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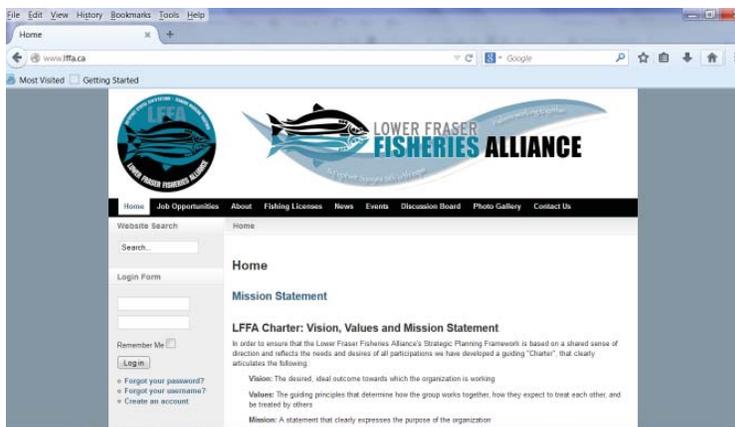
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## The Runner

In the old days there was a house on the top of Chilliwack Mountain facing down-river. The man who lived there had only one job; to watch for two silver bands on both sides of the river; millions of oolichan arriving. His job then was to run down the mountain to spread the word to other runners. People would come from near and far each year.

With this first edition of The Runner we are endeavoring to do this job once again, albeit electronically. Stay tuned...

Ken Malloway - LFFA Chair



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# LFFA Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets monthly to coordinate the actions items as directed by the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance delegates. During the first quarter the EC met for four monthly meetings and a Planning Session. Following is an overview of agenda items from these sessions. Minutes from all the Executive Committee meetings will be posted to [lffa.ca](http://lffa.ca).

## *April 9, 2015*

- Review and approval of March 5/15 EC minutes
- Recommendations for approval of the March 19 & 20/15 LFFA Delegate Forum minutes
- Working Group Update

### **CEA WG**

- PICFI IAC and CFE
- April LFFA Forum Agenda review and approval
- May EC Planning Session location and agenda items
- 2014\15 Reprofile Update
- LFFA Co Chair Selection
- Proposal submission process
- Lower Fraser Salmon Ceremony

### **AEWG**

- Marine Traditional Knowledge Oceans Program

### **TWG**

- FSC Access and Allocation Framework

## *May 12,13,14,15, 2015*

- Meeting Schedule and minutes
- Area 29
- 2015 Planning Considerations
- Consolidated Fisheries Plan
- 2015 Eulachon
- Sturgeon
- Fisheries Planning
- Chinook CHIAPET
- Sockeye
  - Interior and Lower Fraser Coho
  - Chum, Steelhead
  - Pink
- Review and approval of the April 9/15 EC minutes
- 2014/15 Financial Summary
- 2015/16 Budget and Annual Workplans and Terms of Reference
- Executive Committee Terms of Reference review and update
- LFFA Signatories Terms of Reference review and update
- LFFA/FVAFS MOU
- K] cpə'lk' stim' Salmon Hatchery Tour

## *June 11/15*

- Review and approval May 12,13,14, 15/15 EC minutes
- Recommendation for approval of May 21/15 LFFA Forum minutes
- FNFC Aquaculture Coordinating Committee
- Coast Salish Gathering Update
- Area 29 Update
  - **CEA WG**
    - June 26 LFFA Forum Agenda
    - June Community Fishers Forum
    - July Science and Tech Forums

### **CEA WG**

- July Orientation Session
- LFFA Newsletter

### **TWG**

- JTWG Teleconference Update
- CWT Update
- COESWIC
- iREC

## *July 16, 2015*

- Review and approval of June 11/15 EC minutes
- Recommendations for approval of the June 26/15 LFFA Delegate Forum minutes
- Area 29 Update

### **CEA WG**

- July Science and Tech Forums
- July Orientation Session
- LFFA Newsletter
- MTK/Biologist Posting

### **TWG**

- Salmon Update
- Pitt Lake Sockeye Fishery
- Pink Transfer
- Sturgeon Documentary

## *August 18, 2015*

- Review and approval of July 16/15 EC minutes

### **CEA WG**

- First Quarter Budget Update
- LFFA MTK/Biologist Update
- CWT Update
- Upcoming LFFA Meetings

### **TWG**

- Salmon Update
- Pitt Lake Sockeye Fishery
- Pink Transfer
- Sturgeon Documentary





EC Members at the May EC planning Session at Spirit Ridge, Ososyoos.

