



# First Nations Fisheries Council COMMUNIQUÉ

OCTOBER 2012 ISSUE



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Greetings to all,

Well no one can say we don't live in interesting times. With the coming of fall, we saw increased information on the federal approach to the environment with elements of C-38 still unfolding, including Fisheries Act modernization and changes to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, which significantly shifts the focus of both DFO and Environment Canada toward economic development. Congruent with this direction are significant staffing impacts within government due to budget reductions, and we are still learning of positions that have been (or may be) impacted, as well as service delivery.

I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer, and were able to access fish 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 fisheries update to the UBCIC at Harrison Hot springs, and to the First Nations Summit at Musqueam.
- The National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum (NAFF II) working group met in person in September to finalize the agenda, presentations and logistics for the NAFF II Conference.
- First Nations Leadership Council meeting with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on June 25, 2012; at the most recent meeting, we requested follow-up on two key items:
  - The request for an MOU with the Minister and the FN Leadership Council – the Draft MOU is in the final stages and we hope to have it signed off in September of 2012;
  - A response to the FNFC submission to the Commercial Fisheries Modernization 2012 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

---

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”



supported approach to working effectively together at a regional/provincial scale. We will further articulate this through our “Commitment to Action” work plan. 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 and the fisheries objectives of BC First Nations. A key step in moving forward, as identified in the report, was to establish an advisory process for the FNFC that facilitates information sharing between the various scales (local/watershed, provincial). Dana Bellis is currently working with the various regional First Nations fisheries organizations to develop formalized relationship documents, which we call “Charters”. These Charters 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 reported out to you that Commissioner Cohen requested a further extension to translate what is expected to be an approximately 1400 page report. The report was tabled to Cabinet on October 29, 2012, and was released to the public on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 31 following a lock-in and media conference in downtown Vancouver. The FNFC participated in the Inquiry as part of the First Nations Coalition (FNC).

After Bill C-38 became enacted, the FNC made a second submission for the Commission’s consideration regarding the Omnibus legislation. More specifically, the FNC recommended that Bill-C38 should be held inoperable until such a time that full consultation can be 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 will be working with FNC Counsel Brenda Gaertner (Mandell Pinder) to examine the report, and attempt to get a summary completed prior to the FNFC’s Fall Assembly in November. The FNFC also issued a press release about our initial impression of the Cohen Commission’s final report, which is available on our website. The FNFC wishes to once again 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, visit their website at [www.cohencommission.ca](http://www.cohencommission.ca).

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

As many of you are aware, First Nations fisheries are impacted each year by many elements of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs). The Salmon IFMP is the broadest IFMP, and it affects essentially all First Nations in BC. Many concerns about DFO’s IHPC/IFMP process have been raised over the years by First Nations, and the First Nations Fisheries Council began to coordinate a process called the First Nations Integrated Salmon Harvest Interim Coordinating Committee (FN ISH ICC) to work on bringing this process more in line with the needs and interests of First Nations.

---

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”



# First Nations Fisheries Council Communiqué

OCTOBER 2012 ISSUE

---

The ICC is now transitioning from an interim process to a standing process, including a name change to the *Salmon Coordinating Committee* (Salmon CC). While the focus of the Salmon CC remains on salmon, the delegates are engaged in productive and forward thinking planning on how to develop a good model and process for other non-salmon IFMPs based on their work.

In the spring, the original ICC retained the services of Dr. David Levy to develop an initial response and recommendations to the 2012 IFMP for salmon, which was presented to DFO on April 11, 2012. Perhaps the most explicit concern among the 13 recommendations in the report addressed concerns regarding Section 35(1) fisheries allocations, and the specific concern that FSC needs are not being met. This year, the coordinating committee is working to be prepared to engage in the IFMP conversation by November, in order to have greater influence on the 2013 IFMP.

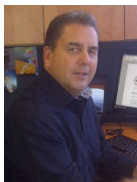
## **NAFF II:**

The National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum (NAFF II) was held in Nanaimo on October 2-4, so it has concluded since our last communiqué. Participants felt that it was a very informative and productive conference. The AFN National Chief gave a welcome via videoconference, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans addressed the crowd, and other dignitaries such as the Mayor of Nanaimo and the local MLA also welcomed us to Nanaimo.

The focus of NAFF II was a continuation of themes from the 2011 Dartmouth conference, and the business of fishing; *marketing, attracting investment, access to capital, training, and aquaculture* were key themes for presenters over the three days. Originally we had planned for 180 delegates to attend, but we were overwhelmed by the number of participants who registered. We had to close the registration with a final registration of 300 participants due to the capacity of the facility and fire marshal regulations. Initial feedback indicates that 93% of the respondents would attend another such conference.

The FNFC, as a co-host of NAFF II, participates on a national working group and steering committee, and is working collaboratively to continue to build the final report, which is currently in draft form. In the interim, the presentations from NAFF II are available to view on our website.

