



**UFFCA**  
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**General Meeting**  
**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Nazko Administration Building – Quesnel BC**  
**Lunch & snacks provided**

**OBJECTIVE: Facilitate Community Engagement**  
**Update on Fisheries and Environment Issues in the Upper Fraser**

**Tier 2**

1. Call to Order - Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review of Action Items
4. Provincial Stuff (Steelhead etc.) – Dave Reedman / Lee Williston
5. DFO Restoration Program – Sean Bennet (phone in)  
10:15 Break
6. All things Chinook – Richard Bailey
7. 2018 Post-Season/PSC Update/WSP Update – Robin/Melanie  
12:00 Lunch
8. Fisheries habitat restoration initiative update – Ashley Raphael
9. Issues wrt to Species at Risk Process - Discussion
10. Agenda planning for the remainder of 2018/2019 – Discussion

**Tier 1**

1. 2018 Salmon issues - Pete
2. Wild Salmon Advisory Update – Thomas
3. FSMC – Darren



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In attendance:

Gord Sterritt	UFFCA
Pete Nicklin	UFFCA
Dave Feil	NSTC
Randy Billyboy	TNG
Andrew Meshue	NSTC
Dean Joseph	Yekooche FN
Ashley Raphael	Saik'uz FN
Rebecca Broadbent	Nadleh Whut'en
Richard Bailey	DFO
Pete Erickson	Nak'azdli Whut'en
Keith West	Takla FN
Christina Ciesielski	CSTC
Dave Reedman	FLNRORD
Lee Williston	FLNRORD
Steve Ratko	DFO
Paul Grinder	TNG
Guy Scharf	DFO
Thomas Alexis	T'lazt'en/UFFCA
Neil Heron	CSTC
Linda Stevens	DFO
Robin McCullough	DFO
Erwin Tom	WFN
Melanie Anthony	DFO
Brian Toth	CSTC/UFFCA
Bernice	Nazko FN



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Tier 2 Agenda:

1. Call to Order - Welcome and Introductions

Called to order at 9:24am.  
Prayer & Welcome – Frank Boucher

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved.

3. Review of Action Items

**Action** – Robin to find out if Steelhead are being DNA sampled in Area 12 and 13 Chum nets?

4. Provincial Stuff (Steelhead etc.) – Dave Reedman/Lee Williston

**Mid-Fraser River White Sturgeon Juvenile Assessment – Lee Williston**

COSEWIC (2012), 2 designated units in Lower and Upper Fraser; Mid-Fraser 3745 (>40cm), 749 mature fish (SARA 2007); Region 5 ~1400 (>40cm); MF at capacity (SARA 2007).

Q – Outline of the habitat for the stock grouping not just Fraser, sturgeon move into tributaries, reside there?

A – Yes, based on a 5-year survey by RL&L, most of it still holds true. Never caught a tagged sturgeon from Nechako, Williams Lake, visa versa. Most of these reside in the Fraser mainstem.

Q – The mid-Fraser boundary goes to just above Quesnel, then nothing until Prince George?

A – They didn't know what to do with that area, but we know sturgeon are in that stretch. That area hasn't been assigned to any stock group because there wasn't samples from that area. SARA 2007 – Upper Fraser population was listed as well as Nechako, due to lack of recruitment. Mid-Fraser they weren't listed for social economic considerations. COSEWIC 2012, some things have changed, but not much from SARA. In process of determining if DU's classified as endangered. Nechako population has inadequacy of recruitment, so will be interesting to see what SARA does about them.

Assessment History – RL&L Fraser River Reconnaissance (1995-2000); PIT tagging (2000-2008), no evidence of mixing between stocks; radio telemetry (2008-2017), identify important habitats, important habitats have been included in white sturgeon recovery plan, migratory behavior, inform recreational angling regulations; stocks are not isolated from one another.

Q – The radio telemetry tagged adults, PIT tagging on juveniles? Interested to know if evidence of the Lower Fraser adults coming into the Nechako and visa versa. They don't do long distances until they're adults?

A – Radio tags adults, PIT tagged mostly adults. There's been genetic work done on adults with no significant evidence of stock mixing. Adults stay in the Williams Lake area and have evidence of them moving as far north as the Cottonwood River. We've caught a few in Cottonwood that were tagged at Nechako. The stretch from



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Quesnel to Williams Lake, there's no real sturgeon habitat along that way. Middle Fraser Age Structure – Lots of juveniles then tapers off, that's what we want to see.

