



First Nations Fisheries Council COMMUNIQUÉ

SEPTEMBER 2021



FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL MEMBERS:

West Coast Vancouver Island: **Hugh Braker**
Central Coast: **Rich Chapple**
North Vancouver Island: **John Henderson**
South Vancouver Island: **Larry George**
Lower Mainland: **In Progress**
Fraser Valley: **Ken Malloway**
Mid-Fraser 1: **Dawn Machin**
Mid-Fraser 2: **Richard Wimbush**
Upper Fraser: **Thomas Alexis**
Upper Skeena: **Stu Barnes**
Transboundary Columbia: **Shayla Lawrence**
Northern Transboundary: **In Progress**
Haida Gwaii: **Shawn Cowpar**
North Coast: **In Progress**

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Wild Salmon

FNFC continues our efforts on multiple fronts to address the decline of Pacific salmon stocks. Each respective government has developed a fisheries strategy approach. DFO has the PSSI, Pacific Salmon Strategic Initiative, and the provincial government has developed a BC wild Salmon Strategy.

It is clear that collaboration with the federal and provincial governments is necessary to involve BC First Nations to design one comprehensive strategy as opposed to pulling in different directions. The fundamental objective of the FNFC is to advocate on behalf BC first Nations to properly position priority access and to influence decisions in developing these strategies to properly reflect First Nations Priority and rights.

The FNFC also supports various technical committee process in BC and has partnerships with indigenous fishery organizations in the Skeena, northcoast, upper Fraser, Vancouver Island, and interior BC. *Approximately 140 Nations.*

Through our work with the Salmon Coordinating Committee (SCC), FNFC is developing tools to assist with the assessment of wild salmon stocks and mitigation measures, which can support First Nations in their consideration of recovery planning strategies. These tools are being further refined with the Salmon Coordinating Committee, and will be shared through our Tier 1 email list when available.

FNFC and the SCC have been engaging with DFO on the new Fish Stock Provisions, which were introduced as part of the *Fisheries Act* amendment. The provisions require DFO to list fish stocks, develop limit reference points for listed fish stocks, and develop rebuilding plans for listed fish stocks that are below the limit reference point. See the list online here: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2021/2021-01-02/html/reg1-eng.html>

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Policy and Fisheries Management

FNFC and Pacific Salmon Commission's First Nations Caucus – New Memorandum of Understanding

Over the last two years, the FNFC and the Pacific Salmon Commission's First Nations Caucus have collaborated to develop a draft Strategic Succession Plan to describe First Nations participation at the Pacific Salmon Commission. Through the drafting of this document, the FNFC and the First Nations Caucus mutually agreed that merging the capacities of the two entities will better serve BC First Nations in advancing their collective interests at the international level -Pacific Salmon Commission table. The new MOU builds upon a successful partnership between the FNFC and the First Nations Caucus, and expands to include the First Nations Caucus within the FNFC governance structure and embedded into FNFC workplan processes. The FNFC will also develop new and regular communications with the First Nations Caucus to update First Nations broadly on PSC activities and seek feedback. This Fall/Winter, the FNFC and the First Nations Caucus will host engagement workshops to describe the role of the First Nations Caucus at the PSC and seek feedback on the draft Strategic Succession Plan. We look forward to your participation then.

For more information, please contact Janson Wong, Senior Manager PFMU, at janson@fnfisheriescouncil.ca

Aquaculture Act update: FNFC's Strategic Directions

The FNFC recently developed a Strategic Directions Paper to support First Nations to participate and engage in the development and drafting of Canada's first ever Aquaculture Act. The paper provides analysis and strategic direction across four themes, including implementing UNDRIP, collaborative development and drafting, a whole-of-government approach, and regulatory roles. To support coordination amongst First Nations and to provide coherent recommendations to the Aquaculture Act development, the FNFC is planning to reconvene the BC First Nations Coalition approach. The group previously worked with First Nations and First Nations fisheries organizations to review and provide feedback on the Fisheries Act amendments in 2016-2018, and supported First Nations to provide feedback to government across regional and provincial scales. The FNFC will also host several workshops this year on the Aquaculture Act development (Fall 2021, details forthcoming).

