

## FVAFS Structure



- 7 Board Directors
- 1 Fisheries Manager
- 1 Finance Manager
- 1 Catch Monitor Senior Supervisor
- 3 Supervisors
- 49 - 60 trained Catch Monitors
- 2 trained over flight technicians for net count
- 2 Qualified Boat operators

## FRASER VALLEY ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SOCIETY(FVAFS)

CATCH MONITOR  
PROGRAM  
2010

Prepared by FVAFS  
Staff



## FVAFS Objectives



- The purpose of this program is to assist DFO and First Nations to preserve a sustainable resource.
- Keeping accurate numbers and data on all fisheries.
- By protecting and preserving the salmon we are being responsible for providing future generations.

## Brief Summary

In earlier years we had a much bigger organization such as:



- Enforcement Officers (Guardians) with qualified training, equipped with all the tools needed to carry out enforcement
- Enforcement Police Officer on Loan from VPD
- Biologists
- Media Advisors
- Lawyers

## Responsibilities of Supervisors and Catch Monitors



- The main responsibility of the Supervisors and Monitors is to ensure accurate data is collected from each fishery opening from Port Mann Bridge to Sawmill Creek.
- When fisheries are over the data is forwarded to DFO within 24 hours.



## Catch Monitor Program

- This program was originally started in 1989 with Sto:lo Nation Society on a seasonal basis to monitor our food fishery.
- In 1992 it went to a pilot sales fishery which gave First Nations the opportunity to participate in a Commercial Economic Benefit.



## Site Locations

- The data is recorded documented from each of these sites:
- From Port Mann to Mission:
  - ◆ Katzie Dock, Barnston Island, Kwantlen Dock, Ridgedale, Whonock Dock, Matsqui First Nation
- From Mission to Harrison:
  - ◆ Leq'a:mel, Sumas, Bowman's Mill, Skway, Skwah, Island 22, Scowlitz, Chehalis



## Duties of Catch Monitors

- During Food and Sales Include:
  - ◆ Identifying Participants and/or individuals identified by the FVAFS or the individual first nations under the Conditions of the Aboriginal Fishing Licence to transport fish for individual (s) and verifying designation card numbers of Participants landing fish at Landing Sites;
  - ◆ Identifying the vessel from which fish are landed, number of nets fished by each Participant landing fish;
  - ◆ Counting by species all fish landed, recording all required data onto a landing slip and issuing a copy of the landing slip to the person authorized to land the fish;
  - ◆ Identifying other Participants for whom the Participant may be transporting or landing fish and ensuring that the Participants name and number is also recorded on the landing slip;



## Site Locations Cont.

- From Harrison to Hope:
  - ◆ Peters Reserve, Shxw'ow'hamel Reserve, Chawathil Reserve, Seabird Island Reserve
- From Hope to Sawmill:
  - ◆ Chawathil (Haig), Coquihalla, Bell Crossing and Yale Beach



## Duties of Catch Monitors Cont.

- Maintaining a log at each landing site with the tally by species of fish landed, which will be available to DFO representatives for review throughout the duration of each fishery;
- Collecting biological samples including weekly scale samples from approximately 240 sockeye in 2 locations: the Fraser River near Chilliwack and the Fraser River near Yale:
  - Collecting heads and scale samples from those coho and chinook salmon and steelhead with missing adipose fins landed at Landing Sites after obtaining the necessary permission; and
  - Collecting other biological samples as may be requested and agreed to (e.g. chinook DNA samples).
  - Collecting Coded Wired Tags (CWT) from chinook.



## Chinook Fisheries

- FVAFS Member First Nations has Chinook openings from April to mid July and then again in March of the next year. We had 23 Catch Monitors stationed at different sites along the Lower Fraser River from dawn till dusk. Of course at the Yale Beach site there was a monitor present during the dusk till dawn hours.
- Our catch information is broken up into 3 areas from Port Mann to Mission. Mission to Hope Bridge then from Hope to Sawmill Creek.
- There was overflights done during each opening to count how many nets in the water.



## Duties of Catch Monitors Cont.

- During a Sales Fishery Monitors will distribute issued landing slips as follows:
  - DFO original (white) and DFO copy (yellow) to remain in the landing slip book and to be placed in the secure lock box at the Landing Site location it is issued from.
- Other duties as agreed to by DFO and the Bands, such as Selective Harvest.
- (Beach Seining ,Ceremonials Eulachon etc.)



## Overview



- Catch monitors are trained to accurately collect and report data from the licensed fishery openings. The monitoring program is a vital instrument in the preservation of the fish stocks in the Fraser River.
- The Catch Monitor Program has validated itself by being accountable to DFO, the public and First Nations.
- By providing accurate data information it has proven to be an asset in the management of our fishing resource.

## Sockeye Openings



- For the Sockeye openings we had 50 trained catch monitors stationed at each site for the full 24 hour period of each opening.
- Over flights are done every 24 hours.
- Four supervisors visit their designated sites to make sure that the monitors have everything they need to carry out their duties.

## Fraser Valley Aboriginal Fisheries Society



- The FVAFS takes great pride in their work, we enjoy working with our people and for our people.
- We have to take care of our finned friends for our grandchildren's grandchildren.

## Chum Fisheries



- Chum fisheries are done in two techniques, beach seine and gill net.
- Beach seining is primarily an Economic Opportunity Fishery. Monitors are stationed with each crew, and every fish is counted. These fisheries are strictly monitored as we are held to a set quota and usually last 4-6 days.
- Gill net fisheries for chum are similar to sockeye gill netting. Set nets and Drift nets are usually used for FSC fisheries. Over flights are conducted in the middle of the fishery.

Thank You

THE END

## Sturgeon, Wild Steelhead & Coho Catch and Release



- During each fishery there is a catch and release clause calling for the release of all live Sturgeon, wild Steelhead and Coho.