

Freshwater-Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation

Public Meeting

DATE: July 31, 1997
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: R.E. Stroud Building

Present were:

Jamie Humbly	674-4527	George Saunders	533-1081
Bonnie Sparkes	265-6361	Robert Taylor	533-2742
Darren Dyke	533-6622	William Ford	533-6979
Ewen Gillard	533-1063	Glenn Briffett	533-2151
Melvin Parsons	533-2501	Glen Ford	664-3111
Don Briffett	533-1088	Austin Stewart	533-2301
Peter Deering	533-6723	Roy Croke	533-2827
Fred Holloway	533-9122	Calvin Holloway	533-2771
Kent Pritchett	674-5015	John Baird	533-2657
Rod Keats	533-2167		

Meeting focus: Landscape rehabilitation proposal; angler survey; status of salmon stocks

1. Motion to adopt the agenda was moved by Austin Stewart and seconded by Mel Parsons. Passed.

2. Landscape Rehabilitation Project

John Baird and Austin Stewart reported on progress with the landscape rehabilitation proposal. Application is submitted to Human Resources Development. Initial discussions with HRD indicate there may be problems qualifying to receive money for the materials component of the project. Other possible sources are being investigated.

3. Angler Survey

Jamie Humbly & Kent Pritchett provided update on the angler survey on Terra Nova River. 54 surveys completed so far. Closure of river to retention fishing will impede getting a lot more questionnaires completed.

Survey issues:

- * support for pit rehabilitation
- * some opposition to outfitters - concern that there should be no commercial development downriver from Terra Nova.
- * divided opinion of value of watershed management
- * some people agree with river specific licences
- * a lot of opposition to hook and release only
- * some people at the meeting thought many respondents do not have enough knowledge to answer the questions

Re: issue of outfitting camps in remote areas. Opinion expressed the Second Steady is not remote - it's accessible from the rail bed. All agreed that with present conditions of stocks, it is not likely that anyone will invest in a fishing lodge in the near future. Opinion expressed that local angling and tourist angling can be compatible in low-use areas. Main goals of FABEC include conservation, economic development of the recreational fishery, and equality of access to all areas.

4. Present status of salmon stocks

One in 5 salmon going through fishway have net marks on them. Several had opinion that there should be no hook and release. Fred Holloway said there is evidence that hook and release does no damage if water temperature is below 18 degrees C and is done properly.