Q – When are they mature?

A – They're not mature until 11-20 for males, and females 20-30 years old. The downside is the late maturing, so you can't withstand harvest, but they can withstand periods of poor climate or long spawning. Their life history is very good from an evolutionary perspective.

Juvenile Assessment – Initiated juvenile assessment program in 2018 (exploratory); Concerns regarding potential effects of hatchery sturgeon released upstream (Nechako River); Risk to wild sturgeon in Fraser River originally thought to be low, isolated population, no mixing, mitigation – any hatchery sturgeon found in Fraser should be removed (Nechako breeding plan, 2005); Columbia and Kootenay programs – increased risk, documented significantly higher initial survival than expected, differential family survival, initiated removal program on Columbia; ~27,000 hatchery sturgeon released into Nechako over the last 4 years, additional 4700 currently in the hatchery facility (Nechako recovery targets is 1000 adults).

Q – There's only funding for the facility for 10 years, not 20, so we don't have the funding secured to keep releasing hatchery fish for the next 20 years. The juveniles we've caught aren't surviving.

A – Thought Kootenay juveniles weren't surviving either, but evidence that they're surviving quite well. We've put radio tags in small juveniles, and they didn't migrate, so assumed they died, but found that there's a clear tag effect. We started tagging 50cm juveniles and found a 93% survival rate.

Juvenile Assessment Cont' – If juvenile survival in Nechako is similar to other systems, already released enough fish to exceed 1000 adults recovery objective; Exceeding habitat's carrying capacity increases risk of significant numbers of hatchery out-migrating into the Fraser; Potential demographic and genetic implications for mid-Fraser sturgeon; 4 location sampled in 2018 – range from 130 to 350km downstream of Nechako River confluence; Hatchery sturgeon confirmed to be present at 3 of the locations (up to 280km downstream of Nechako confluence); Hatchery sturgeon currently downstream of known historic distribution of "Nechako" sturgeon.

Q – SARA listed species and emergency to recover the population, now you may have created a problem due to a overly successful recovery program? You have a hatchery at Nechako, were methods used similar to Kootenay and Columbia programs? You mentioned interbreeding, is that a known genetic risk from the Nechako hatchery or have they done something to mitigate that? The question I have following, what happens if you're exceeding sturgeon carrying capacity in the Fraser, is that a bad thing? Are you going to have a population that's reached and now will come down?

A – Highly unusual to have SARA listed fish with a problem of too many fish. It's considered an unnecessary risk. They're separate genetic stocks, all in the Nechako is fine, but if they come out and mix with fish that aren't genetically the same. What happens if we exceed carrying capacity? We think there's going to be a negative biological response, can't migrate to the ocean to find more resources or habitat. Right now, the primary risks are food supply and lack of diversity in such, they're heavily reliant on sockeye, we see they're behavior change when sockeye show up. If sockeye didn't show up, sturgeon wouldn't disappear, but they'd genetically change. Our main concern is food supply. When we originally did the breeding plan, if we found them in the mid-Fraser, we would just remove them. They're out as 3-4year-old, as those habitat requirements increase, there's going to



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be an increase in competition between hatchery and wild fish. We would like to avoid competition and reach the 1000 fish goal. Looks like we may have stocked too many fish, and need a plan on what to do with them.

Q – How far back does your data go? You started monitoring sturgeon and already at an impacted state than what it was in the past.

A – The population of Nechako fish 20-80 years, pre-recruitment year is really good. When we look at the fish that are 20-80 years old, that gives us an indication on what the population looks like in the past. When we look at the last 23 years of sampling, there's no evidence of mixing between those stocks.

Q – There's going to be another signal in there, there would be some contraction of some adults pre-Hell's Gate. Might have a lingering effect on recruitment, because there was a halt in resources when the dam was built before fish ways were built.

A – We don't see a significant gap in there that go up to 2.5m in length, in the age structure in mid-Fraser. There was genetic work done on those fish as well, and that suggested they weren't intermixing.

Q – How many were caught in 2018 and were they hatchery or wild?

A – There were 9 hatchery fish caught, Cottonwood area there were 2, and south in Williams Lake there were 6. All 30-45cm in size. Over those areas, we did a total of 6 nights of sampling to catch those fish. For size classes of fish, 30 wild fish and very few wild fish under 50cm, everything under 50cm were hatchery fish. When we catch that number of fish in limited sampling effort, there's substantially more amount of fish.

