



# First Nations Fisheries Council COMMUNIQUE

NOVEMBER 2013 ISSUE



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings to all,

Since our last Communiqué, we have signed of the fisheries Memorandum of Understanding with Fisheries Minister Gail Shea on September 24, 2013 to ensure regular meetings with the Minister, to discuss BC First Nations fisheries issues, and policy direction. The FNFC will work to support the leadership as an extension of the quarterly meetings with the RDG and the respective DFO directors.

The FNFC has also just concluded our Annual General Fall Assembly at the Squiala First Nation in Chilliwack, which was held on November 13-16, 2013. A key focus of the meeting was to present a report card on the *First Nations Fisheries Action Plan*, the FNFC's progress on implementing its 70 recommendations, and how current initiatives are consistent (or not) with original action plan recommendations.

We are grateful to the host community of Squiala First Nation, the LFFA, and the First Nations of the Lower Fraser for the gracious hospitality, and the collective work of Murray Ned, Rosalie Hope, Ernie Victor, Don Simpson and others to make this year's event such a great success. Dr. Michelle Corfield did an excellent job in facilitating our three days of meetings.

We also signed the relationship Charter with the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) at the Assembly, and did so in a cultural Salish way, with witnesses from First Nations and DFO (photos of the signing ceremony below under "Charter Update"). It was a very good process and made a lasting impression for the need for continued collaboration among First Nations of the fisheries front. FRAFS works on many Fraser salmon management fronts on behalf of the 97 Fraser watershed communities, and also includes many of the 54 Vancouver Island communities on the migratory approach. Initiatives such as the joint FRAFS Executive Committee, the Roadmap process, and the Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning are key elements of collaboration between many First Nations. We would like to raise our hands to FRAFS for their vision and continued hard work as we continue to learn to work together over this vast province on the complex issue of fisheries.

We would also like to acknowledge FN Summit Task Group Member Robert Phillips, who attended all three days, the National AFN office attendees Audrey Mayes and Will David, and also Ken Paul from the Atlantic Policy Congress. Finally we would like to thank our AFN Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould for being a keynote speaker, and supporting the governance direction that we continue to develop and build at the FNFC.

---

"A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES"



# First Nations Fisheries Council Communiqué

NOVEMBER 2013 ISSUE

The FNFC continues work on negotiating support for convening the regional participants on the various sector files such as Salmon Coordinating Committee, the aquaculture dialogue process, CFE collaboration, the Water for Fish initiative, and other projects.

During the 2012-13 fiscal year, the FNFC continued to implement and execute its operational resources to support the long term broad direction of advancing First Nations rights and title as mandated by the *First Nations Fisheries Action Plan*. The FNFC has an executive council comprised of appointed delegates identified from 14 regions throughout BC. The council primarily provides a legal function (as directors of the society) and oversight to inform, advise, and provide local knowledge and expertise to the operational work of the FNFC. At the Assembly we updated the FNFC Constitution and By-laws, including structural changes to the term and Council appointments.

The FNFC Executive Council nominations and appointments for the new term starting in January 2014 has been concluded, with the exception of some regional/community processes still working on their appointments. An orientation meeting for the Council members is planned for January 15, 2013, at which time we will move forward with development of the annual agenda and appointment of the society directors, Chair, and subcommittee members.

Region	Delegate	Region	Delegate
West Coast Van Island	Hugh Braker	Upper Skeena	Stu Barnes
North Van Island	John Henderson	Upper Fraser	Thomas Alexis
South Van Island	Dan Claxton	Mid-Fraser 1	Tina Donald
Haida Gwaii	Robert Davis	Mid-Fraser 2	Tracy Sampson (TBC)
Northern Transboundary	Keith Carlick	Fraser Valley	Ken Malloway
North Coast	In progress	Lower Mainland	In progress
Central Coast	Megan Moody (TBC)	Transboundary Columbia	Howie Wright

If you would like more 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).



O'Siem,  
Jordan Point, FNFC Executive Director

KEEP UP WITH THE FNFC THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOW us on Twitter – @FNFish

LIKE us on Facebook – BC First Nations Fisheries Council

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW FNFC STAFF MEMBERS!



### TERRY ROBERT – Project Manager, Water for Fish Initiative

Hello, my name is Terry Robert, I am one of the new folks at FNFC. I am working on the FNFC *Water for Fish* initiative. I have an undergraduate degree in natural resource management with a major in forestry and minors in environmental planning and geomorphology. I completed a Master's degree focused on applying educational theory to resource management consultation processes. My natural interest in water management and the issues of sustainability have underpinned every aspect of my career.

