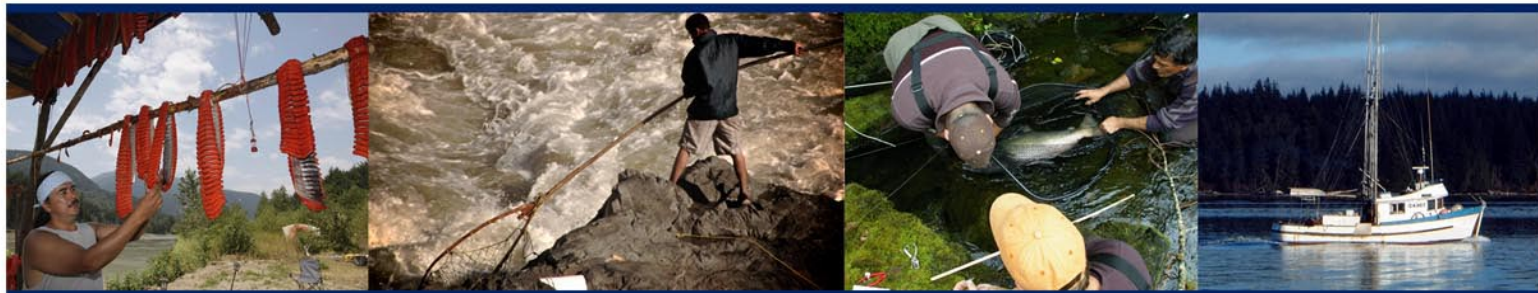




# First Nations Fisheries Council COMMUNIQUÉ

AUGUST 2012 ISSUE



## CURRENT FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL MEMBERS:

North Coast: Don Roberts  
Central Coast: Megan Moody  
South Vancouver Island: Allen Claxton  
Lower Mainland: Richard Sparrow  
Upper Fraser: Thomas Alexis  
Northern Transboundary: John Ward  
Haida Gwaii: Robert Davis  
North Vancouver Island: John Henderson  
West Coast Vancouver Island: Cliff Atleo  
Fraser Valley: Ken Malloway  
Mid-Fraser 1: Waiting for Confirmation  
Mid-Fraser 2: Vacant  
Upper Skeena: Stu Barnes  
Transboundary-Columbia: Howie Wright

## For more information please contact us:

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Website: [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca)

## MESSAGE FROM THE FNFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings everyone,

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer and hopefully fish are available in your areas. Here is snapshot of the current issues we're working on at the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) from the perspective of the Executive Director, and the Executive Council. We hope that these bi-monthly updates will help to keep BC First Nations informed about the initiatives and activities of our organization.

### Recent strategic meetings of the Council have included:

- Regional updates to the UBCIC, the FN Summit, and the AFN.
- The National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum (NAFF II) working group, which continues to develop the agenda for the October forum.
- Leadership Council meeting with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (June 25, 2012); at the most recent meeting, we requested follow up to two key items:
  - The request for an MOU between the Minister and the FN Leadership Council – the draft MOU is in its final stages, and we hope to have it signed off in Sept 2012.
  - A response to the FNFC submission to the Commercial Fisheries Modernization 2012 policy rollout.

### Strategic Planning:

The FNFC continues to build on the strategic objectives and direction of the *2010 All Chief's Task Force Report*, and recommendations to develop formal MOUs for a **cohesive voice among First Nations** (as discussed in previous communiqués and in Tier 1 meetings). The FNFC has been working with a number of you to elicit information and develop feedback for the purpose of building out the 3-year strategic plan for the FNFC, and to develop a broadly supported approach to working effectively together at a regional/provincial scale. We will further articulate this through our "Commitment to Action" work plan.

SUPPORTING STEWARDSHIP OF FISHERIES RESOURCES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS



This activity has been supported by First Nations and DFO, and has enabled the FNFC to demonstrate stability in the strategic vision. It has also provided the basis for “enhanced” classification as an organization, which allows for multi-year funding. The FNFC will soon be concluding an amendment to the 3-year agreement with DFO, and we look forward to supporting some of the next steps outlined in the strategic plan.

