



# First Nations Fisheries Council COMMUNIQUÉ

OCTOBER 2014 ISSUE



## FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL MEMBERS:

North Coast: **Arnold Clifton**  
Central Coast: **Penny White**  
South Vancouver Island: **Dan Claxton**  
Lower Mainland: **Richard Sparrow**  
Upper Fraser: **Thomas Alexis**  
Northern Transboundary: **Keith Carlick**  
Haida Gwaii: **Robert Davis**  
North Vancouver Island: **John Henderson**  
West Coast Vancouver Island: **Hugh Braker**  
Fraser Valley: **Ken Malloway**  
Mid-Fraser 1: **Tina Donald**  
Mid-Fraser 2: **Tracy Wimbush**  
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)

## FNFC Annual General Assembly

The time has come to register for the FNFC Annual Fall Assembly!

**October 28-29, 2014 (Tier 1)**

**Tentative: October 30, 2014 – Tier 2 engagement session hosted by DFO  
Coast Inn of the North • Prince George, BC**

**2014 Assembly Theme:**

**“Shaping the Wave: The Future of First Nations in Fisheries Management”**

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This year’s Assembly will be held in the Upper Fraser region in the Lheidli T’enneh territory of Prince George. The Assembly will take place on October 28-29, 2014, and will be Tier 1 (First Nations only). This year’s theme is “Shaping the Wave: The future of First Nations in Fisheries Management”.

DFO is also tentatively scheduled to host a Tier 2 First Nations engagement session with First Nations on October 30, 2014. You can register for both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 sessions through our online registration form on our website.

**For more information or to register or apply for travel assistance funding,  
please visit our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca).**

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**REGISTRATION:** Please note that registration for this event is required. Please register by **October 17, 2014** using our online registration tool on our website.

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**ACCOMMODATIONS:** A block of rooms has been reserved at the Coast Inn of the North for the nights of October 27, 28 and 29 at a special rate of \$107 to \$147 +tax per night depending on room type. The room block deadline has been extended to **October 15, 2014** and space is limited; guests are encouraged to book as soon as possible in order to ensure best rate and availability. For reservations, please call the hotel directly at 250-563-0121 and book under the group name "First Nations Fisheries Council" (or code cin-gfc-9904).

**TRAVEL SUBSIDIES:** There will be limited travel assistance funding available for participants who do not have access to adequate funds to attend the assembly. The travel guidelines and electronic application form are available on our website. Please submit requests for travel subsidy by **October 17, 2014**.

**DISPLAYS:** Participants are encouraged to bring displays of their organizations or fisheries projects to share. Display space must be booked in advance by contacting us at [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) by **October 17, 2014**.

More information is available on our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca). If you have any questions about the FNFC Assembly, please contact us at the FNFC office at 778-279-2900 (tel) or by email at [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

**Thank you, we look forward to seeing you in Prince George!**

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## Aquaculture Activities Regulations (AAR)

DFO hosted technical information sessions in Vancouver (Sept 22) and Nanaimo (Sept 25) regarding the AAR (a session was also planned for Terrace, but was cancelled due to low registration). The FNFC also coordinated Tier 1 (First Nations only) discussions following the information sessions. Due to the linkages between these regulations and a broad range of fisheries and habitat management issues of importance to First Nations, it was useful for communities to have an opportunity to get more information from DFO, ask questions, and learn how the regulations will be implemented and implications for First Nations.

The proposed Aquaculture Activities Regulations (AAR) were developed under the *Fisheries Act* to set out the conditions under which operators of finfish and shellfish farms may deposit pathogen and pest treatment products and other organic matter such as uneaten fish food and fish waste into the aquatic environment. DFO published the proposed AAR in *Canada Gazette* on August 23, 2014 initiating a 60-day public consultation process, which will close on October 22, 2014. The draft AAR can be viewed online here: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2014/2014-08-23/html/reg1-eng.php>

As described in the invitation letter from DFO, the AAR information sessions were 'information out' sessions – not intended to serve as an 'intake' process for First Nations feedback to DFO, but rather a chance for DFO to provide information to support First Nations' understanding and responses.

More information, including information on the public comment period and submitting written comments, is available here: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=862669>

### **Role of the FNFC:**

Prior to the DFO information sessions, the FNFC produced a briefing note and initial analysis to support First Nations engagement on this topic, and identified key questions related to First Nations priorities. This analysis was shared with BC First

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Nations via the FNFC email listserve. The FNFC has consolidated the comments from the Tier 1 discussions, which will also be shared with First Nations via the email listserve.

Participants at the information sessions supported the development of a coordinated response to the AAR, to be developed and finalized by a working group of participants from each of the sessions, with support from the FNFC. The coordinated response will provide a strong message to DFO, and will support First Nations groups in their own responses/activities related to the AAR. The initial analysis conducted by the FNFC and the comments from Tier 1 AAR discussions will form the basis for the response letter.

### **AAR Consultation sessions by request:**

DFO committed to holding consultation sessions with First Nations communities or organizations upon request in advance of the October 22, 2014 deadline for comments on the AAR. First Nations who wish to have direct engagement with DFO can contact Ed Porter at [edward.porter@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:edward.porter@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or 613-990-0184 (tel) to make arrangements.

