

Rat River Working Group (RRWG)

Public Meeting Minutes

Aklavik, NT

Date: June 13, 2012

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Annie B Gordon	Aklavik HTC	John Carmichael	Char monitor	Maniga Kasook	-
Billy Storr	Aklavik HTC	Billy Archie	FJMC	Cecilia Greenland	-
Evelyn Storr	Aklavik HTC	James Malone	FJMC	Leonard Gordon	-
Joe Arey	Aklavik HTC	Kris Maier	GRRB	Ingie Gardlund	-
Jordan McLeod	Aklavik HTC	Amanda Joynt	DFO	Sally Kasook	-
Mary Ruth Meyook	Aklavik HTC	Ellen Lea	DFO	Shirly Kaye	-
Michelle Gruben	Aklavik HTC	Colin Gordon	Aklavik ACC	Susie Thompson	-
Sandy Elanik	Aklavik HTC	Garnet Greenland	Elder	Stephen Moore	-
Wilson Malegana	Aklavik HTC	Larry McGee	Public	Nellie Elanik	-
Eddie Greenland	Ehdiitat RRC	Walter Bennet	Public	Kaya Kasook	-
Eddy McLeod	Ehdiitat RRC	Aleanna Greenland	Youth	Mary Greenland	-
Fanny Greenland	Ehdiitat RRC	Bruce Stewart	Aklavik Indian Band	Angeline Irish	-
Gladys Edwards	Ehdiitat RRC	Chris Bonnetplume	Aklavik Indian Band	Brenda Benoit	-
Jeremy Mosher	Ehdiitat RRC	Wally McPhoo	-	Faith Gordon	-
Kathy Greenland	Ehdiitat RRC	James Joe	-	Diane Dillon	-
Robert Buckle	Ehdiitat RRC	Wally Tyrell	-	Carol Elanik	-

1. Opening Remarks

- Call to order at 6:05
- Introduction and opening remarks

2. Presentation - Review of the RRWG and management process.

- Members and format
- Annual Harvest Meeting process
- Char monitoring program background
- Fall seine background

3. Presentation - Review of 2011 activities and data results

- Data results from the monitoring program
- Results from the fall seine
- 2011 harvest level

Question: So the voluntary closure and community participation has worked then?

Response: Yes, and all of us are very happy with the results from last year. Everyone in the communities should be really proud of how well this management process works.

4. Presentation - Review of population estimate and RRWG recommendations

- Population estimate
- RRWG voluntary harvest recommendation
- 2012 research (fall seine)

Comment: So, what will happen for this year based on the genetic analysis is the HTC will take 10% of the total catch at SP and apply it to this quota.

5. Presentation - 2012 communications plan and harvest reporting

- Fishing methods
- How to report your harvest

Comment: Most people are using one or two nets, not three. Mesh size is the same too. Everyone pretty much uses 4".

Comment: Most people check their nets twice a day

Question: What about the Herschel Island samples? They took them for a lot of years back around 1998.

Response: Not sure but they are separate from the sampling that happens now.

Question: How many people participated in reporting their harvest? How do we know there aren't missed people or those who don't participate.

Response: Well, the whole system is voluntary so that is the option of each individual but like we've said, the system works because we do have a high percentage of community participation. Speaking specifically about Shingle Point, there was probably 100% reporting because Jordan and Tracey were out there all summer helping people sample their fish. If people know harvesters who aren't reporting, it would be a good idea to talk to them about why it is important.

6. Open question period

Question: Last year there was a request for habitat work in the Rat River. What's the status of that?

Response: Kris Maier is prioritizing the Rat River habitat research for 2013. We would like to start getting more detailed information on the Rat in general but in particular we are hoping to either set up a water gauge or conduct similar research as Neil started on the Big Fish River looking at habitat availability and change over time.

Question: Regarding the winter survey, what is being done to address concerns about otters?

Response: We are always asking anybody who goes near those areas to keep an eye out for otters or tracks. The Fort McPherson ENR officer did a tour of that area around Bear Creek and said he never sees otter sign up there. We are looking at ways to address it more directly possibly by incorporating it into the moose survey or a trapper training program. ENR is currently offering a new \$40 bonus for otter carcasses. So between that and the pelt being worth about \$70, there is some added incentive for trappers to target them.

Question: Who should we tell about otter sightings?

Response: The best person is probably the RRC or HTC coordinator and they can then relay that information on to GRRB, DFO & FJMC.

Question: What should we do if we find fish with deformities or parasites?

Response: Jeremy (Aklavik RRC) has a large freezer so it would be best to bring the whole fish to him. If possible, try and take a photo at a minimum. We can't really help people if all they can tell us is the fish was deformed. We really need to see the fish or take samples from it to know for sure.

Question: How can you interpret this CPUE? Can you explain that a little more?

Response: CPUE is basically just catch rate, and we use it to help measure how easy or difficult it is to catch fish. It's difficult to compare actual daily numbers of fish caught to the graph because the data gets standardized and averaged over the course of the whole fishing season. Basically, it's best used to identify trends and help correlate catch rate to population size. For example, if we didn't have a population estimate, we could compare CPUE to previous population estimates and it should be comparable. There is some uncertainty with doing that but it seems to match up well over time. Released fish are included and the monitors release quite a few fish at the peak of the run.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

DRAFT