Q – Was there a difference in the health of hatchery and wild sturgeon?

A – Juvenile sturgeon are long and skinny, were healthy. One hatchery fish deformity of pectoral fin and barble.

Next Steps – Implement standardized juvenile assessment program for mid-Fraser sturgeon; Assess potential effects of hatchery sturgeon on mid-Fraser population; Evaluate potential mitigation options (limited); Inform future release decisions (recommendations developed via Nechako TWG).

Q – Is there a mechanism through the Province for some funding to flow to the First Nations?

A – There's SARA funding available, I'm not sure how that flows out. There is no Provincial money.

Q – With regards to assessment program, in what level will you engage with others at this table?

A – Collaboration important, it's why we're here. Challenge is funding, no clear pot of funding from Province.

A – Here today to pass on information, want possible collaboration with Upper Fraser FNs. The current TWG doesn't take into account there's no representation from mid-Fraser FNs. The groups impacted have an opportunity to weigh in, get more information from Jennifer Davis, FLNRORD. It hasn't been something that people from mid-Fraser haven't been asked for input before, but they should be involved.

### **Interior Steelhead Update – Lee Williston**

Population Status – 2018 estimated escapement = 77; TNG implemented voluntary closure of F & C fishery; Implemented joint Provincial/TNG river guarding program; Predicted 2019 escapement (early) = 115 (Chilcotin), 250 (Thompson).

Q – Is all this information from Albion? A – This is actual post season assessment.

COSEWIC Assessment – Emergency assessment of interior Fraser SH (Feb 2018); 2 designable units (Chilcotin, Thompson); Both classified as endangered; imminent risk of extinction. SARA Listing Consideration – Process initiated; Recovery potential assessment (in progress), DFO led science review: biology, distribution, threats,



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limiting factors, allowable harm, etc.; Manage scenarios (complete), outlines potential measures that may be taken if a species is, or is not listed; Cultural significance, cost/benefit, consultation (in progress).

Q – Part of that process includes cost/benefit analysis and needs to be very carefully reviewed. Don't know the process being used but I encourage people to engage. The listing or do not list decision and the financial around it may be difficult to quantify long-term gain to conserving something.

Q – SARA folks are requesting cultural significance letters from FNs.

Management Scenarios – Identifies management actions under list and do not list scenario; Do not list scenario: Proposed rolling 27 day window closure during steelhead migration; List scenario: 60 day window closure during steelhead migration; 27 day rolling window closure does not fully protect interior SH run, concern of 60 rolling closure may be insufficient (wait on results of RPA to fully inform); Note: A portion of the periods of time that would be closed under the window closures to protect Interior Steelhead are already closed (e.g. Coho protection).

Q – There's layers to rolling the window closure out under the list and do not list scenario, test fishery still happens under the do not list scenario. Will be making several comments on SARA and science process on Tuesday. Science incomplete, was completely rushed. Expertise for RPA was incomplete as well. All leads to my conclusion, from science process, this is flawed. Is this how we go about informing, it's not satisfactory. I'll putting all of that on record on Tuesday.

5. DFO Restoration Program – Sean Bennet (phone in)

Omit.

6. All things Chinook – Richard Bailey

Albion indicated a very poor escapement for Spring and Summer 1.3's, zone 1 on June 15, result will likely be <20k. Very low average size of fish caught at Qualark test fishery (~9lbs, excluding Jacks), sex ratio issues too. Estimates at preliminary stage; all indicator stock estimates are field estimates, and almost all of the aerial surveys have been completed but need considerable review before finalizing; drought and fire season have complicated some of the calculations, streams that were not surveyed results in "infills" being required before we can update the PST MU's and WSP status dashboards (later in the winter or early Spring for that).

Challenges with flights and fires; complete failure of Bonaparte fishway; Some glacial systems were much shallower and clearer than normal, so fish were more "countable", thus estimates might appear to be higher than they might otherwise be in those systems; Bigger challenges for Spring estimates than Summer estimates. Most estimates are based on observations from the air, they don't take into account skewed sex ratios and smaller than normal fish; Fishing took a very significant chunk of the return inside the Fraser; LFA FN >14,000 Chinook to date (Inc. EO), Rec fishery took another 3,000+ (mostly South Thompson fish), More harvested in Interior both by FN and Rec fisheries, => likely a high overall harvest rate on a low return.

Q – What component is Fraser bound fish?