### **Institute on Governance**

The FNFC commissioned a report early in 2012 from the Institute on Governance, to help map out the strategic direction of the fishery objectives of First Nations, find a way to bring people together to inform this process, and most importantly, determine how to financially resource the institute to participate with the FNFC. These objectives lay out some action items, which include the establishment of regional/local advisory boards at the local and watershed levels (this would not necessarily mean a new level of process, but rather to develop *formal* relationships with existing groups and processes). The previous file manager, Saul Milne, is returning to school for his doctorate, but Dana Bellis has been hired as his replacement. Dana is currently working with the watershed-based groups to develop these Charters among First Nations that will set out principles to agree upon as common objectives, and most importantly, how the local/regional groups will direct the FNFC on how best to address matters of importance in their respective areas. We are referring to it as the HIYU Charter (which means “working together”). To support this, we have begun a number of direct community engagement meetings to articulate the direction and framework for developing a cohesive voice among First Nations.

### **Cohen Inquiry – Bill C-38**

The FNFC has been advised that Justice Cohen is now expected to table the Cohen Commission report in September 2012. The First Nations Coalition (FNC) made a second submission for Justice Cohen to consider concerning the most recent omnibus legislation (Bill C-38). In particular, that the elements of Bill C-38 be held inoperable, until fulsome consultation is enacted and carried out on the environmental and fisheries related elements of the legislation. The original FNC submission was a comprehensive body of work amounting to 256 pages, and made a total of 101 recommendations. The FNFC again wishes to express extreme gratitude to the legal team of Mandell Pinder for the work done on behalf of First Nations. For more information about the Cohen Commission and the final submissions, visit their website at [www.cohencommission.ca](http://www.cohencommission.ca).

### **Integrated Fisheries Planning Process:**

The Integrated Fisheries Planning process, which has been dubbed the **First Nations Integrated Salmon Harvest** (FN ISH) process, developed an Interim Coordinating Committee, which has developed an initial response to the 2012 IFMP for salmon. The response was presented to DFO on April 11, 2012. Perhaps the most explicit concern among the 13 recommendations included in the response is the concern about Section 35(1) fisheries allocations, and the specific concern that FSC needs are not being met. We have been advised that the work of FN ISH will be supported in our amendment and we look forward to carrying on with this integrated planning work. The interim committee will reconvene on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **NAFF II:**

The FNFC will be co-hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum (NAFF II), which is confirmed for October 2-4 in Nanaimo. Invitations to the National Chief, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and other dignitaries have been extended. The focus will continue to be related to the business of fishing, such as marketing, attracting investment/access to capital, training, and aquaculture.



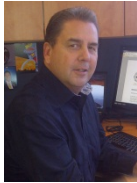
# First Nations Fisheries Council Communiqué

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The FNFC participates on a national working group and steering committee to continue to build the agenda for this Forum. A Mark Your Calendar “hold the date Notification” was sent out, but can also be found on our website calendar.

For information about our organization, or to join our email list to stay informed on First Nations fisheries issues in BC, please get in touch with us by emailing [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).



Thanks,  
Jordan Point  
FNFC Executive Director

## AQUACULTURE UPDATE

The First Nations Fisheries Council continues to work with the DFO on developing process for the Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans (IMAPs). Any updates will be circulated via the FNFC listserve.

This summer, the FNFC completed seven community meetings across the province to discuss the Aboriginal Aquaculture Engagement Initiative (AAEI). Overall, the dialogue was constructive and First Nations were genuinely interested in aquaculture development opportunities. A wrap-up meeting was held on August 16, 2012 to build upon on the dialogue from those meetings. The session was held to inform the development of a national strategy aimed at increasing First Nations participation in the aquaculture industry. A key component of this strategy will be the engagement of relevant federal and provincial departments and agencies to encourage a coordinated approach in supporting First Nations participation in the aquaculture industry across Canada. A draft of the national strategy will be presented at the National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum II (NAFF II), a national conference focused on economic development opportunities that will be held in Nanaimo, October 2 to 4, 2012.

