



Watershed Advisory Meeting

AAROM Program

*George Low
AAROM Coordinator/Biologist
Mike Low
AAROM Technical Advisor
Dehcho First Nations*

Agenda DWEAC meeting

Day 1

- **Day 1; AAROM
Committee meeting**
- **Opening Prayer &
Introductions**
- **Review of Minutes;
2013 meeting**
- **Project Results; Mike
Low**
- **Community Project
Review & Member
input**



Agenda DWEAC meeting;

DAY 2

- **Day 2; ENR: Community Water Monitoring Day**
- **Overview of NWT Water Stewardship Strategy**
- **Overview of NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program (CMB) And work with AAROM in the Dehcho**
- **Training on Equipment**
- **Dehcho Results**
- **Discussion - better sharing of results**
- **Discussion on capacity building**



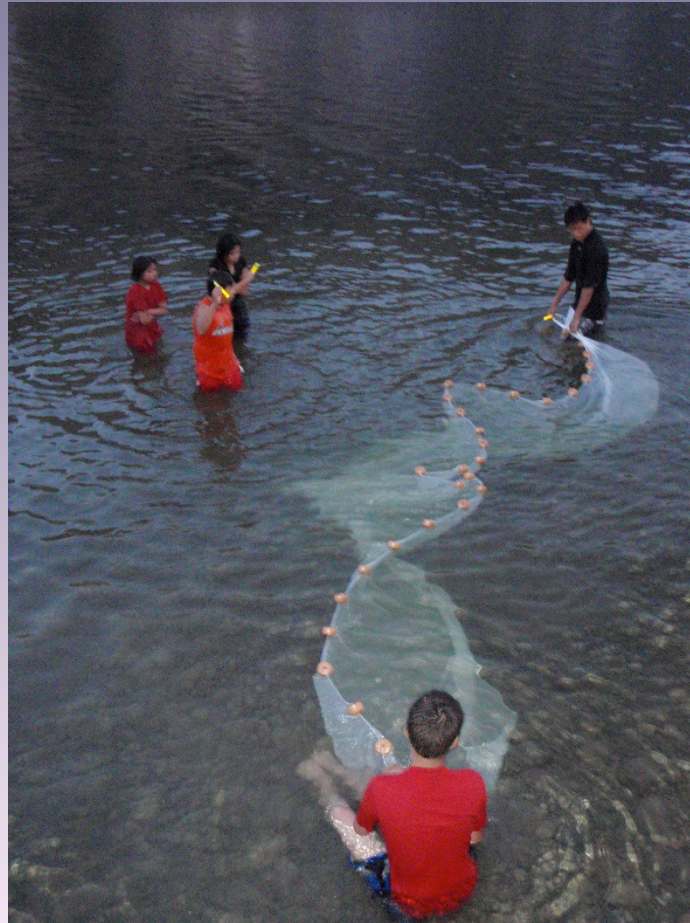
Agenda DWEAC meeting;

DAY 3

- **DAY 3 ; AAROM Committee meeting (Cont'd)**
- **Human Biomonitoring project**
- **Country Food Workshop 2014**
- **New projects – new direction**
- **House Cleaning**
- **Participant round table**
- **Closing prayer**



Review of minutes



Mike Low; Project results



The Advisory Committee

The Committee's mandate is to *"...protect and preserve the rights of all Aboriginal peoples to healthy waters, fish stocks and aquatic environments in the Dehcho."*



AAROM Program Review

- ” Deanna Leonard; DFO Fisheries Mgmt. is on educational leave.
- ” Dehcho AAROM has completed a three year Multi-year agreement.
- ” DFO has suggested we renew with a five year agreement
- ” The National AAROM Program funding remains in place
- ” AFS project funding - stable



Dehcho AAROM Partnerships

- ENR, Water Division; agreement with AAROM
 - Water Quality and contaminant data
 - Masters Student support for Sanguex Lake project
- GNWT, CIMP funding
 - Heidi Swanson, U of Waterloo; Mercury bioacc./biomag study
 - Environment Canada; mercury analysis of Dehcho lakes
- AANDC, NCP funding
 - “Return to Country Food” annual results workshop; share funding
 - Analysis support of Heidi’s project
- GNWT; Transportation
 - Prov. Ck. Grayling Spawning Ground Rehabilitation
- Health Canada; Country Food survey, support of workshop

AAROM Projects and Studies

- We have good core funding for the AAROM program for
 - Staffing; Coordinator & Technical Advisor; 18 seasonal monitors
 - Meetings, admin, training, travel youth camps, projects, equip.
 - Funds JMR, Pehdzeh Ki & Nahanni Butte projects
- AAROM program has an experienced Technical Advisor. Mike Low works with the community monitors to ensure quality data is collected.
- Capacity building; ongoing – most community programs are working well.