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”



The primary objective of the *Water for Fish* initiative is to assist with facilitating work in First Nations governance and management priorities related to water and fisheries, and implementation of the FNFC *Water for Fish* strategic framework. The FNFC *Water for Fish* initiative is a strategic framework that:

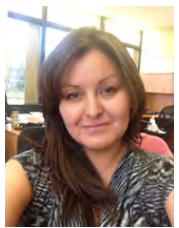
- promotes sustainable use of water to ensure minimal impacts to salmon through the protection of fisheries flows;
- promotes respectful First Nation engagement in legislative and policy development at the federal and provincial levels, and;
- promotes a clear partnership framework among First Nations organizations and with environmental non-government organizations.

I look forward to engaging with you on the *Water for Fish* initiative and would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at [terry@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:terry@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) for an update or to discuss upcoming activities.



**INO BANESIU, Executive Assistant**

Hello, my name is Ino Banesiu, and I am pleased to be joining the FNFC staff. I have over ten years of experience in administration, and I have held positions with international and Canadian companies. I have significant expertise in the areas of corporate office policies and procedures, financing transactions and corporate regulatory filings. I have formerly held the Executive Assistant position in a number of private and publicly traded companies, and I currently hold the position of FNFC's Executive Assistant. I can be reached via email at [ino@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:ino@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).



**TRINA SETAH, Project Coordinator**

Hello, my name is Trina Setah and I am a member of the Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government (Nemiah Band). Xeni Gwet'in First Nation is one of the six T̓silhqot'in Communities, and is located in the Interior of BC in the Williams Lake area. As the FNFC Project Coordinator, I will be working with the Project Managers to support the implementation of initiatives such as integrated fisheries planning, aquaculture policy and management, and water governance. Prior to joining the FNFC team, I worked with the T̓silhqot'in National Government as a Natural Resource Worker, where I helped to implement and evolve the T̓silhqot'in Framework Agreement, helped to support government-to-government relationships, and worked on forestry referrals. Prior to that, I worked with the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council as the Joint Resource Coordinator, and the Xat̓sūll First Nation (Soda Creek Band) as an Education Assistant and a Treaty Assistant. I can be reached by email at [trina@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:trina@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

## AQUACULTURE UPDATE

The FNFC has heard consistent messaging from First Nations that functioning Tier 1 and Tier 2 processes are critical for effective engagement of First Nations in aquaculture, given the limited scope of DFO's current and on-going Tier 3 advisory process. First Nations have said that without Tier 1 and Tier 2, DFO's Tier 3 AMAC (Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee) process is insufficient.

DFO has confirmed limited funding to the FNFC to support First Nations engagement in aquaculture management. The FNFC's key focus this year is to support a Tier 1 process for First Nations related to aquaculture, through a First Nations *Aquaculture Dialogue Process*. The Tier 1 Aquaculture Dialogue Process aims to support BC-wide discussion and strategic engagement on key issues, including the role of First Nations in governance and decision making. The Tier 1 process may

---

**"A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES"**



support those First Nations that are participating in the Tier 3 AMAC process and associated Tier 2 process.

A key focus of the Aquaculture Dialogue Process to date has been the strategic engagement of First Nations in DFO's ongoing AMAC process for finfish, shellfish and freshwater aquaculture. Representatives from regional fisheries organizations and/or nominated AMAC delegates have been engaged to participate in this province-wide forum. DFO recently held its second finfish AMAC meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Vancouver that included review and discussion of the draft Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plan, and Amendments to Conditions of License. The Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> shellfish AMAC conference call was cancelled due to delays by DFO in drafting the shellfish Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plan. According to a recent update from DFO, the second shellfish AMAC meeting is expected to be held early in 2013, and the third finfish AMAC meeting in March, 2014. A freshwater IMAP has not yet been drafted, and the first freshwater AMAC meeting is not expected prior to the summer of 2014.

For more information, please contact Michelle Tung at [michelle@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:michelle@fnfisheriescouncil.ca)

## **COMMERCIAL FISHING ENTERPRISE (CFE) NETWORK INITIATIVE**

In the spring of 2013, Commercial Fishing Enterprises province-wide engaged in a self-led Tier 1 process to develop an alternative model to PICFI's proposed approach to business development that would better address CFE priorities. The focus of the proposal was to support:

- **CFE networking and collaboration between CFEs** through which they can share best practices and lessons learned on priority issues, as well as explore shared business support or association models.
- **Business support mechanism** through which CFEs can access support services from each other, qualified First Nations organizations, and other service providers as selected by the CFEs (such as business planning, financing, organizational development, marketing, value-added, etc.).
- CFEs working together and strategically engaging DFO **on technical (policy/regulatory) issues and analyses** related to the commercial fishing industry and the PICFI program.

