

To / À : P. S. Chamut  
ADM, Fisheries Management

From / De : Regional Director General  
Pacific Region

Subject / Object : **STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 2002 FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

Security Classification - Classification de sécurité <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>
Our file - Notre référence
Your File - Votre référence <b>PRCTS# 381417</b>
Date <b>December 3, 2003</b>

I have attached an updated status report as of the end of October, 2003 on the implementation of the recommendations from the 2002 Review of the Fraser River Sockeye Fishery.

I believe we are making substantial progress on implementation of the fourteen recommendations. By our assessment we consider implementation complete on seven of the recommendations (R5, R6, R7, R11, R12, R13, R14) and implementation of three of the remaining recommendations (R3, R4, R9) should be completed early in the new calendar year. Completion of recommendation (R8) is complicated by the Cheam conflict, but otherwise this recommendation will also be completed early in the new calendar year as well. Extensive work is underway to find a long term solution to the Cheam illegal fishing situation and is anticipated to take longer to resolve. The longer term portion of recommendation (R10) to improve in-season run size estimation through optimization of resources and catch monitoring are ongoing and will continue to evolve.

The two recommendations which we expected to be further along with implementation at this time are recommendations 1 (Wild Salmon Policy) and 2A (Policy Advisory Process). As you are aware the planned consultations on the WSP have been pushed into 2004 which would mean the Department will not be in a position to meet the commitment of providing a Wild Salmon Policy to the Minister by December 31, 2003 as outlined in the review. From my perspective I think we can explain the delay given the complexity of the issues associated with the development of the policy. The additional time is necessary for extensive internal review of specific issues such as what level of genetic diversity to conserve, implications of SARA and the development of an open and transparent planning process to consider social and economic factors in addition to biological factors. While unable to meet the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for completing consultation we anticipate:

- completing the draft policy by mid-January 2004
- conducting internal review and ADM approval by March 31, 2004
- release to the public and initiation of consultation as soon as possible thereafter.

Implementation of recommendation 2A, which is the design and implementation of a policy advisory process has been discussed several times at recent RMC meetings. There is no doubt that a process to deal with high level policy issues will be established that will meet the Minister's commitment. The issue is what policies should be brought to the process, what the process will look like, and the frequency with which it meets. The latter is significant as there are cost implications depending on how



often the policy process takes place. Policy Branch recently conducted a gap analysis of policy issues at RMC's request which will be factored into the latest proposed design and operation of the policy advisory process. This proposal is being developed by Policy Branch and will be tabled at a future RMC meeting. I would like to be in a position to make a final decision at that time so we can move forward on implementation.

The sockeye review indicates the first order of business for the external policy advisory process would be to provide advice regarding terminal allocation issues. As the Ministerial appointed two member task group (McRae and Pearce) is exploring fishery arrangements that bring greater certainty for all fishery participants in a post-treaty era it may be worthwhile waiting until their review is complete before tackling this significant policy issue.

The following is a brief snapshot of where we are with each of the other recommendations and what is required to complete implementation. More detail on the progress to date is also provided in the attached status report.

**1) Recommendation 2B- Harvest Planning Committees**

Significant progress has been made to date with all sectors with the exception of the First Nations. Not surprisingly developing an organizational framework for First Nations is complex and thus will take additional time to operationalize. The other pressing issue is all groups are requesting funding to participate on the committees and are also requesting a more balanced/more representation of membership on the integrated harvest planning bodies. Once the harvest committees are set up implementation of this recommendation will be considered complete.

**2) Recommendation 3- Support to First Nation processes on Fraser and in South Coast**

This is an ongoing initiative. Implementation will be considered complete for the purposes of the sockeye review when additional funding from AAROM or another source is confirmed.

**3) Recommendation 4- Elements of the IFMP**

Planning is underway to include a science based risk assessment framework and a socio-economic analysis in the 2004 IFMP. These adjustments to the IFMP will complete implementation of this recommendation, but full development of Risk Assessment frameworks for all fisheries will likely take several years.

**4) Recommendation 5- IFMP Issues for 2003**

Complete.

Consultations did take place with various sectors in 2003 on escapement targets prior to finalizing the 2003 IFMP. As a next step which goes beyond recommendation 5 is the significant work that is currently underway on the completion of long-term escapement goals for Fraser River sockeye. The goal is to finalize prior to the 2004 season which may be difficult and could require an interim step for 2004.