Partnering with AFS;

- AFS Projects (DFN AAROM Administered) 250 K
 - Sambaa K'e fishery monitoring
 - FPRMB – fishery monitoring
 - KFN & WPFN – Fish stock assessment studies on Great Slave Lake
 - Ka'a'gee Tu – Tathlina Lake stock assessment
 - Liidli Kue monitoring program
- O&M Equipment Funding



Katlodeeche; Peter Sabou

- ” Great Slave Lake Fish Stock & Lake Ecology Assessment Project
 - ” A DFO Science Assessment project
- ” Vessels and field workers
 - ” Administered by Dehcho AAROM
- DFO GSL/Buffalo River Inconnu
- Stock Identification; Yates River & Whitesand River inconnu collection
- GSL IFMP
 - Involvement of FN’s in the Great Slave Lake fisheries planning process
- Future Water Quality monitoring



West Point First Nation

- DFO; Great Slave Lake Project
 - Provide field worker for GSL project
 - Barry Buckley Jr.



Kakisa – Ka'a'gee Tu; Melaine Simba

- Kakisa R. Sports Fishery Survey; AAROM study-Melaine Simba
- Tathlina Lake Fish Stock assessment
 - Every second year (Fred Simba, Chris Chicot)
 - Ka'a'gee Tu gillnetting and sampling study
 - CPUE, size and age, sex and maturity, mercury levels etc.
 - Mike Low and crew did the fishing and sampling, Dec. 2014
 - DFO, Science Assessment responsible for the analysis.
- Tathlina Lake Monitoring
 - Melaine, with CIMP, U, AAROM
- Country Food Survey
- Human Biomonitoring Pilot *
 - U of Waterloo



Deh Gah Gotie - FPRMB, Priscilla Canadien

- Sports fishing monitoring;
 - Joe Lacorne & Steven Nadli
 - Survey of anglers in the Mackenzie River
 - Regulation changes in effect!!!!
- Water quality monitoring
 - Mackenzie River
- Prov. Ck. Grayling Study *
- AAROM boat support of “Yocanoe Camp”
- Cabin Building



Sambaa K'e; Jessica Jumbo

- Boat Patrol Fishery Monitoring, Victor and Tyler Jumbo
- Water Quality sondes, etc.
- Thermocline monitoring
 - Temperature Profile
 - Lake Trout thermal habitat
- Climate Change
 - Fish Health occurrences
 - Fish Stock problems (Slinks)
 - “Country Food Survey”



Liidlii Kue First Nation

- Boat patrol monitoring (Edward Cholo & Nick de Pelham)
 - River usage
 - Traditional sites; GPS photos
 - Water Quality monitoring support (Mackenzie and Liard)
- Winter fishing;
 - Big Island Lake
 - Mustard Lake
 - Little Doctor & Cli lakes
- Country Food Survey



Nahanni Butte First Nation

- Boat patrol monitoring
 - River usage (limited data produced)
 - Water quality monitoring
 - Involvement with Prairie Creek monitoring

- 2015-16
- Metal Suite in Fish?
- SONDE in South Nahanni



Jean Marie River R

- Boat Patrol Monitoring
 - River usage (Angus Sanguez)
- Water Quality data (Jean Marie R
- Heidi's mercury study; Ekali, Sanguez, Gargan and McGill Lakes
 - Year two of three year study
- Hosted "Country Food workshop
- Biomonitoring Pilot Study



Pehdzeh Ki First Nation

- Charlie Tale
- Garage for boat and equipment storage
- Boat Patrol
- Water Quality support
- Winter fishing; Fish Lake



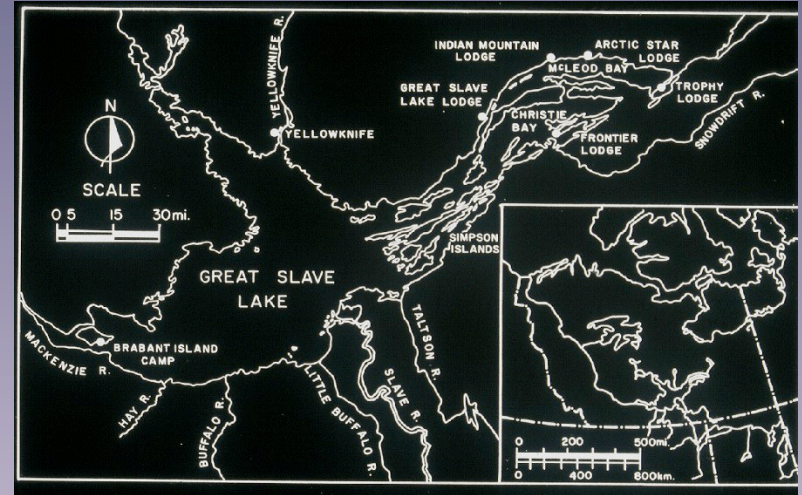
Fort Simpson and Fort Providence Métis

- Danny Peterson – Simpson member
- John McLeod; Providence member
- training
- Youth and elder programs
- Conferences/workshops
- Ecology camps