In August 2013, the FNFC was asked to provide an administration and coordination role to this pilot project. The proposal was approved by PICFI in late September 2013, and the FNFC is currently supporting the development and implementation of Tier 1 processes through a convener/coordinator role.

The initiative is open to all BC CFEs, and CFEs can opt in or out at any point. Participating CFEs drive the direction and implementation of the project. The FNFC supports the development and implementation of Tier 1 processes through a convener/coordinator role (at request of CFEs).

Most recently, the FNFC has supported CFE engagement in the agenda development of DFO's own annual CFE Business and Partnership Development Forum, which was held in Tofino November 26-28, 2013 and co-hosted by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

For more information, please contact Michelle Tung at [michelle@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:michelle@fnfisheriescouncil.ca)

## **FNFC CHARTER**

As a good faith document, the signing of the Charter affirms a mutual commitment for FNFC and partner organizations to work together toward the advancement of First Nations' interests in fisheries and aquatic resource management. In a broader provincial context, the signing of the Charter is a demonstration of BC First Nations' commitment to working

---

**"A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES"**



# First Nations Fisheries Council Communiqué

NOVEMBER 2013 ISSUE

together toward advancing mutual interests and priorities, provides a clear mechanism for First Nations to direct the FNFC priorities, and in moving forward will affirm regular communications and discussions.

The First Nations Caucus of the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) signed the Charter at the FNFC Assembly at the Squiala First Nation in Chilliwack on November 14, 2013. The FNFC is looking forward to continued positive working relationships with FRAFS, and would like to thank everyone who helped make the ceremony a success!



To date, Charters have been signed with: The Upper Fraser fisheries Conservation Alliance; Island and Marine Aquatic Working Group; Lower Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance; Council of Ha'wiih; Okanagan Nation Alliance; Council of the Haida Nation; Native Fishing Association; The First Nations Caucus of the Pacific Salmon Commission; The First Nations Caucus of the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat.

## SALMON COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Salmon Coordinating Committee (Salmon CC) is looking forward to continuing to provide strategic technical advice and recommendations to DFO on the annual development of the Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (Salmon IFMP), and contributing to enhancement of an effective Tier 1 in 2013-2014. This will be done through a series of Tier 1 and 2 meetings to refine working priorities, identify efficiencies with other processes, and further refine the development of the Salmon CC structure and process.

The Salmon CC is also engaging in DFO-led discussions on updates to the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework, which is currently in phase 1 of 3. Further information on the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework is available through the DFO website at <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/smon/saf-crrs/index-eng.html>. In addition, a draft Fact Sheet

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”



providing a high level overview of the process is being jointly drafted by the Salmon CC and DFO, and is available for sharing.

For further information on the Salmon CC activities or to access information, please feel free to contact Sustainable Fisheries Project Manager Dana Bellis at [dana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:dana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

## **FIRST NATIONS CAUCUS OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION**

**By Gord Sterritt, PSC FN Caucus Chair**

Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) activities have been focused on administrative activities as of late. The PSC Executive met in Alaska in October to discuss upcoming PSC activities and budget related issues. One of the results is that PSC activities for 2013/14 have been reduced in order to accommodate budget constraints from both the US and Canadian Federal Governments. PSC panels and committees were requested to review the work plans for the remainder of the year, and identify where they could cut costs to meet the fiscal realities. The result is that some panels and committees will continue to meet at the regularly scheduled meetings in Vancouver or Portland; others will not meet at the regular meetings, or will meet via teleconference to meet Pacific Salmon Treaty requirements. For example the Southern Panel, which deals with coho and chum issues of concern to both countries, will not meet in January, but instead will meet in February, which is unfortunate considering the anticipated impacts coho management may have on 2014 sockeye fisheries. These budget constraints and changes to meeting schedules not only affect First Nations' ability to engage at the PSC, but also commercial, recreation and environmental interests as well.

The First Nations Caucus of the PSC continues to explore ways to increase participation at the technical committee level in order to support those First Nations members of the PSC Commission and panels.

Other activities occurring within the PSC was the August 2013 call for nominations for two seats on the Northern Panel. The FNFC facilitated the nomination process, building on experience gained from establishing a process to fill a seat on the Fraser River Panel in the spring/summer of 2013. The Northern Panel nomination process was successful and 3 nominations from the North Coast/Skeena River were submitted to DFO through the FNFC for consideration by the RDG. The RDG has the authority to appoint Canadian panel and technical committee members. The authority to appoint Commissioners to the PSC lies with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The final two appointments to the Northern Panel have not yet been announced, and are anticipated to occur before the regularly scheduled PSC meetings in January and February.