**5) Recommendation 6- Food, Social and Ceremonial Obligations**

Complete.

**6) Recommendation 7- Regulation of Recreational Fishery**

Complete.

**7) Recommendation 8- Enforcement**

A post season review with client groups in Lower Fraser and BCI scheduled for November to January is planned. C&P and Resource Management staff will be working together to organize and attend post season meetings with FN, recreational and commercial harvesters to debrief enforcement operations for the year, seek input on concerns and work with harvesters to identify solutions for the coming year.

**8) Recommendation 9- Monitoring and Assessment Studies**

Most of the field work for the studies has taken place. Further analytical and lab work is planned over the next quarter to complete implementation.

**9) Recommendation 10- Run Timing ,In-season Estimates and Data**

A workshop is planned for January to analyze results from 2003 and to consider opportunities for 2004. The long term initiative to optimize the use of resources directed at in-season estimates is the subject of ongoing discussions with PSC staff. The catch monitoring review is also ongoing and will evolve over time.

**10) Recommendation 11- Facilitating a Stock Assessment Fishery**

Complete.

**11) Recommendation 12- Improved Communication with Recreational Fishery**

Complete.

**12) Recommendation 13- Innovative Fisheries**

Complete.

**13) Recommendation 14- In-season Decision Making**

Complete.

We will provide you with a further update on progress with implementation during the first quarter of 2004.

If you need to discuss any of these implementation issues in more detail or require further information or clarification please give me a call.

*Original signed by  
Paul Macgillivray for*

John C. Davis

cc: P. Macgillivray  
cc: RMC

## **STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REVIEW OF THE 2002 FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE FISHERY**

An implementation plan has been developed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada for making improvements to the management of the Fraser River sockeye fishery, as recommended by an External Steering Committee in April 2002. Although the recommendations originally targeted Fraser River sockeye, some of the recommendations may apply coast-wide.

The following is an overview of the status of the implementation of the 14 recommendations from the 2002 Fraser River Sockeye Review as of Fall 2003.

### **Recommendation 1: Wild Salmon Policy**

It is recommended that Fisheries and Oceans Canada conduct consultations on a wild salmon policy and associated guidelines, with First Nations, harvesters and other interest groups including conservation organizations, and the policy should be finalized by December 31, 2003. This policy will provide a framework for defining conservation objectives for naturally spawning salmon and will include direction for resource management (conservation units and reference points), habitat protection, enhancement and aquaculture.

#### ***Action to October 31***

Development of this policy was slowed by internal debate at all levels over several key policy issues specifically what level of genetic diversity to conserve, the implications of SARA and the development of an open and transparent planning process to consider social and economic factors in addition to biological. Substantial movement has been made since late summer when a process to engage members of senior executive was initiated. While unable to meet the Dec 31 deadline for completing consultation we anticipate:

- completing the draft policy by mid-January 2004
- conducting internal review and ADM approval by March 31, 2004
- release to the public and initiation of consultation as soon as possible thereafter.

#### ***Issues***

Given the leadership change in December and possibility of a spring election, there is considerable uncertainty around timing of release of the policy and the consultation. Effectively this timeline would negate full implementation of the WSP for 2004.

Consultation in 2003/04 will create a funding pressure.

### **Recommendation 2: Advisory Processes**

It is recommended that new advisory processes be developed by the fall of 2003 for the provision of advice on policy issues and harvest planning to facilitate improved, transparent consultation:

- Policy Advisory Process - A new formal, structured policy advisory process is proposed. Specifically, a policy steering committee should be established that represents the full range of interests for the conservation and management of Pacific fisheries resources including

Canada

First Nations, commercial and recreational fishing sectors, conservation organizations<sup>1</sup>, community groups, and the provincial government. This committee would provide a venue for broadly based dialogue with the Department on major policy matters affecting the fishery, including a wild salmon policy, risk management, and socio-economic objectives. It would also provide advice on the full range of interests that need to be consulted further and the best means of obtaining input on specific policy matters of concern.