**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).**



Thanks,  
Jordan Point  
FNFC Executive Director

---

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”



### FNFC STAFF UPDATE – WELCOME SHERRY!

The First Nations Fisheries Council would like to welcome our newest staff member, Sherry Boudreau, who will be working on the water stewardship file!

Having done her Masters (M.Sc.) on water, Sherry Boudreau is pleased to undertake the 'Water for Fish' file at the FNFC. Sherry grew up in Prince Rupert in the heydays of fishing, and went from there to globe-trotting and going to school for a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies, and then on to her M.Sc. From October 1998 to September 2012, Sherry worked with various federal departments, primarily Environment Canada, and enjoyed pushing the envelope to broaden work on

Traditional Ecological Knowledge, *Species at Risk*, and overall capacity building for engagement. Please contact her about the Water for Fish program at [sherry@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:sherry@fnfisheriescouncil.ca), or learn more about this program on our website.

### AQUACULTURE UPDATE

The First Nations Fisheries Council continues to work with DFO to develop a process for First Nation participation in the development of the Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans (IMAPs). The FNFC has been contacting regional aggregate First Nations fishing organizations to inform them about the Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (AMAC), which will advise the development of the IMAPs. Seven of the nineteen/twenty seats on the AMAC are for First Nation delegates. There will be one seat for each of the following regions: West Coast Vancouver Island, North Vancouver Island, South Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, North Coast, Central Coast, and the Interior. The remainder of the AMAC seats will be held by aquaculture license holders (7), environmental organizations (3), aquaculture organizations (1-2) and the regional district (1).

The FNFC is seeking to attend existing AAROM/regional aggregate First Nations fisheries organizations' meetings to present on nomination processes and the IMAPs/AMAC. Please contact Racheal Weymer at [racheal@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:racheal@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) if you would like the FNFC to present at one of your regional meetings. The FNFC has also been in touch with interior groups with the hopes of organizing a meeting in November or early December (date to be determined) to discuss how the BC Interior region would like to fill their AMAC seat. Expect an AMAC information package to be circulated by the FNFC in the coming weeks via the FNFC email listserve and the FNFC website.

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 in Vancouver to build upon the dialogue from those meetings. The sessions were 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 was presented at the National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum II (NAFF II), a national conference focused on economic development opportunities, which was held in Nanaimo on October 2 to 4, 2012. A report on NAFF II will be circulated by the FNFC upon completion.

The CFIA (Canada Food Inspection Agency) held sessions to discuss the draft CFIA Sampling Plan for Wild Anadromous Salmonids in Kamloops and Port Hardy in April and May, 2012. These meetings were the result of recommendations from BC First Nations in response to the CFIA's presentation on the February 22, 2012 FNFC bi-weekly conference call, where the CFIA joined to give a brief overview of the draft surveillance plan. Since then, the CFIA has mailed out

---

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”



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 create a process to engage First Nations in the 2013 Salmonid Sampling Plan and the new Domestic Movement Framework. Plans are underway to hold a technical meeting in early 2013 to discuss the Sampling Plan and provide a potential salmonid sampling training opportunity. For more information contact Nathalie Bruneau at [Nathalie.N.Bruneau@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Nathalie.N.Bruneau@inspection.gc.ca).

**For more information about the FNFC's work on aquaculture, please contact Racheal Weymer at [racheal@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:racheal@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).**

### **SALMON COORDINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Salmon Coordinating Committee (Salmon CC) is making excellent progress in developing its internal structure and strengthening external relationships. The Committee has undergone a name change from the First Nations Integrated Salmon Harvesting Committee (FN\_ISH) to the Salmon CC. This change helps to reflect the specific activities of the committee and how it will link with other organizations and processes.

Delegates have identified the need for finding efficiencies and strengthening relationships with existing processes and organizations. Through a positive meeting on October 15, 2012 between the Salmon CC, FRAFS Executive Committee, and FNFC, each organization has affirmed the need for strong working relationships and maintaining regular communications. To achieve this, the groups have agreed to have standing agenda time at each of their meetings to receive updates on integrated salmon harvest issues and activities. Howie Wright, who sits at all three tables, was also appointed as Communication Chair (a liaison position).

Key activities and accomplishments to date include:

- Transitioning from Interim Salmon CC to Salmon CC
- Participating in a positive meeting with the FRAFS EC and the FNFC on how to best work together and how to identify efficiencies
- Appointment of Howie Wright as Communication Chair to coordinate communication between the FRAFS EC, the FNFC, and the Salmon CC
- Planning for Tier 1 and 2 engagement in the 2012-2013 Salmon IFMPs

### **WATER FOR FISH STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE UPDATE**

The FNFC has received a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (in the US) to improve First Nations participation in effective freshwater management in BC. This project is resourced at this point from September 2012 to August 2013 (12 months). Recent legislative reviews on the Fisheries Act, CEAA and Wastewater System Effluent Regulations have placed larger discretionary authority for water management with senior federal officials. The Province of BC has been reviewing the existing Water Act as well, and the overarching consideration is that the capacity to ensure stable and 'secure' water flow regimes for fish is greatly compromised.

