

# First Nations Fisheries Council

## April 2011 Communiqué



FIRST NATIONS  
FISHERIES COUNCIL

### MESSAGE FROM THE FNFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As part of the monthly communiqué, I would like to begin a new initiative – which is to provide a snapshot of the current issues and activities of the Fisheries Council from the Executive Director’s perspective to keep people informed about the activities of the FNFC. I will try to be concise, but if further insight is required I am open to constructive feedback. My first task in assuming this position was to initiate a gap analysis of the organization, or a SWOT analysis, and identify what are the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats.

**Strengths:** I very quickly determined that the strength of the First Nation Fisheries Council rests in its people. The staff and the Council members are very well chosen and capable; the Council board members have strength of corporate memory and experience. The operational staff are very efficient and intelligent, and are among some of the brightest young minds I have had the privilege to work with. We have a bright future.

**Weaknesses:** The absence of a clear business plan or Strategic Plan for the next 2-3 years that can be understood at various scales among First Nations (local, watershed, Province wide), and that can outline how we as First Nations interface with one another on common issues that are important to us. The Fisheries Council now sees this business planning as a priority issue, to ensure that we avoid being caught in a reactive environment.

**Opportunities:** Moving forward in 2011, I see opportunity to develop a relationship framework that can connect the local watershed capacity to the policy level, to develop cohesive positions in support of all First Nations that are broadly supported. Issues to be addressed include the IHPC/IFMP integrated planning processes, the emerging Aquaculture regime, and developing a stronger Tier 1 process to support the delegates that attend these sessions.

**Threats:** In the absence of connected and cohesive structures and positions, First Nations concerns will be viewed as fragmented, isolated, or not broadly supported. The way to effect changes to policy and program issues (whether funding or planning issues) is to develop structure and process among ourselves to demonstrate that the 203 First Nations in BC support a direction. We could then bring these issues to the political level, such as the Leadership Council, in the form of resolutions that can be adopted and even forwarded to a national level. This brings efficiency and effectiveness.

Concurrently with the strategic analysis, we have the day-to-day operations that have been occurring. It is now year-end with reports to be concluded, and we recently submitted the proposals for the 2011/12 fiscal year.

- We have identified a new office location in Musqueam, and are currently transitioning; we should be established by the end of April.

- We have moved bank accounts from Port Hardy to the Royal Bank in Vancouver.
- We are updating the Council By-laws and registry filings.
- We continue to hold the Bi-weekly update conference calls on every second Wednesday at 9:00am.
- We are actively liaising with our First Nations Coalition legal team on the Cohen Inquiry.
- We recently concluded the community sessions for the FNFC working groups and look forward to the release of final reports in the coming weeks.

For brevity, I will stop there, and hopefully this will advise you of the activities over the past month. If you would like to seek more information, or join our email list to stay informed, please get in touch with us by emailing [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).



Thanks,  
Jordan Point

## **FNFC WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

### **Economic Access Working Group:**

The Economic Access working Group is announcing its *Community Dialogue Session* dates of **June 7 and 8, 2011**. Sessions will be held in the Lower Mainland. Information about specific location, agenda items, and registration will be posted on the FNFC website and distributed via our email listserve in the coming weeks.

On January 31 and February 1, 2011 the Economic Access Working Group (EAWG ) held a workshop in Richmond. The EAWG would like to thank presenters Chris Nowotny (*Tsilqot'in* National Government) Larry Greba (*Kitasoo*) and Don Hall (*Uu-a-thluk*) .The presentations and notes from the Tier 1 and Tier 2 sessions will be uploaded to the FNFC website after April 21, 2011.

At the workshop, participants identified general principles and options for First Nations' access criteria, which will be developed into a discussion document. The second key output from the workshop is the drafting of a paper that is designed to examine the strengths, challenges, and opportunities of the PICFI program in order to prepare an effective business case for recommending an expansion of the program beyond 2012.

On April 21, 2011 EAWG will meet to review progress on discussion papers, identify and design Economic Access community dialogue sessions for 2011, and to provide an update on the major issues that were discussed by the Working Group following the DFO PICFI workshops on October 27, 2010 and the FNFC/DFO workshop on January 31 and February 1, 2011.