## **FRASER SALMON ROADMAP UPDATE**

**By Walter Quinlan, Communications Coordinator, Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat**

It was a very productive day and a half at this season's first Fraser Salmon Road Map Assembly.

The work focused on Tier 1 governance options: "How you as a group will organize yourselves, define your interests and determine how you'll work together," said governance consultant Sheldon Tetreault.

"Live polling" – where everyone gets a voice and a vote – was one exercise used to engage participants on their views. The results gave us some insight into what people want to see in a Tier 1 governance structure. For example:

---

**"A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES"**



# First Nations Fisheries Council Communiqué

NOVEMBER 2013 ISSUE

---

- While unity is the goal, participants realize that conflicts will come up too. Accordingly, **100%** of attendees agreed that Tier 1 requires a transparent dispute resolution mechanism to resolve conflict in a timely manner.
- **88%** of attendees agreed that Signatories must have a decision-making mandate from their respective First Nations; otherwise there's no point entering negotiations with DFO. All agreed that Tier 1 must strengthen mechanisms for regional mandates, decision-making and reporting back.
- Everyone agreed that increasing the number of First Nations at the table would strengthen the process. There was a desire to see more Chiefs at the next Assembly. Finally, **73%** of participants left the Assembly feeling optimistic that an agreement on a Tier 1 governance structure can be reached in January.

People spoke of their responsibility to their communities. "How are we going to share, around conservation, and prepare for the next seven generations?" is how Greg Wadhams (Namgis) framed the question.

Murray Ned (Sumas) shared what he sees as a sense of "urgency" to the work. Or, as Charles (Corky) Douglas from Cheam said it: "We only have an Aboriginal right to fish, if the fish are there."

If you'd like to talk about the Fraser Salmon Road Map process, contact Pat Matthew at 778-471-8224, or Neil Todd at 250-378-4235, or Walter Quinlan at [frafs15@gmail.com](mailto:frafs15@gmail.com).

The next Assembly will be held on December 9-10.



*"I'm so pleased that we're all sitting here, talking about how we can work together."*

- Yvonne Scotchman (T'it'q'et), pictured here with Robert Leech.

---

"A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES"



### REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE CALLS (TIER 1)

The First Nations Fisheries Council hosts First Nations fisheries teleconferences on the second Wednesday morning of every month from 10:30am to 12:00pm. We will also hold topic-specific calls from time to time as needed. The purpose of these calls is for First Nations to raise issues or concerns for discussion, and for the FNFC to provide updates and seek feedback on our priorities and activities. 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 list.

**The next monthly call will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013.**

### ANNUAL FISHERIES ASSEMBLY

This year's FNFC Annual General Assembly was held on November 13-15, 2013 in Chilliwack, at the Squiala First Nation. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped to make this year's event a success! Presentations from the Assembly have been posted on the FNFC website, and a summary of proceedings will also be posted in the coming weeks. We have also posted photos from the event on our Facebook page.

A key focus of this year's Assembly was a "report card" on the implementation of the First Nations Fisheries Action Plan, reviewing the work we've done so far, and identifying what work has yet to be done. Just a reminder that we invite input and feedback from First Nations on this document, which has been sent out via the FNFC email list-serve. The deadline for feedback is December 13, 2013. For more information, please contact FNFC Communications Coordinator Aimee Arsenaault at [aimee@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:aimee@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

### FNFC LANGUAGE CONTEST WINNERS

The FNFC held did a call for fisheries-related words in BC First Nations traditional languages. We hope to use these words in future publications to linguistically reflect the traditions, values and beliefs that holistically link the people interdependently to the fish and their habitat. Language is crucial to cultural expression, as it is largely through language that unique cultural experiences are shared. Through sharing these words, we hope to celebrate the special connection between First Nations and the fish, as well as the cultural and linguistic diversity among First Nations in BC!

At the FNFC Assembly earlier in November, we did a draw from all the entries that were received. Congratulations to Shayla Lawrence who won the grand prize of a pair of Canucks tickets, and to second prize winners Amy Victor and Nicole Gordon, who will receive other great prizes from the FNFC. Thank you to all participants for your entries!

---

**For more info about the First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia, please contact us!**  
**202-100 Park Royal South • West Vancouver, BC • V7T 1A2 • Tel: 778-279-2900 • Fax: 779-279-7729**  
**Email: [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) • Web: [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca)**

**KEEP UP WITH THE FNFC THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**  
FOLLOW us on Twitter: @FNFish • LIKE us on Facebook: BC First Nations Fisheries Council

---

**"A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES"**