A – CWTs should give us information. Issue in the Gulf. Hope to do ER analysis January through to March.



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1.2 Springs – Preliminary estimates available for Nicola (m/r), Coldwater, Spius and Louis; Bonaparte fishway failed, only 5 spawners estimated u/s (2 redds counted from a flight), BY >12,000.; Escapements were very poor, Nicola ~1700 including hatchery returns (BY ~7700, goal - ~7-8K), Spius and Coldwater also both <100, Louis <100; Brood 2,400 from estimate of 24,000.

Q – Who’s responsible for the Bonaparte fishway? A – Real Property is responsible for the fishway.

1.3 Springs – Available estimates are preliminary and may be subject to change; Lots of challenges for estimate development, low water and excellent clarity likely led to higher counts in some places; Overall, we believe that MU escapement was very poor (likely 8500-9000 total compared to parent by of >18,000, and ~8500 in 2017), well into red zone; Skewed sex ratio (more males) and smaller sizes; of 5.2’s respond next year as the 4.2 Springs did this year, they could be much worse still, maybe 4000 escapement.

1.3 Summers – All surveyed stocks decreased in spawner abundance compared to parent brood levels (except Nechako); Some improved slightly over last year, but the overall returns are very poor and well below brood; Total return likely <6000 from parent brood of ~16,000; Clearwater 517, Quesnel 508; Nechako made parent brood; Sustain rebuilding will require a period of improved FW and ocean conditions and much reduced fishing mortality (directed or incidental); Sockeye fishing in 2018 likely impacted final returns as did directed fishing in the Lower Fraser; Concern if these fish return next year like 4.2s did this year => only 2-3k.

1.3 Spring and Summers – Albion returns very low and predicted total terminal return <<30,000, obviously we don’t have finalized run reconstruction results yet, but the preliminary indications point to a low terminal run of the 5.2 springs and summers, likely under 25,000; Fishing in approaches and lower Fraser didn’t help; Fraser Chinook identified as critical habitat.

0.3 Summers – Surveys and m/r’s underway, mixed returns so far and early indications point to returns at about ½ - 2/3 brood, reduced size apparent too; Mid-Shuswap appears poor, Lower Shuswap might make 13,000 which is similar to last year but not even half of the parents escapements (~44,000), Adams appears to be about 60% brood (3300 from 5300); South Thompson, Little River surveys just starting but not looking encouraging; Aggregate total unlikely to exceed 40k (brood = 84k).

Harrison River – Surveys just underway; We are now in a period of concern for Harrison stock.

Portage Creek (single river CU) escapements far below critical levels, attempting to do strategic enhancement again this year.

Nahatlatch River (single river CU) is being considered for similar strategic enhancement next year, only 8 spawners this year. Trying to buy time so they don’t wink, may consider captive brood work.

COSEWIC deliberating on Fraser Chinook in November, likely several endangered or special concern. There’s a long way to go with SEP before we get to captive brood, and they didn’t even consider that until I mentioned it. If you take all fish into a hatchery, you have the genetics of 8 fish, do you raise them all to captive brood? No, what I would do, put some in stream, some as par, some as yearling smolts, all the way through to adults.

Q – Endako preliminary number was 58, which is huge, much better than last year.

Q – A lot of impacts have to do with resource management not listening to the science.



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Q – Numbers are very preliminary, still in shock. It's so beyond science or resource management. Really need to think collectively where to go, if we keep pigeon holing ourselves with some modifications, it's predictable what the outcomes will be.

Q – Have some of what Richard said, understanding that more to be done next year from the HQ standpoint.

A – In the approach rec fishery, say they can deal with a slot limit. Slot limit is nothing, because all bets are off with the size of returning fish.

Q – Need to talk more, so we're not fighting about a strategic enhancement program. Key for Chinook and Sockeye. DU's and strategic enhancement, DFO having the perspective that you can't do work on Nechako or Stellako because they're a component of a DU.

A – Need to have a session, including the geneticist for advice, but in a new world. Need strong science advice.

Q – FN's have been painting this picture for a long time now with all stocks, Brian is saying one of the ways we can bring the numbers up. There's no money for enumeration in the Stuart area, we know there's Chinook in there. DFO is saying Chinook are reminiscent of the hatchery that was there, but it's in our history, our language. We need to make DFO listen to the culture and knowledge in these areas to ensure we enhance stocks as soon as possible. Pretty soon we're not going to have anything to talk about.

