

RIVERS SMITH SALMON ECOSYSTEMS PLANNING SOCIETY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 25, 2005
Conference Call
9:00 a.m. to 10:55

Present:

Karl Wilson, David Stevenson, Jen Fagan, Rick Routledge, Gary Taccogna, Bob Bocking, Bruce Burrows, Steve Cox-Rogers,

1. Northern Boundary Fund Applications:

As a result of a discussion between Bob Bocking and Dave Peacock the TAC considered the following projects:

Sockeye:

1. Evaluation and development of juvenile sockeye abundance estimation methods in Owikeno Lake
2. Evaluation and development of in-season abundance estimator using echo sounding in Rivers Inlet
3. Continuation of evaluation of supplementation program
4. Radio telemetry study of Rivers Inlet Sockeye to determine relative proportions escaping to spawning areas

2. Chinook:

1. Radio telemetry study of Chinook salmon in Rivers inlet
2. Evaluation of spawning habitat and condition in Long lake

Bob provided the background to his talks with Dave Peacock. The Pacific Salmon Treaty has \$3 to \$3.5 million available for projects this year. After a discussion of each project it was decided to submit a proposal for each of the sockeye projects. Concept papers are needed for each one. Steve agreed to provide a concept paper for # 1 and # 2. Sandie agreed to do a concept paper for # 3 and Bob will work with Bruce to produce a concept paper for # 4. These concept proposals will be sent to David by August 15. They will be submitted as linked projects to aid in measuring the recovery effort.

The Chinook projects were discussed. There is an early run of Chinook into Owikeno Lake that tends to spawn in the tributaries at the top of the lake. These stocks are depressed but very little is known about them. The late run is the one that is heavily fished by the sports fishers. The radio telemetry proposal was discussed. It was decided that we should include Ivan Winther in the discussion via a conference call. Steve said he would ask Ivan to contact David and he would set up conference call with Ivan, Bob, Bruce and Sandie. Dave Peacock will be visiting Oweekeno Village in August so that might be a good time to meet and discuss the Chinook projects. Bruce will advise us when Dave Peacock's visit is happening.

There was a discussion about Coho. Discussion centered around the Docee Fence and the problem of determining specie composition at the fence. Jen said that there was a plan to install a box but that it was a very expensive project costing in the range of \$400K to \$500K. It might even contain a video device for viewing the fish in the box. The Northern Fund will not fund capital projects. Jen will pursue this plan with Doug and see if there is any treaty related funding available for it..

Productive Capacity Review

There was some discussion on the need to review the Productive Capacity paper produced last year by Doug McCorquodale. David will circulate it, collect the review comments and send them to Doug. We will have a meeting on September 12th in Port Hardy to review the Productive Capacity paper. DFO Stock Assessment is planning to do a PSARC paper on capacity for Long Lake.

October 31 conference at UVic

The proposed workshop to determine abundance targets was discussed. It had been suggested that we take advantage of the climate change conference that was being planned for UVic at the end of October to hold our abundance targets workshop. Rick suggested that this might not be an appropriate venue for our topic of abundance targets. If the review of the Productive Capacity Report takes longer than September we may have to hold our abundance targets workshop later and at a separate venue.

The conference call was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.