- Assignment to Policy Advisory Process – Given that the conservation concerns associated with some mixed stock fisheries are likely to result in harvesting opportunities to more terminal areas, it is recommended that the policy steering committee, once established, should be asked to provide advice to clarify the policy on access and allocation. Consultation with affected parties should occur in the fall of 2003 to discuss issues, and provide information to support a policy decision before the 2004 salmon fishery.
- Harvest Planning - A more streamlined and representative cross-sectoral advisory process is proposed for harvest planning and post-season review. Specifically, two new salmon harvest planning committees, one each for the north and the south. A three-phased process would be established to provide co-coordinated advice to the Department on the development of IFMPs:
  - Advice on conservation objectives and science-based risk management would be provided by representatives from First Nations, the recreational and commercial sectors, and conservation organizations<sup>2</sup>.
  - Harvesters (representatives from First Nations and the recreational and commercial fishing sectors) would develop proposals on the conduct of fisheries consistent with phase 1, for inclusion in draft IFMPs.
  - First Nations, the recreational and commercial sectors, and conservation organizations<sup>2</sup> would provide advice on draft IFMPs focusing on ensuring consistency between conservation objectives and proposed fisheries, and on any cross-sector integration issues requiring resolution. As well, they would participate in post season review.
- Fraser Panel - The Fraser River Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission will continue to serve as a focal point in the in-season management of Fraser River sockeye and pink.

### ***Action to October 31***

Policy Advisory Process –A draft action plan and decision note were prepared and reviewed by the Salmon Executive Steering Committee in June 2003. Input from the committee was incorporated into a revised decision note that was submitted to RMC in July, and again in September 2003. At RMC it was decided that an evaluation of the region's policy gaps was necessary in order to design a process that fit with the Department's needs. After an assessment

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<sup>1</sup> There is a difference of opinion over whether this should refer to separate inclusion of environmental groups and stewardship/streamkeeper groups.

<sup>2</sup> There is a difference of opinion over whether this should refer to separate inclusion of environmental groups and habitat stewardship/stream keeper groups.

of regional policy gaps by Regional Policy Branch, it has been determined that the structure needed to deal with high level policy gaps may benefit from a somewhat different approach than that recommended in the Fraser Sockeye Review report in that it would only come together as the need for policy advice arises. A revised decision note detailing a Policy Forum process that would occur on an as required basis will be sent to RMC in November, for approval. Implementation of the process will begin subsequently.

### ***Issues***

The recommended approach is different from that recommended in the Fraser Sockeye Review. A Policy Forum would be called on an as required basis, and would follow a structured approach to consultation.

Annual funding requirements would be based on need. For example, in 2004/05, the Policy Forum might provide advice on the Wild Salmon Policy. Funding requirements for this process would be \$180k.

## **Harvest Planning**

### ***Actions to October 31***

- An information package on the proposed new advisory process was sent to First Nations, salmon vessel owners, the recreational sector and environmental organizations in mid-August, 2003.
- Work is currently underway with the recreational sector, First Nations and environmental organizations to identify representatives prior to planning for the 2004 season.
- Environmental organizations have created a Marine Conservation Caucus (MCC) broadly representative of conservation organizations with marine conservation capacity. This body will be asked to identify representatives to the Integrated Harvest Planning Committee (IPHC).
- Extensive consultations are underway with representatives of the commercial sector to establish a Commercial Harvest Planning Committee and Area Harvest Committee. Nomination forms for identifying representatives to AHCs were mailed October 28th. Election ballots will be mailed out December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and results will be finalized by late January, 2004.
- Presentations have been made to numerous First Nation organizations including the BCAFC, NBBC, NNFC, etc.
- Preliminary discussions have been held with the SFAB which will be asked to identify representatives to the IPHCs. It is expected that representative will be selected by the SFAB at their main board meeting scheduled for January 24/25, 2004.

### ***Issues***

- Numerous implementation issues have arisen. Most significantly, all groups are requesting funding to participate and requesting increased membership on the various bodies.

- The Department has stated that they expect all sectors to self-fund their participation over time. Establishing self-funding mechanisms in a timely manner is becoming increasingly difficult especially with the introduction of Bill C-212.
- First Nation participation is problematic as there is no umbrella organization for the myriad of First Nations. A fully operational First Nation advisory process that contributes to the IHPC is unlikely for 2004. It is expected that it will take additional time to develop this component of the new advisory process.

### **Recommendation 3: Fraser River First Nations Watershed Process**

It is recommended that the Fraser River First Nations Watershed process be further supported by ensuring technical support is provided for continued improvements in the efficiency of annual management planning and consultation processes. Also, support should be provided to Coastal First Nations who choose to form an aggregate body representing First Nation communities.