#### 7. 2018 Post-Season/PSC Update/WSP Update – Robin/Melanie

##### **2018 Post Season**

Chinook – Fraser Spring and Summer 5.2: Started season in zone 1; Albion test fishery started April 22, 2018, final in-season update predicted a median return of 35,360 – confirming zone 1; Zone 1 management in river plus additional actions as described in Fishery Notice 0428 in relation to the coast wide management actions aimed at achieving 25-35% in exploitation and to address prey availability for SRKW.

Q – Is there going to be an evaluation on 25-35%? At forum and UFFCA's December meeting, let's have some answers.

A – Don't know at this point how it will be analyzed, might want to consider how to put that question forward.

Chinook Cont. – Most data have been compiled; Sensitivity analysis complete, further work required to recommend and evaluate approaches to deal with missing data; Initiate CSAS process, goal to have peer review process complete by the end of February.

Coho – 2018 Forecast, 36,538, brood return was 13,000; This would require a return that was 2.8 times greater than the brood, we have only seen that kind of return once since 1998; Average has been 1.4 fish than brood.

Run Size Summary – Early Stuart, 125,000; Early Summers, 1.8m; Summers, 4.1m; Lates, 4.7m; Total Sockeye, 10.75m.

Q – Where are the EO fisheries in the Upper Fraser? A – Fraser Lake.

Q – One hour of tier 1 isn't enough in workshops, must disseminate the information, review and get back to DFO. Should do a longer tier 1 time.

A – That information was relayed to DFO, determined another hour and a half for tier 1.



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White Sturgeon - SARA meeting Nov 5 in PG, Nov 29 in Kamloops. SARA team seeking Cultural Significance letters ([erin.gertzen@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:erin.gertzen@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) before April 2019. Formal consultations on the listing Spring 2019.

Indigenous Program Renewal - Sessions will have taken place across the province; Program discussion papers, along with what we heard documents capturing session feedback, can be found on institutions website.

Wild Salmon Policy - On October 11 the Minister announced the WSP 2018-2022 Implementation Plan; Minister stated a commitment to working with BC and Yukon governments to enhance collaboration going forward to project Pacific wild salmon.

#### 8. Wild Salmon Advisory Update – Thomas

The province has put together this advisory council, gave us a 6-month term. Term ends December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. They gave us a 2-month deadline, as of September we've finalized the document. First step to develop a renewed provincial approach to protecting enhancing wild salmon. Report provides key insights and guidance on protecting wild salmon and maximizing the value of this important resource for BC. Has 14 recommendations that support the health, habitat and management of wild salmon, as well as the sustainability of the wild salmon industry in BC. What this paper outlines, it provides an overview of BC's wild salmon, the economy and the relationship between wild salmon and indigenous people. Timeline – Oct – Nov, public consultation on agriculture, fish and food; Dec – Jan, report on public consultations into strategic framework; Feb – Mar, implementation.

Q – Given your many years of government processes, do you feel this will hit the ground and go?

A – I do believe it will go somewhere, I'm glad the province included us in their process.

Q – It's encouraging that the province is identifying with salmon. Chinook Strategic Planning Initiative, we couldn't even get the province at the table.

Q – When we talk about comprehensive recovery planning, need to engage 4 levels of government, if no buy-in across those levels, it will be a very difficult uphill battle.

A – This plan will do that, engage the province's interested in wild salmon, including municipal governments. The province engaging with higher DFO levels to collaborate and make sure the plan Federal plan are congruent.

Q – Need to engage DFO and the Ministry offices, bigger than both.

Q – Haven't heard of this, where the Ministry of Agriculture has gone in the past, hasn't really lined up with FLNRORD in the past.

A – They're including all the Ministries, that's the recommendation I made at the first meeting. Bigger buffer zone, all these things we've been saying for years is finally being noticed by the province.

#### 9. Fisheries Habitat Restoration Initiative Update – Ashley Raphael/Rebecca Broadbent

Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Program – Overtime changes to small streams in the Northwest and Omineca Regions have been observed by locals; installed 22 monitoring stations in 2 lakes, and over 22 streams. Take photos and notes of site, download and check all continuous data loggers – water leveler, barometric



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pressure, dissolved oxygen and conductivity. We had 3 rounds of field visits, first one in May when water was at it's highest. Spent the Spring fixing the monitoring stations because of the damage done by freshet.

