Rivers Smith Salmon Ecosystems Planning Society
September 6, 2006 Meeting

Present:	Doug McCorquodale	Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation
	Misty MacDuffee	Raincoast Conservation
	Peter Johnson	Wuikinuxv Nation
	Sandie MacLaurin	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
	Alex Chartrand	Wuikinuxv Nation
	Colleen Hemphill	Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation
	Bruce Burrows	Wuikinuxv Nation
	Stan McLennan	Mount Waddington Regional District
	Karl Wilson	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
	Paddy Walkus	Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation
	Rick (via phone)	Simon Fraser University
	Dave Peacock (via phone)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
	Andrew Johnson	Wuikinuxv Nation

Meeting Commenced 10:05

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the escapement numbers and conservation concerns in Rivers and Smith Inlets, provide updates on the 2006 projects, and discuss the proposed projects for 2007.

Escapement Numbers

It was agreed that the current formulas for predicting the number of fish are unreliable. Occasionally, the predictions have ended up being two to three times higher than the actual outcome. Overall, the end product is that there are still not enough fish.

Early Marine Program

It was mentioned that in order for the Early Marine Program to continue, more finances are required. The main problem regarding this program is weather conditions, which cause obstacles for entering Wyclees Lagoon. It was proposed that sending someone who is more familiar to the area would be beneficial to solving this dilemma. Overall, it was a productive year for the Inlet.

Blooms were recorded in March and May, and overall, the conditions were good. Rick Routledge is planning one more trip in the fall.

ACTION: Rick will forward full details of this presentation.

Rivers Echo Sounding Project

A full-scale project next year is intended for the Rivers Echo Sounding Project. This will facilitate the most accurate count possible. Two types of gear are currently being used: SIMRAD, used in the inlet, and DIDSON, used in the river.

Docee Fence

A camera system is presently installed at the camp in order to identify species for sub-sampling. Currently, the water levels are too low and the fish are not entering the recording area, so sub-sampling is not possible. When water levels were higher, the system was a large improvement over past sub-sampling methods (i.e. dipping). Overall numbers of sockeye, coho and chinook have been disappointing, much lower than was expected pre-season. From a partnership standpoint, this has been, by far, the best yaer for the operation of the fence.

Proposed 2007 Projects

Wannock Hydro Acoustic Enumeration

The silt in the Wannock River is increasing. Gravel needs to be moved in order to remove the silt. Elders have reported habitat damage to the beach, as it was covered in mud. Wildlife is being affected and will continue to be until the amount of silt has decreased. A new method, such as a removable fence, was suggested for counting fish in the future.

The Rivers Echo Sounding Project

1) Sounding in Inlet
2) Sounding in River

These proposals were submitted separately because if combined they would be too large and expensive. If the proposals are granted, costs will have to be decided. This includes who will own the equipment and how long the equipment will last before the technology is outdated.

Smith Chinook Mark Recapture Program

The proposal was submitted, not only to get more accurate escapement numbers of chinook, but also to determine where the fish are spawning. The biggest problem with this program will be the initial capture of the fish. The river does not lend itself well to netting and angling may be difficult except under low water conditions. The upside is that there are low populations and deadpitching is possible within the river. If we can solve the problem of initial capture, the program can be a success.

Overview of Wild Salmon Policy

Refer to Power Point presentation by Dave Peacock.

ACTION: Dave will send an edited list of systems to hand out in PDF format.