This initiative's name is still under construction, and your input would be great in creating the final, usable, acronym; right now we are calling it the *Water for Fish Stewardship Initiative* (WFSI). There will be a 3-phased approach for delivery, which is to include:

---

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”





- 1) Broad connections made with First Nations organizations with the output of discussion papers and identification of key focal areas,
- 2) A series of 6-8 workshops throughout BC culminating in a BC-wide forum at the end of spring 2013,
- 3) Proposed strategic direction with models for freshwater management in BC.

For further information see our web site <http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/initiatives/water-habitat> or contact Sherry Boudreau at [sherry@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:sherry@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

### EULACHON/SPECIES AT RISK

In May 2011, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) recommended to the Minister of Environment that 3 Designatable Units of eulachon be considered for listing under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA): Fraser River – *Endangered*, Central Coast – *Endangered*, and Nass & Skeena Rivers – *Threatened* (currently being reassessed by COSEWIC).

DFO initiated its eulachon consultation activities and processes in the fall of 2011, which will inform its recommendation to the Minister on Environment on the listing of eulachon populations under SARA. DFO held initial consultation meetings with First Nations regarding the potential listings with First Nations between February and May 2012, and is scheduled to release the DFO technical report, *Eulachon Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA)*, by the end of October or early November. The purpose of the RPA is to quantify major sources of mortality, assess threats and requirements, estimate population trajectories, identify recovery target, and to identify potential allowable harm activities. First Nations had an opportunity to review and comment on the draft RPA, but many communities were frustrated by the lack of ATK in the RPA and concerned with how ATK and First Nations concerns would be addressed throughout the consultation process.

The next round of eulachon consultations over the fall and winter of 2012/13 will focus on potential “management scenarios” to identify actions to be taken to recover species in both the ‘list’ and ‘do not list’ scenarios, and to consider potential prohibitions and management actions. The socio-economic analysis to assess the costs & benefits of both ‘list’ and ‘do not list’ scenarios will begin in the spring/summer of 2013.

Environment Canada and DFO are schedule to put out a call for proposals for Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSAR) and Habitat Stewardship Program. First Nations are encouraged to submit proposals for projects that will contribute to the management, protection and recovery of species at risk. Please visit the DFO website for more information on funding programs.

The FNFC is planning to convene a First Nations/DFO Tier 1 & 2 Workshop on SARA and Eulachon on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in the Lower Mainland. The objective of the workshop will be to identify policy and operational issues related to SARA and First Nations’ fisheries, and to provide an opportunity for dialogue between First Nations and DFO on matters of mutual concern related to SARA and the potential listing of eulachon populations.

The FNFC hosts Tier 1 (First Nations Only) technical eulachon teleconference calls for First Nations to share information, coordinate activities, discuss concerns and strategies, and prepare for upcoming consultations with DFO. Please check our calendar occasionally for upcoming teleconference details. For more information on issues related to the *Species at Risk Act* and upcoming DFO consultations for aquatic species, please contact Deana Machin at [deana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:deana@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or 778-279-2900.

---

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”



### 2012 FNFC FALL ASSEMBLY

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

The FNFC will be hosting our Annual Fall Assembly on November 14-16, 2012 at the Hupacasath First Nation in Port Alberni, BC. The theme of the 2012 Assembly will be “*Navigating the Currents of Change: People, Planning, and Policy*”. There is information available on the FNFC website about registration, accommodations, the Stamp Falls habitat tour, and travel subsidies.

The following documents are also available on our website for download:

- 2012 Fall Assembly draft agenda
- Travel subsidy application
- Travel funding guidelines
- Travel options to Port Alberni
- FNFC Fall Assembly poster

Please note that due to space limitations, we will not have displays or vendors at this year’s Assembly.

Link to online registration tool: <http://cs.createsurvey.com/publish/survey?a=IVRFcD>.

For more information, visit the Assembly page on our website at <http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/communications/annual-fisheries-assembly>

### REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE CALLS

The First Nations Fisheries Council hosts update conference calls for First Nations fisheries organizations on a bi-weekly basis (every second Wednesday at 10:30am-12:00pm). 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.

**Upcoming FNFC bi-weekly calls:**

Wednesday, October 31, 2012 – 10:30am-12:00pm

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 – BI-WEEKLY CALL CANCELLED due to FNFC Fall Assembly conflict

Wednesday, November 28, 2012 – 10:30am-12:00pm

---

“A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES”