#### ***a) Action to October 31***

The Fraser River Watershed process is supported through the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat which the department provides funding and technical support. An Executive Director has been hired and technical contracts have been renewed for 2003 which is not an increase in resource levels over 2002. Staff from TAPD, BCI and Fisheries Management RHQ is actively supporting the Fraser River Watershed process. Paul Ryall, Brigid Payne and Barry Huber sit on the Executive Committee for the Watershed process along with First Nation representatives. A DFO co-chair to the Fraser Technical committee has also been appointed (Les Jantz).

#### ***Issues***

Though previous AFS levels have been maintained, funding has not been provided through AAROM for this fiscal year however staff continues to pursue additional funding.

#### ***b) Action to October 31***

Coastal First Nations have formed a society and have received technical and monetary support from Fisheries and Oceans staff. An initial focus for the society was a successful cooperative effort conducting FSC fisheries in a manner consistent with the purse seine test fisheries conducted by the staff of the Pacific Salmon Commission. Future directions for this society will be discussed at a post-season meeting to occur in February 2004.

### **Recommendation 4: Elements of the IFMP**

It is recommended that the pre-season development of the IFMP be the focal point for consultation and debate. IFMPs should clearly define the priority of conservation and should also include a number of other key items.

- A description of domestic and international commitments.
- Decision rules that will guide in-season management. This would include a science-based risk management framework, with decision tables that illustrate probable effects of a wide range of management options. They would cover a broad range of foreseeable circumstances and would guide the appropriate fisheries management responses to changing circumstances (such as in-season estimates of pre-spawning mortality of Late run sockeye); and
- A description of socio-economic objectives.

### *Action to October 31*

#### **2003 IFMP Development (July 2003)**

The IFMP for 2003 was used as the focal point for pre-season planning. The following meetings were held:

- First Nations – Over 15 meetings with Bands and Tribal Councils representing over 100 Bands
- Recreational – Four meetings with local and main board SFAB to discuss IFMP issues.
- Commercial - Over 10 meetings with Gear licence area representatives and Advisory Boards that have representation from a number of licence areas.
- Conservation Organizations- 2 meetings were held late in the process and were not viewed as adequate consultation by the Sierra Club.

A draft IFMP was released on March 18 for the North Coast and on April 28 for the South Coast. The draft plans captured the initial views of DFO and attempted to incorporate issues identified during the post season review from 2002.

The draft IFMPs identified the stocks of concern; approaches recommended by DFO to deal with these stocks and in some cases identified some options that could be considered. As well the plans set out decision rules to guide the fishery and fishery specific plans (where there was adequate information to do so).

The draft plan identified domestic and international commitments.

The plan identified decision rules however there was insufficient time to develop and consult on a “science based, risk assessment framework” identifying a range of options. Work has begun to develop a framework for inclusion in the 2004 IFMP. However in developing harvest plans for this season, the stock status of biological risk assessments for Sakinaw and Cultus Lake sockeye and Fraser coho, developed for the COSEWIC listing process were considered. In addition, for Cultus Lake, a risk matrix outlining the probability of extirpation under various levels of pre-spawn mortality and exploitation rate were considered in developing an exploitation rate matrix. The exploitation rate matrix developed allowed for slightly higher levels of harvest if run size was larger and/or the level of en-route mortality was low. Given these risk assessments, alternative harvest regimes were assessed in terms of their impact on these stocks of concerns and the socio-economic implications to the commercial fishery and potential mitigation approaches (e.g. enhancement, selective fishing, etc.) were identified. Work is underway to develop the analytical tools to establish the probabilities of extirpation associated with alternative a range of harvesting regimes. These models are being developed in support of the Wild Salmon policy; however, the Fraser Rive model will not likely be finalized in time for this season.

While a valuation of the commercial fishery was undertaken, socio-economic objectives were not included in the 2003 plan. Work has begun to include these objectives in the 2004 IFMP. It's imperative that this work builds upon what was started in 2003 and is in place for 2004



IFMP. This risk assessment will require a team approach between Fishery Management and Science in order to complete for inclusion in the 2004 IFMP.

### **Work Planning for 2004 IFMP (October 2003)**

Work planning for the 2004 IFMP is underway. The 2004 IFMP will contain a description of both domestic and international commitments. This is a continuation of a practice initiated in 2001. The department will continue to build and refine decision rules used to guide in-season management. In developing the 2004 IFMP the objective will be to expand on the risk assessments (and specifically, the risk of extirpation of specific stocks of concern across a range of exploitation rates) included in the 2003 IFMP to include other stocks of concern.