The CFIA (Canada Food Inspection Agency) held sessions to discuss the draft CFIA Sampling Plan for Wild Anadromous Salmonids in Kamloops and Port Hardy, BC, in April and May, 2012. These meetings were the result of the CFIA’s presentation on the February 22 FNFC bi-weekly call, where the CFIA joined to give a brief overview of the draft surveillance plan. Since then, the CFIA has mailed out information packages to those communities involved in the meetings, as well as communities that expressed interest in receiving the information. The CFIA contacted the FNFC to assist in disseminating notices and reports, which the FNFC has agreed to do. Additionally, the FNFC is working with the CFIA to develop a process for engaging with First Nations communities on the National Aquatic Animal Health Program and the sampling plan. For information contact Nathalie Bruneau at [Nathalie.N.Bruneau@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Nathalie.N.Bruneau@inspection.gc.ca).

The FNFC continues to correspond with DFO to coordinate further conversations regarding the Proposed Changes to the User Fee Act and the Regulatory Regime to Manage the Release of Aquaculture Substances (RASRR).

For more information about the FNFC’s work on aquaculture, please contact Racheal Weymer at 778-279-2900 (tel) or [racheal@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:racheal@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

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### FNFC STAFF UPDATE

Alex Gagne has taken a 6 month contract with the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council to act as the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Implementation Coordinator. She is working with the 5 Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nations of the *Ahousaht et al* court decision to implement the rights based fisheries. The contract ends in January 2013. Replacing Alex on the aquaculture development file is Racheal Weymer.

Racheal is pleased to join the FNFC as a Program Manager. She brings with her years of experience in fisheries-related work, including harbour management, environmental monitoring and assessments, fisheries monitoring, and teaching fisheries monitoring courses to First Nations groups. For the last year and a half she has been running *Thisfish*, an international seafood traceability program, where she worked with many Aboriginal groups and stakeholders, including buyers, processors, distributors, fishermen, DFO, and different commercial fishing organizations. Additionally, she has developed many culturally-defined traceability programs for different types of First Nations fisheries. Racheal has a B.Sc. in biology with a focus on fisheries ecology that she completed at Simon Fraser University. Racheal can be reached at [racheal@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:racheal@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

Saul Milne will be returning to school in January 2012 to begin his Ph.D. He will also continue to work for the FNFC on a project basis. Replacing Saul as Project Manager for Planning and Policy is Dana Bellis.

Dana or Jaad Gudangaa 'lass is pleased to join the First Nations Fisheries Council. Dana comes to the FNFC after working in community engagement and policy development in consulting. Receiving her Masters in Indigenous Studies at the University of Tromø, Norway, Dana brings many interesting stories from her extended fieldwork sessions with Sami reindeer herders from Kautokeino. Growing up on Haida Gwaii, and coming from a long line of Haida fishermen, Dana is looking forward to advancing First Nations fisheries issues. She will be working with the First Nations Integrated Salmon Harvesting Plan, the Pacific Salmon Commission, Enhanced Economic Performance, the Integrated Management Planning processes, and working with the FNFC Charter. In her spare time, Dana is an avid quilter and enjoys volunteering in fundraising efforts for the Masset Soup Kitchen. Dana's real passion for fisheries steams from her love of good home cooked seafood, and she welcomes any invitation to taste locally caught and cooked seafood. Dana can be reached at [dana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:dana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

### 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. 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. 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).

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum (NAFF II):** October 2-4, 2012 – Nanaimo BC

**FNFC Annual General Assembly:** November 14-16, 2012 – Port Alberni, BC

For more meeting dates, check out our master fisheries calendar on our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca)

