

FNLC Political Steering Committee on Wild Salmon
Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

On September 19-21st 2018, the First Nations Leadership Council hosted an All Chiefs' Wild Salmon Summit to develop a shared vision and strategic plan to ensure the future of wild salmon in BC. The Summit resulted in a series of recommendations that Chiefs and leaders at the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) endorsed through their respective resolutions (FNS Resolution #1018.11, UBCIC Resolution 2018-40, BCAFN Resolution 14-2018). Consequently, the FNLC Political Steering Committee on Wild Salmon ("Steering Committee") was struck through BCAFN Resolution 27-2019, FNS Resolution #1018.11, and UBCIC Resolution 2020-09.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to carry out the priority action items identified in the Wild Salmon Summit Summary Report and endorsed through resolutions at the respective assemblies of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC.

MANDATE

The Steering Committee is mandated to:

1. Develop and identify recommended immediate province-wide priorities.
2. Build a model of collaborative governance and decision-making that [is] inclusive of Tier 1 relations (First Nations – Intertribal Relations) and Tier 2 relations (Nation-to-nation, government-to-government).
3. Complete an environmental scan and develop a plan to recognize, coordinate, and activate the technical knowledge, Indigenous knowledge, and experiences of Indigenous Fisheries Organizations and Nations. This will be done in relation to the political tables and/or governance model that is created through activities as per above.
4. Short term: Advocate for the full implementation of *Canada's Policy for the Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon* ("Wild Salmon Policy")
5. Long term: Tier 1 and 2 governance models in collaboration with First Nations fisheries organizations will identify ongoing priorities for the shared table to bring forward.

The Steering Committee and/or the to-be established Governance Models may also consider:

- Work towards provincial-level responsibility for fisheries management to allow BC First Nations to exercise jurisdiction over fisheries matters;
- Develop cross-jurisdictional approaches to fisheries management to ensure First Nations across provincial, territorial and international boundaries undertake collaborative approaches for the protection of fish and fish habitat;
- Revisit and modernize DFO policies and approaches to wild salmon management to ensure Aboriginal rights are second only to conservation; and

- Seek delegated responsibilities under the *Fisheries Act* to permit First Nations fisheries management opportunities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Steering Committee's work is to be founded upon the implementation and recognition of inherent Indigenous jurisdictions, authorities, Titles, Rights and responsibilities. The Steering Committee and its work will also support and align with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and particularly Articles 26 and 29, which collectively affirm the rights of Indigenous peoples to manage, develop, protect, and conserve their lands, territories, and resources. The Steering Committee will focus on broad and systemic issues. It will focus on policy that enhances Indigenous self-determination and protects the traditional, cultural, and economic relationships Indigenous peoples maintain with salmon.

MEMBERSHIP

The Steering Committee is comprised of a maximum of nine (9) representatives. Each of the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs can appoint up to three (3) representatives. Current members include:

1. Chief Colleen Jacob, Xaxli'p (BCAFN Resolution 27/2019- political rep)
2. Tyrone McNeil, Sto:lo Tribal Council (BCAFN Resolution 27/2019- political rep)
3. Jordan Point, First Nations Fisheries Council (BCAFN Resolution 27/2019- technical rep)
4. Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band (UBCIC Resolution 2021-06- political rep)
5. Bob Chamberlin, Chamberlin & Associates Consulting (UBCIC Resolution 2020-09- technical rep)
6. Ray Harris, First Nations Summit (FNS Executive Appointee)

The Steering Committee will appoint a Chair. The Chair will act as spokesperson. If the Chair is unable to attend a meeting, another member of the Steering Committee will volunteer to fill in for that meeting.

Secretariat support will be provided by FNFC and FNLC staff.

MEETINGS

The Steering Committee will meet as needed to carry out the mandate as per the Terms of Reference, at an agreed upon time, day, and location.

In-person meeting will occur when possible and subject to available resourcing, and otherwise members may use alternate means to participate (teleconference, videoconference, etc).

FNLC and FNFC staff will work with the Chair to develop meeting agendas and collate materials in advance to send out to Steering Committee members.

ACTIVITIES

The Steering Committee will:

- Establish a meeting schedule. This may include online meetings and teleconferences.

- Develop a workplan to carry out the mandate with clear deliverables, which can be used by the FNLC organizations to seek funding for the work.
- Share information related to the mandate in a timely manner.

AGREEMENTS

The Steering Committee agrees to:

- Focus work undertaken as a Committee to the mandate provided by the Chiefs through resolution.
- Respect confidentiality of Steering Committee meetings.
- Provide regular reports to the FNLC as per request.
- Annually report to their respective appointing organization's Annual General Meeting or Chiefs Council.
- Practice respectful conduct with each other and collaborating partners.

BUDGET

Participation on the Steering Committee is voluntary and there will be no reimbursement available for related expenses unless the FNLC is able to obtain resources for this purpose.

Any activity expenses related to the Steering Committee must be approved in writing by each organization's Administrative and/or Executive Director in advance of the activity taking place. This is including but not limited to:

- Travel costs;
- Meeting costs;
- Honoraria;
- Contracted professional/consultant fees;
- Project outreach and coordination;
- Project supplies and materials.

TERM

The Steering Committee will remain in place unless dissolved through resolution at each of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC assemblies.

APPROVAL PROCESS

The Terms of Reference will be approved by each organization's executive.