### ***Issues***

It is expected that the development of risk assessments for all salmon stocks will be an initiative that will take a number of years to finalize.

### **Recommendation 5: IFMP Issues for 2003**

Pending completion of a wild salmon policy and completion of long-term escapement goals for Fraser River sockeye, it is recommended that consultations be held with First Nations and stakeholders (including conservation organizations) on escapement targets to guide resource management for the 2003 fishery. As well, there will be consultations on the management objectives for Cultus Lake and Sakinaw Lake sockeye in 2003, relating to both fishing and habitat protection, and other means of stock rebuilding.

### ***Action to October 31***

Implementation complete

Consultations on Fraser River sockeye escapement goals were carried out pre-season with all harvesters. First Nations and the commercial sector provided advice to the Department on the 2003 escapement goal plan to complete implementation of this recommendation.

With regards to development of long-term escapement goals three forums have provided guidance for this initiative:

- A steering committee with senior First Nation and stakeholder representatives.
- A technical working group with DFO & external experts.
- Workshops for technical review and revision of information packages (to date three workshops have been conducted).

The technical group has developed a computer model which takes into account the biology (productivity) of individual stocks, historical patterns of ocean productivity, migration rates, as well as the priorities and values of all interested parties to consider the most appropriate harvest policies for Fraser sockeye stocks. The purpose of the workshops has been to present the work of the technical group and to obtain direction and feedback from all participants. This has helped DFO refine the proposed approach for managing spawning escapement prior to taking this initiative into broader consultation. The initiative has evolved considerably in response to

the feedback we received from the steering committee, the external working group members and workshop participants.

- Effort has been dedicated to small group meetings with participants.
- The technical foundation for this process, the computer simulation model, has been reviewed via PSARC.
- Additional analyses have been done to address specific questions and concerns raised at the three workshops held over the last year.

#### **Next Steps**

Individual meetings with First Nations and stakeholders are being planned for December. It is hoped that specific concerns or questions can be answered at these meetings.

An additional meeting of the Steering Committee has been planned for November. The direction we receive from this will culminate in a workshop to be held on January 6 & 7, 2004. Once a draft management proposal has been developed, it shall be distributed to interested parties mid-December in preparation for the January workshop.

#### ***Issues***

Significant work on this recommendation has been undertaken and the goal is for implementation in 2004. This may be difficult to finalize prior to the 2004 season and we may need to consider an interim step for 2004.

#### **Recommendation 6: Food, Social, and Ceremonial Obligations**

All harvesting plans will continue to be designed to ensure that, after conservation objectives have been addressed, priority access for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes is provided over other uses.

#### ***Action to October 31***

Implementation complete

Fishing opportunities for food, social and ceremonial purposes have been incorporated into the 2003 IFMP.

#### **Recommendation 7: Regulation of the Recreational Fishery**

It is recommended that consultations be initiated with the Sport Fishing Advisory Board to address concerns regarding the regulation of the recreational fishery, its linkage to the First Nations and commercial fisheries, and possible impediments to the provision of stable and predictable opportunities for the recreational harvest of sockeye

#### ***Action to October 31***

Implementation complete

Consultations have taken place with the Sport Fish Advisory Board regarding plans for 2003 and an in-season sockeye communications working group was created consisting of DFO managers and recreational fisheries advisors from South Coast, Lower Fraser River, and BC Interior Areas.

The working group held weekly teleconferences during late July, August, and early September for the purpose of planning fisheries & communication strategies. These meetings were well attended and worked well from a DFO point of view. It is the intention of Lower Fraser Area and BC Interior Area staff to continue this practice for 2004. Linkage to First Nations and commercial fisheries in the form of intersectoral TAC and sharing of space will be discussed with the recreational sector via the fall (i.e. November – January) SFAB process in locales where these issues occur.

#### **Recommendation 8: Enforcement**

It is recommended that the Department consult with First Nations and stakeholders on enforcement issues.

- There will be pre-season meetings involving Conservation and Protection staff from Area offices to address anticipated monitoring enforcement issues, coordinated strategies, and priorities.
- There will be post-season meetings to review the outcome of these strategies, and progress related to partnership arrangements and protocols.
- Partnership arrangements and protocols with First Nations and stakeholders should be developed or improved, wherever possible. These would formalize the shared roles and responsibilities, and could include improved monitoring and catch reporting, co-management issues, or on-ground interactions between the parties.