Water Quality sampling at Stoney Creek and Nahounli Creek, concerns have been raised by community members. Main concern was deforestation, agricultural use downstream, industrial (bioenergy plant and mills).

Nithi Weir Operation Management Plan and Habitat Restoration – Weren't able to operate weir because we couldn't get an agreement in place with the province.

Q – No one managing it right now then? A – No, there hasn't been for a few years from what I understand.

Regional Beaver Management Plan – They may start in Yekooche this fall for beaver management in addition to Fraser Lake.

Q – Got baseline study before the fire, you have an opportunity to monitor what happens in rivers. As watersheds burn the amount of water taken up by trees changes dramatically, so you may see dramatic changes in flows.

Q – How long does it take to collect data? And how often do you collect?

A – An hour, every quarter, next trip in Spring. Tried winter but hard to get proper discharge to monitor.

Q – A challenge this year is funding for monitoring. Because of the freshet and run off, we were working on a management plan with the province for the Nithi Weir, due to liability issues they wouldn't sign the plan.

Q – Talk to Jeffery Lemieux, he may have some spare funding.

#### 10. Species at Risk Process/Issues – Pete (Discussion)

This involves a lot of different people. The province isn't here right now, but they said some pretty interesting stuff on the sturgeon and steelhead side of things. I'd like to put the landscape out there from what I'm seeing right now and invite comments from everyone.

In broad context, we're in a serious situation for a number of species. We have White Sturgeon, Steelhead, COSEWIC assessment for Chinook. COSEWIC also came out with an assessment for Sockeye, and a number of sockeye stocks that had the same classifications as Steelhead. It's a weird situation, we went through this process on the Steelhead front, on the other hand we have Sockeye stocks going through the same thing and nothing's been done, yet. Some stocks classified as endangered still had exploitation rates of 40-50%, and something needs to be said. I discussed this with Brian Toth, he reminded me of this conversation we had last spring on Sockeye. We need to remind DFO and FNs things that need to be done on the management front.

We were also talking about SARA, and Sockeye haven't been listed, yet. And perhaps Steelhead should be listed. Coho too is a stock that's been in trouble for a long time too. Going back to the SARA stuff, I know nothing about white sturgeon, what I heard this morning I found very interesting. The fact there's been a recovery initiative in the Nechako to take a population back from the brink, to possibly now harvest some because there's too many. I think that needs a little more discussion. There's white sturgeon consultations coming up, we heard that the province is asking the middle Fraser FNs to come and swamp the Nechako TWG.

Q – The province isn't coming, it's 2 people from region 5.

A - Clearly this needs to be explored further. I'm not involved in the white sturgeon. I encourage all of you to engage, this is being rolled up as an entire regional thing.



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Steelhead – It's an emergency list/do not list process, it's been really sped up. Consequently, not everything that should have been done by the time the Minister examines the information on listing or not listing Steelhead, that information will be completely vetted, and my fear is on the FNs consultative sections. I was part of an initial technical review team for Steelhead, we had 1.5 teleconference to examine the draft information being put into the working paper. I would say that we had a very cursory look at early work being done, when we saw the working paper, there was a ton of different information that we hadn't had the chance to provide guidance on or feedback on, that's a huge concern. In simple terms, the science part of what to do for recovery for steelhead is incomplete. I have no problem saying that as a professional biologist, I provided that verbally and in writing, and will continue to say that. The Minister will not have a solid science base on the decision to list/not list steelhead.

On the socio-economic, political side of consultation, it will be very important for some groups to engage in the process with steelhead. I think it's very important to watch this stuff, even if you don't have these species in your territory. It's a good indicator to what might happen to a species that's in your territory, and if you don't like the way things are being done in these processes, make those changes now.

Q – Good job setting the table. Need a workshop to explain these processes, timelines, statutory obligations, etc. so folks can understand where the legal bottlenecks are, and what happens when listed or not listed. It's confusing landscape. If we put on a workshop and lay the landscape, it might make it a little easier. From going through the steelhead stuff, it's confusing because it's an emergency. Working paper that's been peer reviewed, science advice report comes out in draft; contains information that hasn't been peer reviewed and has a 2-week deadline, now going through a process of cost/benefit analysis, cultural significance with a December 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. What does it mean? I don't know.

Q – Highly prescriptive timeline that no one is willing to slack off. Hear there's management scenarios proposed and consulted on list and do not list. The province doesn't agree with them. Very real potential for people's fisheries to be dramatically affected, if not fisheries, the species that's supposed to be recovered.

