interest of fish and people. The government must do a better job of clarifying access priorities in the fishery (the “what”), leaving the sharing work up to the competing interests (the “how”). Finally, underfunded creel surveys, inadequate launching and landing sites, and a disproportionate dependency much on our ability forecast salmon futures undermines good intentions.



Most of all, everyone agreed, we have little control over salmon productivity, and in our haste to allocate amongst competing interests we may have forgotten about the needs of our salmon. *“The final chapter is not yet written, so let’s not miss the opportunity to do it right”*. Ernie Crey, Sr. Fisheries Policy Advisor St:olo Tribal Council.

APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANTS (* ATTENDED FIELD TOUR)



(those participants high-lighted in red attended field tour only)

*Yves Antaya, Ministry of Agriculture	yves.antaya@gov.bc.ca
Glenn Kostiuk, DFO C&P	kostiuk.glenn@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Ed George, BC Wildlife Federation	edgeorge@telus.net
*Frank Kwak, Fraser River Salmon Table/ISDF/SFAB	frankkwak@shaw.ca
*Stephen Geiger, M&C Consultant/SYS Solutions Inc.	siguiger@telus.net
*Deana Machin, FSWP/FBC	dmachin@fraserbasin.bc.ca
Dalton Silver, Chief Sumas First Nation	dalton.silver@sumasfirstnation.com
*Marion Robinson, Fraser Basin Council	mrobinson@fraserbasin.bc.ca
*Ernie Crey, Sto:lo Tribal Council	squemel@shaw.ca
Vladimir Soukhatchev, Stoney Cr. Env. Committee	vsou@telus.net
*Robert Reyerse, Fraser Valley Angling Guides Assoc.	Robert.reyerse@gmail.com
*Terry Tebb, Pacific Salmon Foundation	ttebb@psf.ca
*Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Driftfishers	rodney.a.clapton@sunlife.com
*Wayne Saito, Ministry of Environment Consultant	wsaito@shaw.ca
*Mike Griswold, Commercial Salmon Advisory Board	Griswold@xplornet.com
*Peter Sakich, Commercial Salmon Advisory Board	Sakich@island.net
*Bob Rezansoff, Commercial Salmon Advisory Board	bob.rezansoff@telus.net
Angela Bate, DFO Special Projects/ PICFI	angela.bate@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
*Bert Ionson, ISDF Consultant	bionson@telus.net
Gary Miller, DFO C&P	gary.miller@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Sarah McConnachie, Carleton University	s.h.mcconnachie@gmail.com
Graham Raby, Carleton University	graham.raby@yahoo.com
*Trudy Forbes, DFO South Coast M&C	trudy.forbes@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Rod Wiebe, BC Wildlife Federation	fwiebeg@shaw.ca
Leigh McCracken, BC Federation of Driftfishers	mccracken2644@shaw.ca

Craig Orr, Watershed Watch

corr@telus.net

*Dave Moore, Fraser River Salmon Table

davemoore08@xplornet.com

*Dave Barrett, Fraser River Salmon Table

davlinpacific@telus.net

*Cam West, Pacific Salmon Foundation

cwest@psf.ca

Glenn Sigurdson, ISDF

cse@direct.ca

Barry Stuart, ISDF

bdstuart@telus.net

*Deb Sneddon, DFO Sport Fisheries Manager

Debra.Sneddon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

*James Leon, Councillor Chehalis Indian Band

jamesnleon@shaw.ca

*Tanya Hebron, Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program

thebron@fraserbasin.bc.ca

*Willie Charlie, Chief Chehalis Indian Band

willie.charlie@chehalisband.com

*Colin Pennier, Manager Scowlitz First Nation

colinpennier@shaw.ca

APPENDIX 2: HOW TO GET ALONG ON THE RIVER ~ ISSUES, IDEAS AND SUMMARY DISCUSSION POINTS¹

Key Issues	Ideas	Summary Discussion	RC	EG	FK	MF	RR	WC	Score	Group Ranking
Monitoring and Enforcement	Develop more landing, parking, camping, and toilets	The number of developed landing sites is limited in the area. Well developed sites would attract the use of anglers and perhaps First Nations fishers to make monitoring easier	2	2	8	7	6	11	36	5
			11	4	2	1	4	1	23	3
Crowding	Joint monitoring	Piloted with some success in 1990's. Good for relationship building. DFO discontinued to focus on First Nations catch.	1	3	1	5	2	5	17	2
			3	1	7	2	1	1	15	1
Conflict	Respectful etiquette for fisheries should be developed	Parties need to define appropriate communications etiquette for fishers when gear/effort intersect	11	8	5	6	3	11	44	7
			11	11	10	3	1	11	47	8
Education	Map high use areas	Both groups see the need to work out solutions directly	4	7	9	10	7	2	39	6
			11	6	6	4	5	3	35	4
	Messaging and policy conflicts	Continue dialogue/ attend each other's meetings. Kiosk at outdoor show. Joint press releases. Work together on etiquette	11	10	3	11	8	1	44	7
			11	7	11	8	9	11	57	9
Stewardship	Publish timing of openings	Available on Internet – use kiosks at landing sites	5	5	4	9	10	3	36	5
			5	5	4	9	10	3	36	5

¹ From the Joint Sport-fishing-First Nations Working Group