Partnering & Collaborative

- **Mgmt.** Extremely important to our AAROM program
 - \$\$\$; DFO, AANDC; CIMP & NCP, HC, ENR , MACA
 - Not only for \$\$\$ but to bring expertise into the Dehcho
 - Environment Canada, Aurora College, Taiga labs, GNWT Health, BEAT Environmental
 - Community Involvement



What's Up for 2015-16?

• Water Quality and Contaminants Monitoring

- Agreement with ENR, Water Division
- Dehcho AAROM responsible for collecting water quality data in community waters
- Hopefully a long-term program
- AAROM monitors involved in deploying, maintaining and retrieving water quality instruments
- Projects based on Community concerns
- Support of other aquatic projects such as the Sanguex Lake fish-down project
- Aurora College; NRTP student internship
- Community Monitor training



What's Up for 2015-16?

- Grayling Habitat Rehabilitation
 - Location; Providence Ck. (South Shore)
 - Partnerships; DFO Habitat, Deh Gah Gotie FN, Dehcho AAROM; GNWT Transportation (No Net Loss Project)
 - Removal of two abandoned beaver dams
 - Spawning bed improvement
 - 90 Cubic Yards of clean stone spread in riffles
 - Counting weir
 - 1979; 601-805 grayling spawners
 - 2014; 154 – 177 grayling spawners
 - Great potential for run improvement
 - Sampling and tagging



What's up 2015-16?

- “A Return to Country Food” workshop; Year 4
 - Liidlii Kue - late August
 - Leadership, Resource Managers, Community Monitors
 - Results workshop
 - Govt. and University researchers, First Nations, Dehcho AAROM Projects
 - Community Issues and concerns
 - Project Planning Input.
 - Include AAROM meeting?



What's up for 2015-16?

- Partnering: U of Waterloo
 - Dr. Heidi Swanson; experienced Arctic researcher
 - Works closely with the communities
 - Year 1; JMR and Sambiaa K'e; Ekali & Sanguetz lakes, Trout Lake
 - Year 2; Ka'a'gee Tu & JMR; Tathlina & Gargan & McGill lakes
 - Year 3: Liidlii Kue; Horn Plateau lakes; Big Island, Mustard & Willow



Smog in China; photo - Mike Low

What's Up for 2015-16

- Dr. Brian Laird; University of Waterloo
- Human Biomonitoring program (two to three year study)
- Best way to learn about mercury exposure in the Dehcho
- Hair and/or blood samples taken by HSS.
- Community consultation and involvement
- Pilot project completed by end of March with Kakisa and Jean Marie



What's Up for 2015-16

- Sanguez Lake Fish-down
- Large Walleye and Pike high in mercury
- Stan Sanguez suggested we fish out the large fish to re-balance the fish population
- Dehcho AAROM is partnering with the JMNFN, ENR, Water Division, the University of Waterloo & DFO to start a five year study in 2015
- Population study (Floy Tagging)
- Fish down



Progress to Date, Training

- ENR Water Monitor Training
 - Mike, Jay Horesay & Kyle Nault
 - Mike; Community Monitors
- Med III and SVOPC course
 - In Nahanni Butte 2009
 - In Fort Simpson 2010
- CABiN course Kakisa 2010
- Env. Monitoring Cert.
 - Sambiaa K'e – 2010
 - 8 students certified
 - Nahanni Butte - 2012
- Who is current now?



Youth Program

- Youth and Elders
 - Youth Ecology Camp
 - Canoe Trip; Providence to Jean Marie River
 - Traditional knowledge
 - Bruce Townsend
- K'ehodi
 - Care for the Land by being on the Land
 - Mesh with the Dehcho AAROM program



AAROM Logo



AAROM

Dehcho Aquatic Resource Management

Salmon Program

- Mackenzie River Chum salmon run
- Non Indigenous salmons
 - Further down river
 - Pink, Chinook, Coho, Sockeye
 - DFO looking for samples
 - Whole salmon - \$50 gift card
 - Salmon head - \$25 gift card (c/w info when and where caught)



Closing Prayer

Mahsi Cho

Thank You.

Have a safe trip
home!

