

## Fish Day Update and Summary

Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

We now have two fish days at our House of Gathering. Last week was also a joint effort between Hupačasath and Tseshaht harvesting from the Somass River and Papermill Dam.

Again we raise our hands to our fishermen: Preston Charles, Bert McCarthy, Ed Newman, Jason Watts, Paul Sam, Boyd Fred, Brendan Sam, Boyd Gallic, Rudy Watts Jr, Rick Mack, Cecil Mack, Chris Lambert and Sylvia Dick for their contributions to ensuring we had fish to distribute to our members. We are very grateful for their time, commitment and hard work. Kleco kleco to our fishermen, we appreciate you!

In the spirit of accountability and transparency Hupačasath Council will be continuing with a weekly fish day updates and summary to inform membership on Fish Day matters. This includes a Question and Answer section that responds to questions that have come to our attention. As this update is to improve accountability and transparency and is for the members benefit please let us know if you have any specific questions you'd like addressed.

### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS:

On Thursday June 9th Fisheries Manager Graham Murrell participated in the weekly roundtable discussion where the fishing plans are set for the week. From the conference call there was a decision made to fish a combination of limited gillnet fishers in the river for two days (Friday and Saturday) and a drag seine at Papermill Dam (Friday (elders only), Saturday and Sunday)

### How many fish were caught?

	Pieces Caught	Pay fish to fishermen Offload and Transport	Distributed to Members at fish day
Somass River	4,643	1,671	2,972
Paper Mill Dam	8,731	700	8,031
	13,374	2,371	11,003

- Fishermen use their own boats, nets, gears and other supplies for our community fishery, and we pay through the catch to compensate the fishermen for time, labour and equipment costs. Offload and transport fees are also taken off the top when a multiple buyer system is utilized.

### Will there be a fish day this week?

The escapement of fish through the ladders is on target for an estimated run size of 1,000,000 fish which is the current estimated run size. The total allowable catch based on a run size of 1,000,000 fish is 145,425 pieces total. The total fish caught to date is for both Tseshaht and Hupacasath are 114,936 pieces or 79% of the total allowable catch (TAC). Without an upgrade in run size, which will likely happen June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, conservation dictates the river should be closed for approximately one week. This means that no fish day will take place this week.

### **Where were the other buyers?**

All buyers were invited to attend fish day. The river fishery has been robust and the buyers have been challenged to keep cash available for fish purchases. Although all buyers were asked only one buyer attended who had cash available to buy fish. Had all buyers attended as planned the need for members to collect fish in their individual totes would have been necessary so that each member could take fish and sell to the buyer of their choice.

We are working to improve and streamline the fish day process. Although we will not dictate who members can sell your fish to, we feel there is a great opportunity to get better prices for members by obtaining weekly bids from buyers. If we know how many people would like cash each week and of those members how many would like their fish sold on a bid system we can contact buyers and give them approximate number of pieces and pounds they can bid on each week and therefore achieve the highest price per pound for those in that group. For example if the Seine boat target is 10,000 pieces and fish are approximately 4 pounds each we can estimate 40,000 pounds. If 80% of the pre booked members want cash then 32,000 pounds will likely be sold. If 90% of those members representing the 32,000 pounds want to go in on the bid system we would have 29,000 pounds to sell. We would contact all buyers to bid on 29,000 of fresh catch. The total bid amount paid in cash would then be equally distributed to all members participating in the bid.

### **What is the policy for abusive behaviour of staff?**

Under WorksafeBC regulations all employers in BC are required to provide a safe workplace, free of harassment and abuse. In addition, under the *Workers Compensation Act*, employers are required to protect the health and safety of their workers and comply with WorkSafeBC Regulations.

Based on these regulations HFN has an obligation to protect employees. We also have our own policy, passed by our membership in the 1992 Fisheries Law that states:

#### **Respectful Behaviour at Community Events – Fish Day Breach of Regulations:**

***Any person not observing these regulations, creating a disturbance, or in any way interfering with the processes involved in fish days, can be prohibited from attending the next fish day. The person in charge shall make that recommendation to council and council shall immediately send a letter to that person informing him or her of their temporary suspension.***

### **So what does the policy mean?**

It means abusive behavior will not be tolerated and if any person “creates a disturbance” or “interferes with Fish Day processes” they will be prohibited from attending the next Fish Day.

### **How can we avoid abusive outbursts at HFN events?**

- By following the 1992 Fisheries Law and policy as passed by our membership
- By remembering and practising our traditional teachings

- By treating everyone with dignity and respect
- By being grateful for our resources, our helpers and volunteers who help contribute to Fish Day,
- By communicating concerns respectfully, including using the Policy Feedback Form and participating in community meetings where decisions are made.

**What are the proposed changes to Fish Day policy?**

Please see attached DRAFT Policy. It is important to note our proposed DRAFT policy reflects the change in the location of the Food Fish fishery; as we no longer are at Papermill Dam, planning and processes need to take that factor into consideration.

**Why do we have to pre-check in?**

- To avoid over-handling of fish
- To provide an estimate to the buyer on how many people would like to sell their fish and