

**RIVERS SMITH SALMON ECOSYSTEMS PLANNING SOCIETY**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**June 20, 2005**  
**Conference Call**  
**9:00 a.m. to 9:50**

Present:

Karl Wilson, David Stevenson, Jen Fagan, Rick Routledge, Gary Taccogna, Bob Bocking

**1. RFP for Sensitive Habitat Survey for Owikeno Lake Basin**

The two proposals for the Sensitive Habitat Survey and mapping project were discussed. The bidders are Pacificus Consulting and Komori Wong Environmental.

The KWE proposal is very detailed. It would provide Arc View GIS files and produce hard copy maps. It includes Don Chamberlain who has a strong background in digital mapping. The KWE proposal is about \$1,000 less than the Pacificus one. The Pacificus proposal did not get any support. In general, it was considered to be not as well thought out as the KWE one. It did not identify clearly the technical mapping experience necessary for the development of the digital maps. It was not as detailed as the KWE one. The consensus was that we should go with the KWE proposal.

**Action: David will notify both consultants today as to the outcome of our conference call.**

Gary mentioned that a lot of data was available from the work done on the DFO Recovery Plan for Rivers and Smith Inlets. It is located at Shannon Anderson's DFO office in Campbell River.

**2. Machmell River Channel**

Gary gave an update on a recent trip that he and Karl took with DFO engineers to the Machmell Channel. The water level was low in the channel. They were looking for a possible ground water source to augment the flow in the channel. They discussed the possibility of the DFO donating some in kind technical support and the WFP donating time for a machine to remediate the channel. When the river levels are high there is a lot of sedimentation deposited in the channel. There were a lot of juvenile Coho and some trout found in pools in the channel. The water temperature was 8 degrees at the top of the channel and rose to 16 degrees down the channel. There is a need to tap into ground water to augment the channel flow and lower the temperature. As well there is a need to control flows to minimize sediment loads into the channel. Karl will write a letter to WFP outlining the options for this remedial work. The problem of what to do with the gravel that will be removed needs to be resolved. A test site will need to be dug to determine the amount of water available.

**Action: Karl will write a letter to WFP outlining the options for remediation of the Machmell channel.**

### **3. Juvenile Survey in Owikeno Basin**

Kim Hyatt has been preoccupied with family concerns and he has not been able to put a proposal together. He asked Paul Rankin to coordinate the assembly of a short proposal to execute a winter (February) trawl and acoustic survey of sockeye in Oweekeno Lake.

**Action: David will follow up with Paul Rankin.**

### **4. Fall Workshops**

There was some discussion about participating in the Climate & Fisheries conference at U Vic in October. Rick Routledge has agreed to do a presentation on his work on Early Marine Survival of sockeye in River Inlet. In addition, Sandie MacLaurin may give a presentation on the Owikeno Sockeye Enhancement program. We also discussed the need for a workshop on abundance targets. Such a workshop should include our TAC and as well DFO Fishery Managers, and Stock Assessment staff. It was suggested by Jen that since the DFO do a year end review early in December in Vancouver that that may be a good time to hold our workshop.

**Action: David will arrange the workshop dates and location with Jen.**

### **5. The Northern fund**

Bob reminded us of the deadline (August 25) for submissions to the Northern Fund. A brief discussion followed on what projects would be suitable. Since River Inlet Chinook are taken in Alaska then these stocks may be of interest to the Northern fund. Bob and Jen agreed to follow up with discussions with Relevant DFO staff on appropriate projects for submission. Gary suggested that we would need a meeting of the TAC to work out a suitable proposal. Karl pointed out that the Machmell Woody Debris project was funded as a Chinook research proposal from the Northern Fund. Bob explained that some work he did with the Nisga'a involved evaluating earlier habitat rehabilitation work funded under the FRBC. If we did a similar review in Rivers and Smith it would involve evaluating the Machmell Channel. Gary said there was a potential project working on habitat for Long Lake Chinook as pointed out by Doug's earlier report. Another possibility is to do DNA analysis of different t stocks. Jen reported that the DFO North Coast office was putting in a proposal to analyze DNA for Coho. It was agreed to have a meeting in Port Hardy in the third week of July to discuss the possible projects for the Northern Fund application.

**Action: Jen & Bob agreed to follow up with discussions with Dave Peacock and Steve Bachen.**

The conference call was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.