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West Side Working Group



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Public Meeting – Draft Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP)

June 22, 2010

Sittichinli Recreation Center, Aklavik, NT

Attendance:

IFMP Writing Team: Amy Thompson (GRRB), Kris Maier (GRRB), Kevin Bill (DFO), James Malone (FJMC), Dan Frandsen (PCA-alt member)

IFMP Steering Committee: Amy Thompson (GRRB), Larry Dow (DFO), Vic Gillman (FJMC), Dan Frandsen (PCA)

IFMP Support: Kayla Hansen-Craik (FJMC), Max Kotokak (FJMC), Billy Archie (WSWG), Burton Ayles (FJMC)

Public:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Larry McGee	Public	John Carmichael	ERRC-Elder
Collin Gordon	Public	Richard Ross	ERRC-Elder
Richard Gordon	WSWG	Rhoda Kayotuk	Public
Charlie Stewart	Elder	Joe Arey	AHTC
Susie Thompson	Public	Wilson Malegana	AHTC
Shirley Kaye	Public	Sandy Elanik	AHTC
Stephanie Firth	Youth	Donald Avigana	AHTC
James Brown	ERRC	Fanny Greenland	ERRC-President
Judy Selamio	AHTC	Neil Heron	Public

Minutes: Amy Thompson

1. Call to Order

Billy Archie (Chair of the West Side Working Group) called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

The opening prayer was given by Max Kotokak.

Introductions were made from those around the table and in the room.

Billy Archie provided opening remarks.

2. Introduction presentation – Amy Thompson (GRRB)

Amy provided a presentation that included background on Dolly Varden fisheries management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) and Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), past research and monitoring, Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), Species at Risk Act (SARA), and how TK, an IFMP, and community input can help us deal with these processes.



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Discussion

Q1: How can community members without access to a computer provide comments on the COSEWIC Assessment Reports?

A1: Members of the community can provide their comments to their local RRC or HTC or to any member of the IFMP Writing Team.

3. IFMP presentation – IFMP Writing Team (alternating)

Kris Maier (GRRB), James Malone (FJMC), and Kevin Bill (DFO) as part of the IFMP Writing Team provided a presentation that summarized all the supporting sections included in the IFMP. This presentation focussed on identifying what an IFMP is used for, why there is a need for a Dolly Varden IFMP and explanations of the many challenges which face Dolly Varden management as well as an overview of how Dolly Varden management has been adapted over time to adjust to the changing needs of both the fish populations and the people who enjoy the fishery.

Discussion

Q2: How do we deal with the char fishery in Alaska and their associated harvest?

A2: We know there are fish caught in Alaska but there is not a lot of reported harvest. However, we have a good working relationship with the Inupiat for beluga and polar bear management. We can use these existing working relationships to engage Alaska on char management.

4. Section 7 presentation – Kevin Bill (DFO)

Kevin provided a presentation on section 7 of the management plan which is in essence the “meat” of the plan. He presented the suggested color-coded management zones. It was noted that the suggested color-coding is different then what was included in the original plan circulated in May. We recommend the following changes because they allow us to prioritize stocks that are data deficient. The following color zones are suggested.

Undetermined	Healthy
	Cautious
	Critical

The following is a table that summarizes the recommended stock status zones and their associated management objectives.



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Stock Status Zone	Stocks	Rationale	Management Objectives
Undetermined (Grey)	Firth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize stock assessments to determine population status and trend Less than 5% removal rate Promote rebuilding of the stock through education and specific management measures Voluntary harvest management Only general legislative requirements and sport fishing limits apply
	Babbage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current data 	
	Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current data 	
	Malcolm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current data 	
	Vittrekwa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small population; more data required 	
Healthy (Green)	None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% removal rate Voluntary harvest management Only general legislative requirements and sport fishing limits apply
Cautious (Yellow)	Rat River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low fish population numbers during last stock assessment Population may be increasing currently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 5% removal rate Promote rebuilding of the stock through education and specific management measures Voluntary harvest management Only general legislative requirements and sport fishing limits apply Prioritize stock assessments to determine population status and trend
Critical (Red)	Big Fish River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic declines in fish stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No targeted harvest Harvest closure in regulations Promote rebuilding of the stock through education and specific management measures Prioritize stock assessments to determine population status and trends

Discussion

Comment 1: There is a difference between local management and government management. If we use this system how will the Minister get the information required for him to make a decision when we don't have that information?

Response 1: We are being honest in this ranking because we do not have enough data. The Minister may also



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determine that the stocks are data deficient and that could in turn open doors for more funding to collect the information required.