A – If a decision is made to list it then where they must go through full process and reevaluate it?

A – I think so, but I'm not 100% sure, because there's been changes to the act since.

Q – First time for white sturgeon, it was a regular process. Don't get to single species or stock management.

A – I did contact Erin Gertzen, white sturgeon contact, told her to contact Gord to come to a UFFCA meeting. I feel like our backs are against the wall with thinking deeply about this before it comes down to decision time.

A – Chunks of the SARA process in upcoming meetings, but almost every species, so might be good to have an understanding of SARA. There's 4 or 5 big things involved, conservation, rights, process, etc. As far as steelhead goes, I'm not satisfied on the science side of things. I think the process is flawed.

Q – There is an avenue to provide guidance back to COSEWIC if the information is inadequate, this is something that will be discussed on Nov 5. DFO can ask COSEWIC to reconsider a DU. DFO and some people in the province might like it if people requested not to do an emergency listing on steelhead. The mitigation recovery tools of recovery potential assessment were incomplete, the conservation biology was not dealt with properly.

Q – The RPA was done in support of a listing, with the inconsistencies did it point toward not to list steelhead?

A – Biggest problem is with the incomplete assessment, doesn't show best picture for steelhead recovery. If I'm Minister and look at RPA and SAR, and there's nothing to do here, so why would I go ahead, but they didn't cover a bunch of tools that could be included. To summarize RPA, if Thompson steelhead are in same shape for



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last 5-10 years, they're going down. Chilcotin steelhead can recover slowly under 10% or less harvest, recovery options are killing seals and cut down on fisheries.

Q – For steelhead or sturgeon, everyone gets wrapped up in the process. They're in a really bad situation, and we shouldn't have gotten to this in the first place. SARA offers venues for making a bad situation better. Out migrating sturgeon pose no harm in the Fraser, it may be their natural behavior coming from Nechako. The province looks at hatchery fish as pollution, want to get rid of the over populating of the sturgeon.

A – Discussing details is something participants can get something out of rather than getting presentations all day.

#### 11. Agenda Planning for the Remainder of 2018/2019 – Discussion

Q – With regards to fires, would be good to have a presentation, talk about all the run off with forestry and what they're going to do, like bigger buffers? As a forestry person, I regularly see when they're doing their practices, their buffers are 15 meters, for a block that's 50-60 hectares, what's that buffer going to do? We must consider the fishing sites, some people get burned out and have to go to other FNs for fish, or to fish. Most communities are pretty understanding. We are still limited to the amount of fish we can catch at our sites.

Q – Good subject, we have an opportunity with the water quality and quantity to get presentations and develop a plan to work collaboratively.

Q – We should develop a production planning framework.

Q – Spruce City, CSTC and Richard have talked about utilizing Spruce City to get targets for Stellako, etc. It would be a good thing to plan with the right people in the room.

Q – It's important that everyone's aware of what's going on. When thinking about agenda planning, maybe we should have a habitat restoration theme, or other themes for each meeting.

Q – Need for structure in technical meetings, seem to rush areas within a certain timeframe. DFO are swamped with RPA's, 9 different sockeye stocks, chinook, coho, steelhead, sturgeon, they're doing all that from the side of their tables. We need to focus on a streamline process.

Q – Suggest to invite Karen Leslie of the SARA process, to educate the group as to what the ramifications of what SARA is. I would argue that it's important that the group are able to convey that information, it's not small potatoes and has huge legal implications. Also, how communities can engage, it's not a simple landscape. Once everyone's in a position of a fundamental understanding, then we can discuss the settings.

Q – That meeting has happened; SARA people did come up and talk about sturgeon.

Q – I'm not talking about sturgeon, I'm talking about the whole process across the board.

Q – Technical aspects can be discussed afterward. Started setting a bit of an agenda for December. Species at risk might be an add on, because it should happen sooner than later. Is the group open to a theme structure?

Q – Last week one of our band members found a moose that had both male and female parts! So, it makes us think of whatever made that moose that way, will it affect our fish in the water?

Q – Themes is a great idea, it might be a good idea to bring the people who can answer the questions.

Looking like a habitat restoration theme for December. And in January have a more fisheries focused theme.

#### 12. Summary of Tier 2 Action Items

**Action** – Robin to find out if Steelhead are being DNA sampled in Area 12 and 13 Chum nets?