As well, external members of the Steering Committee advocate more funding to support enforcement activities related to the conduct of Fraser River sockeye fisheries.

#### ***Action to October 31***

A number of pre-season meetings have taken place with First Nations. Enforcement protocols have been completed for several First Nations and are under development with others. A lower Fraser River enforcement workplan has been completed and is serving as the basis for discussion with local stakeholders. In the BCI C&P has participated in the pre-season planning meetings of the Fraser Watershed Aboriginal Fisheries Forum and the Upper Fraser Conservation Alliance.

C&P conducted enforcement activities during 2003 consistent with the management objectives. Regular enforcement patrols were conducted throughout the season and with one notable exception, compliance was good with Aboriginal groups cooperating well. The one exception was the Cheam fishery where illegal fishing was occurring on a regular basis through the summer. Due to staff shortages (3 officers on administrative leave after the May Cheam incident and one officer on maternity leave) and a dangerous work claim that was filed in late July, enforcement operations were severely hampered on the Cheam and other First Nation fisheries.

Post season meetings are being scheduled in the Lower Fraser and BCI which will be supported by C&P officers. For the 2003 season C&P and Resource Management staff will be working together to organize and attend post season meetings with FN, recreational and commercial harvesters to debrief enforcement operations for the year, seek input on concerns and work with harvesters to identify solutions for the coming year.

In the Cheam situation extensive work is underway to building a better relationship with the Cheam community and will aim to provide a long term strategy for more cooperative fisheries management (including enforcement) programs in this area.

### ***Issues***

Numerous complaints were received in-season about illegal sales of FSC. However, officers did not encounter any major sale operations. Smaller scale illegal sales activities did occur as in past years, but none were observed of the magnitude that were being alleged in-season.

### **Recommendation 9: Monitoring and Assessment Studies**

It is recommended that monitoring and assessment studies be continued to improve understanding of the effects of high spawner density (e.g. Adams River 2002) and the migration behaviour and in-river mortality among Late run sockeye.

### ***Action to October 31***

In conjunction with the Pacific Salmon Commission and university partners studies on the migration behavior and in-river mortality are underway. The field work for almost all of the 2003 field projects are finished and most of the experiments are now focused on laboratory or terminal spawning locations. These studies continue the work completed in 2002.

Data collection on the effects of high spawner density are underway and some preliminary results are available. The data suggests that the productivity of Quesnel Lake is higher in 2003 than it was 10 to 15 years ago. Data collected from fall acoustic and trawl surveys in Quesnel and Shuswap lakes should be analyzed by early 2004 and a further update will be provided to confirm results.

### **Recommendation 10: In-Season Estimates and Data**

It is recommended that the Department work with the staff of the Pacific Salmon Commission, First Nations and stakeholders to develop improved in-season estimates of run size and timing.

- Improvements to existing test fisheries.
- Development of new test fisheries.
- Environmental monitoring programs.
- Use of stock assessment fisheries (conducted on a limited small fleet basis).
- Traditional knowledge and on-water information will be evaluated as a means of augmenting these information sources.
- The Department should consider a three to five year program designed to optimize use of resources directed at in-season estimates required to achieve management objectives.

It is also recommended that the Department work with all harvesting groups to improve the accuracy and timeliness of catch reporting, including adoption of a catch monitoring system to provide information on landings.

### ***Action to October 31***

A workshop was held in late April 2003 to discuss opportunities to improve in-season run size estimates, which included participation from First Nations, recreational and commercial harvesters, and DFO staff. Seven proposals were received by the Department. Following an evaluation, the following 4 proposals were implemented in 2003:

- An exploration for additional test fisheries that will improve in-season test fishing in the lower Fraser River. (Fraser River Panel approved)
- Small fleet purse seine fisheries in Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits designed to simulate a regular commercial fishery to provide an independent estimate of the summer run size. (Fraser River Panel approved)
- Small fleet gill net fishery in Johnstone Strait designed to provide an independent estimate of the Early Summer run size. (Fraser River Panel approved)
- First Nations food, social and ceremonial fishery by purse seine structured to augment the regular Fraser River Panel authorized purse seine test fisheries in Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits.

