



FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL

of British Columbia

320-1200 West 73rd Ave. • Vancouver, BC • V6P 6G5

TEL: 778-379-6470 • FAX: 778-379-6469

info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca • www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca

November 9, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FNFC Welcomes Prime Minister's Announcement of Ocean Protection Investment

The FNFC welcomes the Prime Minister's announcement of new investments and co-management approaches for ocean protection. Specifically, the federal government committed to:

- Creating a marine safety system that improves shipping and includes new preventive and response measures;
- Restoring and protecting marine ecosystems and habitat;
- Strengthening partnerships and launching co-management practices with Indigenous communities, including building local emergency response capacity; and
- Investing in oil spill clean-up research and methods to ensure that decisions taken in emergencies are evidence-based.

There is no question that additional resources are needed to protect coastal First Nations and ecosystems from the risks posed by existing marine traffic volumes. High profile marine accidents over the past several years have made this abundantly clear. These new investments are a good first step towards providing the protections that coastal communities and First Nations deserve.

The FNFC is particularly supportive of the government's intention to launch co-management practices with First Nations, including building local emergency response capacity. First Nations have the authority to manage their territories and are well-placed to deliver protection for marine resources, from monitoring through to enforcement and incident response. This will require ongoing commitments to provide local training and capacity as well as close coordination and collaboration at a government-to-government level to ensure First Nations governments and Canada can effectively protect and co-manage the Pacific Coast. We look forward to partnering with BC First Nations and Canada as this important work unfolds in the coming months and years.

**For more information, contact the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC
info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca • 778-379-6470 (office) • 604-836-1909 (cell)**

A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES



Background:

The First Nations Fisheries Council was established in 2007 to implement the *First Nations Fisheries Action Plan*, an agenda for action in the Pacific fishery for BC First Nations. The *Action Plan's* vision includes all First Nations in BC working together to address issues of shared concern in the fishery, and to enhance the well-being of communities. The plan calls for maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems and species and restoring them as necessary while sharing management responsibility based on ownership of territories and the inherent Rights of First Nations. The council works with governments and stakeholders to ensure recognition and respect of First Nations' Title and Rights and to improve the conservation and management of fish and aquatic resources.