Terri Bonnet, Bobbi Peters, Kim Charlie, Sally Hope, Jesse James, Les Antone, Robert Gladstone, Ernie Victor. Missing from photo, Dalton Silver.

During this session, folks participated in a tacky tourist competition. Each day a prize was awarded to the best tropical tourist.



EC and Working Group members receive a tour from Howie Wright of the Okanagan Nation Alliance.



Eulachon ready for the smoker.



Eulachon in the net at  
Kwantlen.

## **Everything Eulachon**

### ***Post-season***

As early as February, people started to notice eulachon in the Lower Fraser River and as the season progressed, people were happy to see more and more eulachon. Even though DFO has no way to estimate possible returns of eulachon to the Fraser River until after the fish have spawned, DFO increased the Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) allocation to Lower Fraser First Nations from 800lbs to 2,469lbs. Although much of the fishing occurred at the mouth of the river and in the territories of Katzie and Kwantlen, other First Nation communities wanted to fish as well. Although the allocation was well below needs, people were happy to get some fish this year and to see that the population might be recovering.

### ***Gathering knowledge***

The Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance received some funds in 2015 to collect some Aboriginal Knowledge about Fraser River eulachon. Two reports were completed this spring summarizing traditional knowledge and the meagre information that science provides about this stock. We hope to have these reports on our website shortly, but if you are interested in seeing them sooner, please contact Katie Beach at [Katie.Beach@lffa.ca](mailto:Katie.Beach@lffa.ca).

## ***Listing as a Species at Risk***

Fraser River eulachon have already been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as endangered and requiring attention to help recovery. DFO, however, still has not listed them within its Species at Risk Act (SARA), but is considering listing eulachon as a Species at Risk and is preparing to engage First Nations in a formal listing process in the fall of 2015. Before that occurs, a socio-economic analysis (SEA) is occurring to assess three possible listing scenarios:

- 1) Do not list (aka business as usual)
- 2) Do not list but restrict shrimp trawl by-catch
- 3) List under SARA (which will involve restrictions of commercial fisheries which have eulachon by-catch, and potentially restrictions on FSC harvest and industrial impacting industries).

The LFFA's Non-Salmon Technical Working group is reviewing the SEA and comments are due to DFO by August 10th. For more information, talk to Rick Bailey (778-838-6062).

# Sturgeon 2015

Are the Sturgeon In hot water? Often we hear only doom and gloom when discussing Fraser fish population. But here is some good news. After a near extirpation (i.e., local extinction) of Fraser River White Sturgeon in the late 1800s, the population has begun to rebuild, partly due to efforts of the Lower Fraser First Nations who even gave up FSC harvest in the mid-1990s. In 2012, the Province estimated that the Lower Fraser White Sturgeon population counted at least 49,000 animals, well above the recovery target of 10,000. This shows that efforts of First Nations and other groups to conserve and rebuild the population is working. If the building trend continues, First Nations may consider reviving an FSC harvest. Discussions with the Province should begin as soon as possible and the LFFA is trying to initiate these discussions.

However some caution should be exercised. Record late spring/early summer temperatures haven't been good news for Fraser River fish. There has been a lot of discussion about the impact of the warmer waters on salmon and trout, and some groups are limiting fisheries, even catch-and-release fisheries, due to the potential to stress out the fish and cause premature mortality. But until recently, few people have talked about how these warm waters are stressing sturgeon. Part of the reason is that until recently, there hasn't been a lot of research into how environmental conditions can stress the largest freshwater fish in the Fraser River. But we should be concerned. The Tri-City Herald reported that over 85 dead sturgeon were recently found in the Columbia system, and biologists believe that the warm waters may be partly to blame. When the water is warm, sturgeon and other fish try to rest in cooler waters and conserve en-