The Fraser River Panel also adopted an improved Environmental Management Adjustment Model that will forecast en route mortality rates within the Fraser River.

Given the positive response to the workshop approach, there will be a post-season review of the programs that were approved and to consider new programs for implementation in 2004. This cycle is expected to continue for a number of years.

The long term initiatives to optimize the use of resources directed at in-season estimates is the subject of ongoing discussions with PSC staff. The catch monitoring review is also on-going and will evolve over time.

#### **Recommendation 11: Facilitating Stock Assessment Fishery**

It is recommended that the trigger for a pilot sales fishery be clarified so that the occurrence of stock assessment fisheries (conducted on a limited small fleet basis) that are specifically for the determination of stock abundance and the identification of a Canadian total allowable catch (TAC), whether in approach areas or within the Fraser River, would not automatically trigger a pilot sales fishery. Such an assessment fishery would need to be approved by the Fraser Panel, as part of the Pacific Salmon Commission process.

#### ***Action to October 31***

Implementation complete

Discussions have taken place at the Musqueam and Sto: lo tables to ensure that pilot sales fishery participants (First Nations signatories/negotiators) clearly understand that small scale stock assessment fisheries do not automatically trigger a pilot sales fishery. Specific wording to clarify the trigger for a pilot sales fishery were included in draft agreements. Following the *Kapp* decision, DFO gave notice of early termination for existing pilot sale agreements for 2003 in accordance with those agreements, and discontinued negotiations on other pilot sale fisheries.

#### **Recommendation 12: Improved Communication with Recreational Fishery**

It is recommended that Pacific Region staff consult with the Sport Fishing Advisory Board prior to the commencement of the 2003 management season to identify and implement practical, affordable options that will improve the timeliness and effectiveness of in-season communication and consultation with the recreational fishing community.

***Action to October 31***

Implementation complete

Principles for improved communications have been defined and consultation has occurred with the Sport Fish Advisory Board. An in-season sockeye communications working group consisting of DFO managers and recreational fisheries advisors from South Coast, Lower Fraser River, and BC Interior Areas held weekly meetings during late July, August, and early September for the purpose of planning fisheries and communication strategies. A recorded phone line bulletin board system was created in the Lower Fraser Area to provide 24 hour a day information on recreational sockeye regulation updates in the Lower Fraser Area to the public. Close to 3,000 callers accessed this information over a space of two months. The bulletin board is currently in operation, providing information on on-going recreational salmon regulations. It is the intention of Lower Fraser Area staff to continue this phone system in 2004. The DFO Pacific Region website continued to provide up to date information on coast wide recreational fisheries regulations or all species in 2003, and is expected to continue for 2004.

**Recommendation 13: Innovative Fisheries**

It is recommended that the Department work with all sectors to adopt innovative means to conduct sustainable fisheries that are consistent with conservation objectives. Where appropriate, conservation organisations should be involved to assist in advising this work.

***Action to October 31***

Implementation complete

The Department worked with a number of sectors in 2003 to develop innovative means to conduct sustainable fisheries. The Area H troll project was an opportunity to experiment with individual vessel quotas. The experiment was concluded, however, implementation challenges continue; the Department will continue to work with the Area H fleet to address outstanding issues. Only one of the selective fishing experiments proceeded; further work was done on refining seine grids to be selective for a range of situations (release coho in sockeye fisheries, release sockeye and coho in pink fisheries).

In August, industry approached the Department requesting consideration of a proposal to harvest pink salmon in a controlled, selective manner that would permit release of sockeye. The approach was approved and 450,000 pink salmon were harvested. The Department will continue to work with the fleet to develop innovative fisheries to take advantage of a range of situations while meeting conservation objectives.

**Recommendation 14: In-Season Decision Making**

It is recommended that the Regional Director of Fisheries Management be assigned the authority and accountability for implementation of the IFMP including coordination between Area offices and dispute resolution, and for other circumstances that are not anticipated in the IFMP.

***Action to October 31***

Implementation complete

The Regional Director of Fisheries Management has been assigned the authority and accountability for implementation of the IFMP.



To: P. S. Chamut, ADM Fisheries  
Pour: Management

Date: February 8, 2005  
PRCTS # 381417

Subject: **STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 2002 FRASER RIVER**  
**SOCKEYE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**  
Object: **(FOR RDG'S SIGNATURE)**

From: D. D. Radford, A/Regional Director Fisheries Management



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For Comments



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