For more information on the EAWG, visit our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or email Saul Milne at [saul@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:saul@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

## Aquaculture Working Group:

As a result of the shift in the jurisdiction of aquaculture, the governance processes and management framework for all aquaculture activities in British Columbia require significant reform in order to balance the management responsibilities and jurisdictions of federal, provincial and First Nations governments. Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO), now responsible for the regulation of the aquaculture industry in British Columbia, has indicated that the management system for aquaculture will be modeled on the existing Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) and Integrated Harvest Planning Committee (IHPC), which are used to manage other Pacific fisheries. As the activity of aquaculture infringes upon, or maintains the potential to infringe upon, aboriginal Title and Rights, it was important to discuss the emerging aquaculture management system, called the Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans (IMAP), with First Nations. In an effort to share information and discuss First Nations views, priorities, and aspirations, the First Nations Fisheries Council, through the Aquaculture Working Group (AWG) engaged in six meetings with First Nations in January and February 2011, including one Tier 2 information session in Richmond, and five Tier 1 community dialogue sessions in the communities of Port Alberni, Alert Bay, Bella Bella, Prince Rupert, and Kamloops.

The views and priorities of First Nations with respect to aquaculture management, as heard in the 6 sessions, were compiled and summarized into a wrap up report, *“First Nations Perspectives on a Management Framework for Aquaculture in British Columbia”*. This document will be tabled at the next FNFC Council Meeting, and then will be posted on the FNFC website.

Throughout the sessions, First Nation participants also proposed a number of recommendations:

- **IFMP and IHPC Process:** To ensure that communication, transparency, consultation, and accommodation are consistent, DFO must develop a standard template for various processes (IHPC, IFMP, IMAP) that uses clear terminology, achievable objectives, and a mechanism by which First Nations can collectively develop perspectives and recommendations to influence management plans.
- **Decision Making:** Develop the appropriate protocol, terms of reference, or bi-lateral process with DFO to illustrate how First Nations input is prioritized and incorporated into decision-making processes.
- **Engagement in IMAP Process:** Develop a structured and resourced multi-step process with DFO that allows First Nations to appoint representatives, discuss management plans bi-laterally, and engage other stakeholders in an integrated process subsequent to internal and bi-lateral discussions.
- **Science and TEK:** Develop a scientific review panel that meaningfully involves and respects First Nations knowledge in all aspects of science gathering, modeling and planning.
- **Capacity:** Reviewing and responding to management plans is a highly technical and rigorous activity. First Nations require the necessary financial resources, training opportunities and realistic response timelines to meaningfully participate.
- **Criteria for Geographical Scales:** Smaller regions are preferable for a management model, but activities could occur at various scales, including: First Nations Harvest Committees and “MoUs” at a local scale to define consultation and accommodation; regional scientific advisory councils and regional steering committees with strong First Nations representation at the regional scale to inform and oversee management plans; and a communications strategy and steering committee with strong First Nations representation at the province-wide scale.

For more information about the AWG or to obtain the full wrap up report, please contact Alex Gagne at [alex@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:alex@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or 778-772-2954. Information about the AWG is also posted on our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

## Co-management Working Group:

At the 2010 FNFC Fall Assembly in Prince Rupert, First Nations in attendance were clearly supportive of using the term “joint management” in place of “co-management”. A **joint management** arrangement based on Section 35.1 rights is different than the types of “co-management” relationships that DFO has with third parties. The term co-management is typically used more broadly at and between all three tiers, and is an inclusive reference to working together, whereas joint management can be specifically in reference to a government to government working relationship between First Nations and DFO.

The FNFC-DFO Co-Management Working Group hosted a Tier 2 Co-Management Dialogue Session in Richmond on February 24 and 25, 2011 and Tier 1 Sessions on March 10 in Prince George and March 15 in Terrace. At the Richmond session, meeting participants identified a number of success factors for effective joint management relationships, and also the challenges and gaps in developing those relationships. Meeting participants also helped develop a “joint management planning matrix” that may help First Nations identify and clarify what they would like to jointly manage with DFO, and what management functions and activities could be coordinated at various scales (local, watershed/regional, and BC-wide). At the two Tier 1 sessions, meeting participants identified that building effective Tier 1 processes amongst First Nations was critical, especially for First Nation communities that do not participate in AFS or AAROM funded programs or organizations. Some areas of the province have been able to achieve critical mass for coordinating information and activities, but there are big challenges and gaps in other watersheds. The presentations and draft notes from each of the Sessions have been posted on the FNFC website, and the Summary Report from the Co-Management Dialogue Sessions should be available for distribution in early May.