ergy, but they may have trouble doing that if they are constantly being hauled into warmer waters on the lines of recreational fishers. The situation in the Columbia River isn't very different than our situation here in the Fraser River. Our temperatures are only a few degrees cooler and we also have a strong recreational fishery. In 2012, it is estimated that recreational fishers caught and released at least 30,609 White Sturgeon in the freshwater part of the Fraser (Mission and up-stream), and that doesn't count the catch in the lower reaches. When you consider that there are only 49,000 animals, it is likely that every single white sturgeon is caught at least once, and many of them multiple times. One non-guided angler alone caught 530 White Sturgeon in 2012! That is a lot of stress! So how is the Province managing the White Sturgeon recreational fishery, especially in light of the warm environmental conditions? The answer is bleak. There are no restrictions on recreational fishing of White Sturgeon (as long as they have a license) and there are no considerations being made to curb fishing effort under warm water conditions. Fraser River First Nations should be appalled at this lack of consideration and call the Province and DFO to voice their concerns.

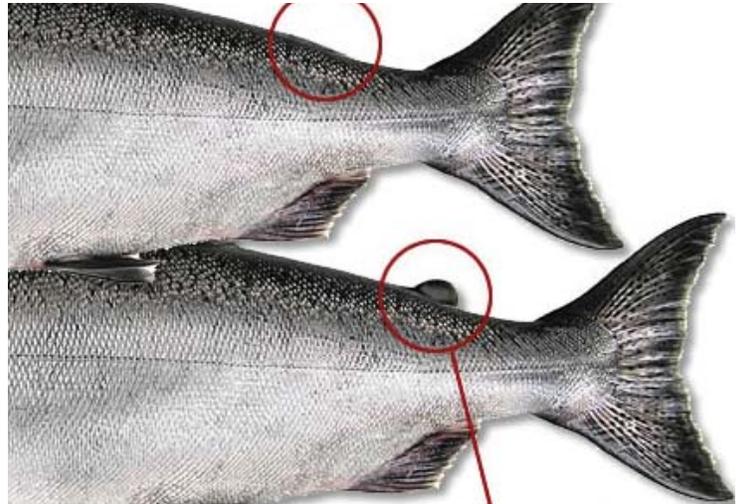


Sturgeon work at Matsqui

## WHAT IS ALL THE FUSS ABOUT CODED WIRE TAG (CWT)?

When you're fishing, you may have been approached by a fisheries monitor asking you if any of your chinook or coho are missing their adipose fin (the small fin on the top part of the fish near the back, between the dorsal fin and the tail fin). If so, the monitors may have asked for the head of the fish. Monitors know that the head is an important part of the fish for food, but they are collecting the information to help better understand the local salmon populations and thus manage fisheries better.

In the Fraser River and its tributaries, hatchery raised chinook and coho are "marked" with a tiny wire injected into the snout and a clipping of the adipose fin. The wire, called a Coded Wire Tag (or CWT) is only about 1mm long but has a code that can identify where the



fish was released and when. Because the CWT is so hard to find, the adipose fin is removed in order to signal to monitors that the fish is of hatchery origin and may have a tag, therefore saving the monitors from having to analyse each and every head.

The use of CWTs has been ongoing in the North Pacific Ocean since the 1960s and is used primarily as a way to evaluate the survival of hatchery raised salmon. Each year, approximately 40 million CWTs are put into Pacific salmon. Each tag contains a number that can be traced back to the spool of wire of origin and is magnetized prior to injection into the snout of the salmonid.

Since the tags are injected into the juvenile fish, those fish grow up with them in their snouts. They undergo many physiological changes (i.e., changes in their body size and shape) while they migrate to salt water, up to the Alaskan waters, then back to the Fraser River. If they are captured at any point along the migration (for instance in commercial fisheries in the ocean, or by recreational fishers in the Strait of Georgia), the heads may be turned in to designated monitors or drop off sites, who will send them to a lab for analysis.

### **But I want to keep my fish heads!**

The CWT recovery program is important because it can help managers better understand survival and run timing of populations, stream origin and age of returning fish, and the overall health of salmon stocks. But it is voluntary. If you notice a clipped fish but want to keep the head, please still tell the monitor that the fish is clipped but explain that you want to keep the head. Knowing that the fish is of hatchery origin is also very important.

## WELCOME NEW

# LOWER FRASER FISHERIES ALLIANCE

## STAFF!

The LFFA was successful in securing 2015/16 Marine Traditional Knowledge (MTK) funds through the Department (AAROM). We have conducted a rigorous interview and hiring process and are pleased to welcome Dionne Bushna (MTK Coordinator) and Robby Smoker-Peters (MTK Interviewer) to the LFFA Team.

