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December 4th, 2015

To First Nations and Stakeholders,

Re: Salmon 2016/2017 Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) for Northern and Southern British Columbia (BC)

This letter is intended to communicate Fisheries and Ocean Canada's (DFO) plans for developing the 2016/2017 Northern and Southern BC Salmon IFMPs, alert you to important dates and deadlines, and to identify changes from last year's process. Salmon IFMPs for Northern and Southern BC are developed annually; the plans currently in place are effective June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016. The current 2015/2016 Salmon IFMPs are available at:

Southern BC – <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/358101.pdf>.

Northern BC – <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/358103.pdf>.

The process to develop the salmon IFMPs is consistent with national guidelines for all IFMPs (see <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/ifmp-gmp/index-eng.htm>).

The IFMPs provide transparency on what DFO's objectives, harvest decision rules and guidelines will be for managing salmon fisheries. The final versions of the IFMPs consider input received from First Nations and stakeholders during the IFMP development process.

Attached is a table outlining the process and timeline for the development of the salmon IFMPs for the coming year. Note that the process to develop the salmon IFMPs is largely similar to recent years, with the exception of the following changes noted below:

- a) The Salmon Post-Season Review meetings for North and South Coast will occur in December similar to past years. The North Coast meeting will occur **December 4th, 2015** and the South Coast meeting is scheduled for **December 11th, 2015**. Integrated Harvest Planning Committee and First Nations Salmon Coordinating Committee members have been invited to attend these meetings, and for South Coast, an online web meeting is also available for participants.
- b) **New for this year** – A DFO summary of key changes under consideration will be circulated to First Nations and advisory groups in **January 2016** for discussion and feedback on the 2016/2017 Salmon IFMPs. Written feedback on the DFO summary and other key areas of interest will be sought from First Nations and advisory groups to inform subsequent IFMP planning meetings (see point "c" below).
- c) We are requesting that written submissions from advisory groups to identify additional discussion items for the 2016/2017 Salmons IFMPs building on the DFO's summary of proposed key IFMP changes be made by **January 28, 2016**. The

Department plans to share all received submissions with established advisory processes, to facilitate review and discussion among First Nations and stakeholders.

- d) One day meetings of the Northern and Southern IHPC subcommittees are planned to review and discuss the proposed key IFMP changes and to provide opportunity for focussed discussion on key IFMP issues in the respective areas. Separate meetings will be held with the Northern IHPC committee members in Prince Rupert (**February 4th and March 10, 2016**) and Southern IHPC committee members in Vancouver (**February 4th and March 10, 2016**). DFO will also be discussing the proposed key changes with First Nations at planned advisory meetings.
- e) Drafts of the Northern and Southern IFMPs will be released for review and comment in the first week of **March 2016**.
- f) The deadline to provide comments on the draft IFMPs will be **April 18th, 2016** to give First Nations, stakeholders and the public time to review the plans and submit comments. Similar to past years, a second draft of the IFMP will not be distributed. DFO will summarize feedback received on the draft IFMPs, for discussion at planned advisory process meetings following April 18th. The remainder of the process is similar to previous years and concludes with final meetings in late April or early May. The combined Northern and Southern, full IHPC meeting is planned for **April 28-29th, 2016**.

The above noted changes in the process for developing salmon IFMPs are intended to improve the process, provide for focussed discussion and input on key issues identified by First Nations and stakeholders, and assist with meeting our goal of having the final IFMPs approved and published by early June 2016.

Please forward any submissions on key priorities by **January 28, 2016** to your local Area Resource Managers, with a copy to Kelly Binning, Regional Salmon Officer, at Kelly.Binning@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Kelly can also be reached at 604-666-3935, if you have any questions regarding this process.

Yours sincerely,



Jeff Grout
Regional Resource Manager, Salmon

Attachments (1): 2016-2017 Salmon IFMPs Process Timelines

2016-2017 Salmon IFMPs Process Timelines

Activity	2015/2016 Proposed Timeline
Salmon Outlook report for 2016	November 25, 2015
Post Season Meetings for North and South Coasts	NC – December 4, 2015 SC – December 11, 2015
NEW – DFO summary of key changes proposed and discussion items for IFMP development circulated to advisory with the advisory groups (IHPC, SCC and Forum) for review.	January 12, 2016
Deadline for written submissions from the advisory groups to identify additional discussion items for the 2016/2017 Salmon IFMPs building on the DFO’s summary of key IFMP changes provided.	January 28, 2016
Integrated Harvest Planning Committee Meeting/First Nation meetings to discuss the summary of key IFMP updates and other suggested changes that require consultation and/or science work.	February, 2016 NC and SC IHPC meetings – February 4, 2016
Release draft IFMP for review & comment	First week of March 2016
IHPC/First Nation meetings to review draft IFMP	March, 2016 NC and SC IHPC meetings – March 10, 2016
Deadline to submit comments on draft IFMP (30 day public comment period)	April 18, 2016
Final IHPC Meeting	April 28-29 th , 2016
Target for public release of 2016/17 salmon IFMP (current IFMP in place June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016)	June 1, 2016