The FNFC-DFO Co-Management Working Group (CMWG) is meeting this month to review the outcomes of the Community Dialogue Sessions and identify key activities, budget requirements and deliverables for the draft 2011/12 work plan. One of the key activities this year will be to work with DFO to coordinate an Integrated Salmon Planning Workshop in the Fall of 2011 with the objective to make improvements to the IHPC and IFMP process and to seek resolution on key issues. In addition, the CMWG will coordinate a meeting with the Fraser Salmon Roadmap Planning Group in May to gain clarity on the scope and objectives for each other’s co-management planning, and to explore linkages and information sharing between the Fraser Roadmap and the CMWG.

For more information about the CMWG, please visit our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or email Deana Machin at [deana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:deana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

## Section 35.1 Food Social & Ceremonial Fisheries Working Group:

The focus of the Working Group meetings to date has been on identifying factors that affect First Nations’ access to their Section 35(1) FSC fisheries, and identifying issues and challenges with FSC policies (or lack thereof) and broader fisheries management. Once we have a clear understanding of the issues facing BC First Nations, the objective of the Working Group is to make recommendations for policy and fisheries management improvements that will recognize and affirm First Nations priority access to, and management of, fisheries and aquatic resources.

To gain a broad understanding of First Nations perspectives on FSC policies and FSC management, the FNFC Section 35(1) FSC Working Group hosted three Tier 1 Community Dialogue Sessions on February 28 in Nanaimo, March 11 in Prince George, and March 17 in Terrace. Through their experiences and stories, First Nations attending the sessions shared a tremendous amount of knowledge and information related to how they manage their fisheries and their frustrations in dealing with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. First Nations highlighted the need to work together collaboratively in order to protect and give effect to

our fisheries rights, while also respecting the rights of neighbouring Nations that also depend on those same shared and diminishing fisheries and aquatic resources.

Many issues and challenges that were echoed across the province at the Tier 1 Community Dialogue Sessions were related to priority access, conservation, limitations to access, traditional laws and inter-tribal protocols, collaboration and coordination around food fisheries planning and implementation, and the need to engage First Nations political support to raise the profile of Section 35(1) fisheries. As a follow-up to the Community sessions, the FNFC is also contacting a number of First Nation fisheries managers from across the province to gain further input into our understanding of the FSC issues that communities are dealing with. The presentations and draft notes from each of the sessions have been posted on the FNFC website, and the Summary Report from the Section 35(1) FSC Community Dialogue Sessions should be available for distribution in early May.

Given the breadth of issues that were raised at all of the meetings, the Working Group will be challenged with how best to move some key issues forward in our work with DFO. The thoughts and feedback that participants shared at the Community Dialogue Sessions will be compiled into a summary issues report and will assist the FNFC and the First Nations Section 35(1) FSCWG members in identifying the priority issues that First Nations have highlighted to help to guide our work moving forward, and may help to identify those issues where we have an opportunity to make positive progress for BC First Nations.

In mid-January, Nicole McLelland, Lands & Resource Manager with the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, made the decision to withdraw from the working group in order to concentrate on her work within the community. Thank you Nicole for your contributions to the Working Group, and we wish you success with your community-based work.

At the March 25 First Nations Fisheries Council meeting, the Council appointed Bill Shepert, Fisheries Resource Manager with the Lax Lax Kwa'Laams Band, a Tsimshian community from the North Coast region, to the vacancy on the Section 35(1) FSC Working Group. Bill brings to the working group his knowledge and experiences as a sustenance fisher, a commercial fisher, and a fisheries manager.

For more information about the Section 35(1) FSC Working Group, visit our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or email Deana Machin at [deana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:deana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

---

## **NATIONAL ABORIGINAL FISHERIES FORUM**

The National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum ("NAFF") was a fisheries forum hosted by the Atlantic Policy Congress, which occurred March 29-31, 2011 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. From B.C., the Native Brotherhood, the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association, and the First Nation Fisheries Council were all co-sponsors of the event. Over 20 delegates from B.C. were able to attend and participate at this important conference.