I am also pleased to announce that Aidan Neill (LFFA Biologist) will be joining our technical team (Mike S and Katie B) while Katie is on maternity leave which will likely begin at the end of October, beginning of November or whenever her child feels it's necessary to enter this world. This too is a term position until March 31, 2016 but Katie has vowed to return early (child and Kuna/dog in tow) to find some additional funding resources to increase our Biologist personnel. Aidan is a member of Tzeachten First Nation and is looking forward to engaging and working for the Lower Fraser communities.

Our newest team members will start at some point this month and we look forward to introducing each of them !to you formally when the time comes.

Welcome to LFFA Aidan, Robbi and Dionne!

## LFFA Meeting Schedule September -December

### September

10 - LFFA EC

TBD - Community Fishers Forum

### October

1- LFFA Staff

2 - CEA WG

8 - LFFA EC

15 - Community Fishers Forum

28 - 29 - Science/Tech Forum

### November

5 - LFFA Staff

6 - CEA WG

12 - LFFA EC

19 - Community Fishers Forum

26 - LFFA Delegate Forum

### December

1 - LFFA Staff

3 - LFFA EC

4 - CEA WG

9 - LFFA Delegate Forum

10 - LFFA Delegate Forum

11 - LFFA Delegate Forum



# LFFA Tier 3

The 2014-2015 fiscal year was very busy for the LFFA EC in Tier 1 and Tier 2 activities. Tier 3 activities proved to be very active also. LFFA has defined in their work plan to engage in Tier 3 activities that will advance the organization's pursuit of their Vision and Mission to foster a robust First Nations' fishery in the Lower Fraser River Region. An excerpt from the LFFA work plan is to engage in "Relationship development and improved understanding between Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance members continues as ideas and perspectives of the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance and the recreational fisheries are exchanged. Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance will play an active role in the Fraser River Peacemakers (formally the Joint Sport Fishers and First Nation Working Group in the Fraser Valley)".

The LFFA EC Tier 3 working group of Ernie Victor, Ernie Crey, Mike Baird, and Don Simpson participated with positive contributions to the Fraser River Peacemakers with regular monthly meetings, and a very successful Summer of 2014 "Harmony on the Fraser River" events at Island 22 and the opening of the Cheam Fishing Village. The collaboration with the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) staff and in-kind contribution of the Island 22 Park for the entire event proved that the Tier 3 process works well.



"The Fraser River Fishery Peacemakers (the Peacemakers) has a primary interest in reducing conflict among river fisheries of the Fraser Watershed to achieve a more orderly and well managed fishery over-all. Early efforts and successes of this work have focused on fisheries for salmon and sturgeon in the gravel reaches of the Fraser River below Sawmill Creek and above Mission. Local participation has been drawn from this area for this purpose. The focus of this area-based group (Chapter) of Peacemakers is on the lower Fraser River (Vancouver to Yale – this organization approach parallels the Lower Fraser River Alliance) structure. The Fraser River Peacemakers is - A Lower Fraser River Pilot in Participant-driven Collaboration, Conflict Resolution, and Getting Along in the Salmon Fishery".

While success has been realized as an Ad Hoc group, the Fraser River Peacemakers are in the process of becoming a Society and formalizing their structure and governance. Recent approval of partial funding from the BC Fresh Water Fisheries Society was welcomed by the Peacemakers group. A Peacemakers Terms of Reference was drafted and revised as a living document that defines the nature of the Peacemakers organization and the direct involvement of LFFA representatives and staff.

Ernie Crey and Don Simpson (by invitation) attended various events and meetings in the 2014-2015 year with organizations such as the Fraser Basin Council, Sports Fishing Advisory Board, BC Wildlife Federation, and the BC Drift Fishers Federation on Lower Mainland as well as Vancouver Island.

While there has been significant progress in the development of relationships with many organizations, much more needs to be accomplished before mutual understanding of all aspects of the needs, cultures, and aspirations of users of the Fraser River are fully understood. It remains a priority of LFFA to continue to foster relationship building and common understanding of fisheries and habitat related issues for all involved. The goal is for all to benefit from a healthy and safe Fraser River experience.