

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
48TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 21ST TO 23RD, 2016
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏΘK^WƏY^ƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2016-41

RE: Support for Scientific Efforts to Research Decline in Wild Salmon Stocks

WHEREAS wild salmon runs in BC have been recorded at an all-time low, with little understanding as to the cumulative effects resulting in their damage;

WHEREAS UBCIC has a long history of advocating for the well-being of wild salmon, critical to the well-being of many First Nations communities, as set out in Resolutions 2012-19 and 2012-36;

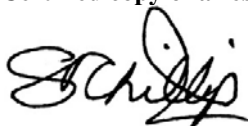
WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* provides that:

Article 26: Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use...

Article 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources...;

WHEREAS Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Mandate Letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans called for the restoration of funds to support federal ocean science and monitoring programs, to protect the health of fish stocks, to monitor contaminants and pollution in the oceans and to use scientific evidence and the precautionary principle, and take into account climate change, when making decisions affecting fish stocks and ecosystem management;

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WHEREAS the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Salish Sea Marine Survival Project continues to investigate why the production of Chinook and Coho salmon within the Strait of Georgia crashed during the 1990s and has not yet recovered, and has yet to be explained or addressed, and the primary objective of the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project is to determine the principal factors affecting the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead in the Salish Sea;

WHEREAS the Salish Sea Project has a significant component of tagging and tracking;

WHEREAS Dr. Kristi Miller, head of the molecular genetics research program in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard (DFO), conducts Genome Science which has the ability to identify stressors to outward migrating wild salmon smolts and to what degree, through genetics;

WHEREAS on May 20th, 2016, Dr. Miller's research contributed to the DFO's announcement and discovering of a potential diagnosis of Heart and Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI) disease in BC's farmed salmon, which has been associated with the devastating Piscine Reo-Virus observed in Norway's wild salmon runs; and

WHEREAS blending these two distinctly different methodologies along with First Nation interval sampling could lead to:

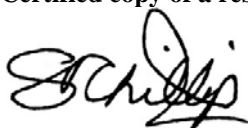
- A. Clear understanding of out migration patterns of wild salmon smolts across BC (Pacific Salmon Foundation);
- B. Genetic identification and degree of impacts of various stressor along the out migration route (Genome Project); and
- C. Interval samplings by First Nations in their territory could save costs and also develop a level of transparency.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support scientific efforts to research decline in wild salmon stocks, including the work of Dr. Kristi Miller and the molecular genetics research program in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Salish Sea Marine Survival Project; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to advocate for the blending of these two distinctly different methodologies with First Nation interval sampling to better understand stressors impacting wild salmon smolts.

Moved: Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation
Seconded: Chief Ernie Crey, Cheam First Nation
Disposition: Carried by Omnibus Motion
Date: September 22, 2016

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