This national conference focused on best practices in Aboriginal fisheries and economic development. Practitioners and interested parties shared their experiences and accomplishments to date, as well as the current issues and challenges facing the fisheries sector. The presentations had an emphasis on commercial fisheries, aquaculture, seafood marketing and product development and recreational fishing activities. There were many interesting presentations including a couple from First Nations on the East Coast and from the North, as well as from commercial fish processors and aquaculture companies. Chris Cook and John Henderson lead a session on Aboriginal Fisheries in B.C. that was well attended and received.

While there, participants from all over Canada expressed an interest to have this forum be held on the west coast next year, with a focus on pacific fisheries and First Nation economic development

opportunities. The FNFC will continue communications with the other partners and examine the feasibility of hosting the forum in B.C. in 2012.

Although the conference was packed with 3 full days of presentations, panels and discussion, we did have a little time for fun. The FNFC organized a dinner for the B.C. delegates one night, where we had the opportunity to enjoy some fresh lobster – lobster bibs were mandatory!



FNFC Co-Chair John Henderson ready for lobster!



Some of the delegates taking in the Halifax sights after the conference.

---

### NEW FNFC OFFICE LOCATION AND CONTACT INFO

The First Nations Fisheries Council office has moved to a new location on the Musqueam Band. The new address is:

First Nations Fisheries Council  
 4011 Si-Lu Drive  
 Vancouver, BC V6N 4G5

**Effective April 26, 2011**, the FNFC will have new office phone and fax numbers.

Phone: 604-568-9262 – Fax: 604-568-9345

For general inquiries about the FNFC you can still reach us via email at [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca), or visit our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

---

### OUTSTANDING INVOICES AND CLAIMS

The FNFC is currently in the process of wrapping up our finances for the 2010/11 fiscal year. Any outstanding invoices or claims for FNFC business, including travel claims, must be handed in **no later than April 21/2011**. Please note that any invoices or claims received after this date cannot be paid.

Claims and invoices along with receipts can be sent to the FNFC Finance Manager, Venkatesh Naik, at [venkatesh@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:venkatesh@fnfisheriescouncil.ca). You can also direct any questions regarding claims and invoices to Venkatesh.

---

## FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

First Nations Fisheries Council members are appointed by First Nations around B.C. through processes that they determine at a region scale. There are 14 Council seats available. The intent of the Regions is that First Nations will work collaboratively to determine which area they participate in and how they wish to see appointments made. Below is a list of current Fisheries Council members.

### Council Members

Jeff Thomas  
Cliff Atleo  
John Henderson  
Steve Carpenter  
Russ Jones  
Don Roberts  
Walter Joseph  
John Ward  
Howie Wright  
Thomas Alexis  
Hank Adam  
Vacant  
Ken Malloway  
Wayne Sparrow

### Region

South Island  
Nuu-chah-nulth (West Coast Vancouver Island)  
Kwakwaka'wakw (Northern Vancouver Island & Mainland Inlets)  
Central Coast  
Haida Gwaii  
North Coast  
Upper Skeena  
Northern Transboundary  
Columbia Transboundary  
Upper Fraser  
Mid-Fraser 1  
Mid-Fraser 2  
Fraser Valley  
Lower Fraser/Lower Mainland

---

## REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE CALLS

The First Nations Fisheries Council hosts Wednesday morning update conference calls for First Nations fisheries organizations on a bi-weekly basis. These calls are Tier 1, and are open to all First Nations and First Nations fisheries program staff.

**Wednesday, April 20, 2011 (9:00 am to 10:30 am)**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2011 (9:00 am to 10:30 am)**

Dial-in information and agendas are distributed prior to each conference call via our email listserve.

Summaries of past conference calls are available on the Fisheries Council website at:

[www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/index.php/mission-a-work-of-council/working-groups/regional-first-nations-fisheries-organizations](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/index.php/mission-a-work-of-council/working-groups/regional-first-nations-fisheries-organizations)

Please note that these summaries are internal to First Nations, and a username and password are required to view them. To get your username and password for our website, or to add your email to our listserve, please contact us at [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

---

## CONTACT US

For more information about the First Nations Fisheries Council, please visit our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca). For general inquiries contact us via email at [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).