For more information about the Aquaculture Act Strategic Directions Paper, receive a copy of the paper and/or upcoming engagements, please contact John Morra at john@fnfisheriescouncil.ca

Upcoming Events

Aquaculture:

- Aquaculture Act workshop - Thursday October 14th 2021, 1pm-4pm (via Zoom)
- Open Net-Pen Transition Plan workshop –Thursday October 28th 2021, 1pm-4pm (via Zoom)

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Marine and Coastal Management

The FNFC Marine and Coastal Management sector paused formal engagement in the summer to conduct internal scoping and planning for the remainder of the fiscal year. In looking towards the fall, FNFC will be focusing on South Coast Tier 1 level engagement and capacity building within the marine and coastal management sector until after the federal election period and caretaker convention.

Ship Movement and Vessel Management Coordinating Committee (VMCC) – Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping (CEMS) Initiative with Transport Canada (TC)

- Throughout the summer, FNFC and TC have been engaging the VMCC on CEMS Scoping Criteria through an online survey. These results will contribute to the final stages of scoping, which will help us to refine the regional assessment.
- As a federal election has been called, Transport Canada’s Community Participation Funding Program (CPFP) is not currently accessible (during the election period). Since the TC-CEMS team has been relying on the CPFP to make sure our VMCC membership have the opportunity to be compensated for their time and effort, we are going to postpone our Tier 2 meetings until after the election period.
- FNFC is working with a contractor on the development of a South Coast Indigenous Cumulative Effects Framework. We are currently in the workplanning phase, and will be collaborating with First Nations on the framework throughout the fall.

Marine Research and Science Coordinating Committee (MRSCC) – Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

- FNFC, DFO and the Province developed a trilateral Letter of Understanding (LOU) that outlines guiding principles and the scope of work to support early planning phases of the Southern BC MSP Program, and guides the collaborative efforts to complete the key deliverables such as a workplan, engagement strategy, contributions to a MSP knowledge library and recommendations for a MSP trilateral governance model. The LOU is currently undergoing legal review.
- FNFC is continuing to conduct research into capacity building opportunities for First Nations in the South Coast to support them in defining their objectives and advancing their interests in regional MSP.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinating Committee (EPRCC) – Recovery from Environmental Emergencies from Ship-source Oil Spills Initiative with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

- The FNFC-Federal Recovery Working Group has currently put a pause on advancing the initiative through the EPRCC due to the need for further internal scoping and the election. They will work together to develop a workplan in the fall, outlining opportunities for engagement and contributions from First Nations in the South Coast.
- FNFC is conducting an environmental scan in order to determine how to best focus their efforts on Tier 1 capacity building that will enhance First Nations’ role in South Coast marine emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery.

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If you are interested in learning more about these marine management initiatives, would like to become involved in one of Coordinating Committees, or have questions related to the fulfillment of this work and the OPP, please contact Astrid Niemann-Zajac at Astrid@fnfisheriescouncil.ca

Water For Fish – a major investment of time and resources to ensure water management involves BC First Nations and ensures proper and adequate water management regimes for fish survival.

- Under the evolving dialogue with the province of BC, the FNFC and the province have signed an MOU to better align engagement, workplan design and collaboration with the responsible ministries overseeing Water, Habitat, fish, fisheries and agriculture.
- Connected to this work is the development of exploring regional water tables, supporting local First Nation collaboration, and the informing of provincial objectives such as the water sustainability act, and DRIPA considerations.

For further information on water please contact Susi@fnfisheriescouncil.ca or Kim@fnfisheriescouncil.ca

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Welcome new FNFC staff!

Olga Shuvalova
Jacquie Fitchell
Zander Chila
John Morra
Cassandra Jeffrey
Chandrang Makwana

Keep up with the FNFC on Social Media!

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