Comment 2: You should add something to pressure government to provide resources for management measures.

Response 2: Comment noted. This is also addressed under the strategies section which we will discuss shortly.

Q3: Will the entire fishery (migratory route) be closed during spawning if the Rat or Vittrekwa rivers are closed?

A3: This is one thing that would be considered as a management strategy. We did this with the voluntary closure of the Rat River already with high community compliance for 3 years. We follow an adaptive co-management process which allows us the opportunity to re-visit the management regime annually and monitor how successful it was. This will be discussed annually at the working group level.

Comment 3: We should agree to numbers now. There is a lot of debate currently for the porcupine caribou numbers. To avoid debate like that we should all discuss and agree on numbers now for when we go to the red zone for char.

Response 3: It is more difficult with fisheries to identify a hard number like wildlife populations. DFO has some models using indicators and reference points that we are incorporating into this plan. The idea is to not get into the red zone. We can manage at the yellow zone very well as we have seen in the Rat River (voluntary closures and voluntary allocations). We would only go into the red zone if nothing else worked and if serious threats were identified (habitat destruction, low compliance to voluntary recommendations).

Comment 4: One of our objectives should be to keep management at the local level through traditional practices. The Big Fish river is legislatively closed right now. If we were really managing the fishery, it should still be closed but as a voluntary closure not through federal regulations. We have proven we can manage at the community level very well. This should be part of the IFMP and if everyone agrees and signs off on the plan then we have a tool to bring to the Minister to lift the closure.

Comment 5: If COSEWIC recommends a recovery plan is required, how would this plan look? What are some of the additions that would need to be added into the current IFMP? We should look into these questions and see if this plan could be considered as a recovery plan.

Response 5: This could be considered as a recovery plan but it all depends on the classification. If endangered, government is required to do certain things (i.e. protect critical habitat) but it doesn't say how. We have concepts here that could definitely be applied.

Comment 5.1: The argument to government should be made stronger. We have a community accepted process here. We are managing at the community level. Don't be afraid of the COSEWIC process or assessment.

Response 5.1: We are almost there. FJMC community conservation plan has been around for 25 years. We have good models that show we have experience managing our own resources. There is need to argue this point.



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Comment 6: we are putting a management plan together as aboriginal people to manage our own resources. We can make our own decisions. This is a good opportunity with the IFMP instead of depending on others. After 25 years of claims we can manage our own resources. We should do this for all the management species.

Comment 7: We have shown we can manage on our own with the Rat River and the Inuvialuit conservation plans.

Comment 8: How many other IFMPs exist in the Northwest Territories?

Response 8.1: None. There was the coney (inconnu) IFMP but that wasn't really implemented and is small scale. The Dolly Varden IFMP is based on the national IFMP template but adjusted for land claims and differing needs. We have fishing plans for specific stocks or regions (i.e. Rat River Fishing Plan, Paulatuk Fishing Plan) but emphasis is usually on harvest allocation and research.

Response 8.2: This Dolly Varden IFMP is unique. It involves many different co-management partners. In this respect it is far more involved than many other IFMPs. This is the only IFMP to involve two federal agencies, two settled land claim areas, two management boards and many resource councils, dealing primarily with a subsistence fishery. Most IFMPs are run by DFO and are focused on commercial and sports fisheries. It also shows that overlapping claims can work together.

Thanks were given to the hard work provided by the Working Groups and IFMP Writing Team for putting this IFMP together {Applause from room}.

5. Next steps – Amy Thompson (GRRB)

Amy explained that we have discussion papers that summarize the plan and are written in more plain language than the full IFMP that was distributed back in May. All are welcomed to take copies. Amy also explained there is an action table that summarizes the objectives table and highlights each group's responsibilities. Copies were not made for this meeting but will be sent to the RRC and HTC tomorrow. If you are interested please pick up a copy from them. We are working under a tight deadline if we want to have this plan approved before COSEWIC makes its recommendations to the Minister on the status of northern form Dolly Varden. We request comments back to us within 30 days or after the next RRC/ HTC monthly meeting.

6. Door prize draws – Amy Thompson (GRRB)

First prize: 20L jerry can with a \$60 gift certificate from NorthMart for gas (value: ~\$80)

Winner: Wilson Malgana

Second prize: Game knife set (value: ~\$40)

Winner: Joe Arey

Third prize: Bug pants (value: ~\$20)

Winner: Donald Avigana



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7. Closing remarks – Billy Archie (WSWG)

Closing remarks were given by Billy Archie. Thanks were given to those that showed up and to the groups that have worked on the IFMP.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

DRAFT