

Squamish to Lillooet SFAC and Others

September 22, 2005

Teleconference

Draft meeting notes

Attendees: (If I missed any names – let me know)

Squamish to Lillooet Sport Fishing Advisory Committee

John Wright – member Drift Fishers Assn.; Chair Squamish SFAC,

Randy Lewis – Squamish First Nation

Carl Halverson – North Shore Outdoor School

Dana Protti -

Lower Fraser SFAC

Laurie Milligan – former chair

DFO

Linda Stevens – resource management

Corino Salomi – Habitat Biologist, Lead rep for DFO

Province

Steve Ruschetta – Province of BC

Chris Doyle – Conservation Officer

Greg Wilson – Biologist, MoE

Others

ZoAnne – Streamkeeper's

Lindsay Logan

Mark Smith – River's Edge Tackle Shop

Provincial Update from Greg Wilson

Short Term – Responsibility was the Province

Medium Term – Responsibility will be CN

Long Term – Responsibility will be CN

Steering Committee

1A steering committee has been struck. The committee includes Reps from DFO, MoE, Squamish First Nation, District of Squamish, CN and Triton Consultants.

2The first meeting was on August 12.

3First working meeting – Aug. 17 – looked at flow options, held flow constant during recovery period.

4Aug. 23

5Sept. 13 – presentation by consultant on results to date.

Damage to all species and age classes – including:

1adult pinks, chinook, rainbows, cutties and dollies.

2Coho and steelhead fry

3Steelhead, rainbow, char parr

4Lampreys, cottids and sticklebacks.

Have done some electroshocking in open and closed survey sites to look for survivors also some S-trapping and snorkel surveys.

1Snorkel survey was done last week to get a handle on survivors.

2Extensive fish kill, less than 10% survived.

3Steelhead and residents were the worst affected.

4Some refugia were found in back channels and some in the main channel.

5Survivors are re-distributing and spreading out.

6Steelhead have been emerging from the gravel.

7Growth of the remaining fish looks good – enough invertebrates for food, some were more affected than others, for example – mayflies.

8Chronic long term impacts due to lost year classes.

9Don't have a lot of science on cottids, lampreys and sculpins.

10Did daytime and nighttime swims from the Suspension bridge to the Canyon about 4 km. Daytime swim found 3 steelhead parr, 57 chinook, 375 pinks. Nighttime swim found 85 steelhead **juveniles**, 32 chinook **adults**, 36 coho **juveniles**.

Have completed an outline of an assessment, the draft will be available in Oct. or November.

Flow options:

1During spill and clean-up the river flow was held constant.

2Didn't want to impact fry with changes to the flow.

3Squamish First Nation has sent a letter to water comptroller saying that they do not agree the new flow agreement.

John Wright pointed out that a lot of studies were done on Dollies back in the 60's– he was directly involved and that Dollies move in and out of the estuary they follow the salmon up.

Randall Lewis – Report from Squamish First Nation

1Have been negotiating with CN, will be implementing a parallel process with Golder and Assoc, Aquatech and KWL.

2Watershed approach.

3Have info from the '60's want to do an expert review of this.

4Would agree to open the Cheakamus to angling at this time.

5Squamish has moved away from the Shovelnose.

6Seeing chinook in Reach 8 of Furry Creek.

7Ashlu Channel is doing well, flow is down, far channel has dried up. (west side of Ashlu).

8New channel is watered but need more groundwater.

Corino Salomi – DFO Report

1Greg gave a good summary of the assessment.

2Hatchery has collected 100 000's of eggs for pinks.

3Not a lot of luck with chinook – 1 female and 3 males but already had chinook from Howe Sound.

4CN has been providing some funds.

5Coho that were hit were 2007 returnees. **Brood will be taken this year as part of the redistribution of the hatchery production (BK)**

6Numbers of pinks in Cheakamus were about 4000 this year, were expecting about 30 000. Believe that pinks were holding in the Squamish and got hit hard by the spill.

Discussion re: reopening system.

1Pink run is complete for 2005.

2Chinook saw 11 in the Cheakamus on Thursday, would usually see about 100 for this time of year.

3Seldom catch char in the fall.

4Only catch cutthroat in Feb.

5Steelhead return in Feb.

6Province is concerned with the by-catch of steelhead, cutties and char.

7Don't know what by-catch is or what risk will be.

8No bait is allowed on Squamish so no deep hooking.

No concerns with Squamish First Nation ceasing their voluntary closure on lower Squamish.

Linda Stevens and Greg Wilson to draft fishery notice. Support for allowing coho and chum fisheries to proceed as planned pre-spill.

Greg Wilson and John Wright will get together to discuss some ideas regarding a creel survey if CN is not willing to fund a "regular" creel survey.

Could fill knowledge gaps by having CN pay for a creel study. Greg Wilson will bring this up with CN.

If a January steelhead closure is being considered, the SFAC and the local guides will be consulted by the Province well in advance of January.

Need to watch for pressure on the first reach of the Cheakamus, just u/s of the Bailey bridge to **Mykiss Channel**.

A meeting was held at the Outdoor School **2 Wednesdays ago**

1Majority of questions were around health issues.

2Was publicized on District of Squamish website.

Online DFO website is incorrect for Region 2.