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## **Aquaculture Management Advisory Committees – DFO’s AMAC Process**

DFO recently confirmed dates for upcoming meetings of the Aquaculture Management Advisory Committees (AMACs) for finfish and shellfish aquaculture. Full notices of these meetings as received from DFO have been distributed to BC First Nations via the FNFC email listserve, and have also been distributed by DFO directly to First Nations.

The AMAC process is a DFO process. DFO has allocated 7 seats for First Nations at the AMAC table, and delegates have been appointed by their regions or by their regional First Nations organizations. Only these delegates participate at the AMAC table, but anyone is welcome to attend the AMAC meetings as an observer.

**October 9, 2014 – Finfish AMAC meeting – Richmond, BC**  
**October 23, 2014 – Shellfish AMAC meeting – Courtenay, BC**

More information about the upcoming AMAC meetings, including meeting materials, is available on the FNFC website, [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca), under News and Events.

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## **FNFC Science Series – Wild Fish Health and Pathogens Workshop Nov 19!**

**SAVE THE DATE! The first Science Workshop is on November 19, 2014**  
**Topic: Pathogens and Diseases: Promoting Healthy, Resilient Salmon Populations**

The FNFC will be coordinating a series of science workshops this fall/winter to address some present practices and available tools for salmon fisheries management. Three integrated science panels of experts, scientists, academic institutions, and NGOs will be convened to discuss the state of the science for topics of relevance for salmon management in BC. The objective of the Science Series is to provide practical information, analysis and advice to First Nations on priority scientific and salmon management topics to support informed planning and decision making.

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November 19, 2014	December 2014 (dates TBD)	January 2015 (dates TBD)
Promoting Healthy, Resilient Salmon Populations	Addressing the 'Big Picture' in Salmon Fisheries Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Day 1: TEK and Management Planning</li><li>Day 2: Understanding Cumulative Effects</li></ul>	Environmental Impact Assessment and Management of Extractive Resource Activities

## The First Science Workshop – November 19, 2014:

There is growing appreciation of the role of disease and pathogens in salmon population dynamics. The first science workshop, **Pathogens and Diseases: Promoting Healthy, Resilient Salmon Populations**, will explore these topics and provide a summary of the state of the science. Recent approaches relying on genomic research tools will be described. The workshop will consider: How significant is disease in the population dynamics of salmon? Vulnerability of salmon to emerging diseases? How can we promote healthy, resilient salmon populations?

The session will be facilitated by Dr. David Levy, former Research Director for the Cohen Commission. Salmon health expert scientists Dr. Kristi Miller, Dr. James Winton, Dr. Craig Stephen and Dr. Michael Kent will be presenters.

**Registration for this session is required**, and is now open. For more information or to register, visit the Science Series page on our website at <http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/news-events/fnfc-science-series>.



Photo: Economic fishery on the Lower Fraser – fall 2013 – Photo by FNFC

## Staff Changes at FNFC

The FNFC would like to say a big THANK YOU to our former Project Coordinator Trina Setah and former Project Manager Dana Bellis for their great work! Trina and Dana have recently moved on from the FNFC; Dana has accepted an opportunity with Shell Canada, and Trina is planning on returning to school to study natural resource management. These two will be truly missed at the FNFC, and we wish them both the best of luck in the future!

The FNFC is also welcoming three new staff members. Nadia Joe and Julia Ko are our new Project Managers on the Water for Fish file, and Wanli Ou is our new Fisheries Project Manager. We look forward to their contributions to the FNFC team.

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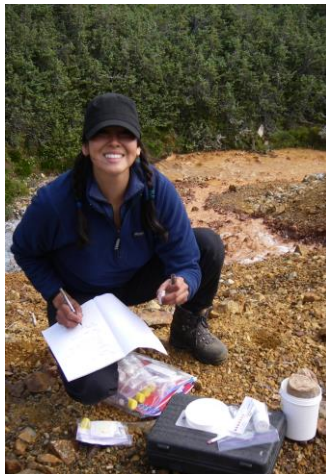
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## WANLI OU

I have over four years of work experience in the fisheries management and conservation policy sector, and am currently finishing up my Master's degree at SFU's School of Resource and Environmental Management (REM). My professional work experience has been with DFO fisheries management and Species At Risk recovery planning. My interdisciplinary Master's thesis research, done in collaboration with the Heiltsuk First Nation, explores the feasibility of local management interventions to rebuild BC herring stocks through an Adaptive Management experiment based on local and traditional ecological knowledge. I am very excited about new opportunities and adventures with the First Nations Fisheries Council. Not simply a big fish nerd, I am also highly passionate about effecting positive social and environmental change. I hope to use my relevant education, professional experience, and enthusiasm to work with and for BC First Nations to protect and reconcile First Nations rights and title that relate to fisheries and aquatic resources. Looking forward to connecting with everyone!



## NADIA JOE

Dannch'e! My traditional name is gugula and I'm a member of the Crow Clan from the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. My family is from a small fishing village called Klukshu, located in southwest Yukon. As a child I had the privilege of watching the creek turn red with the backs of salmon and I understand firsthand the role that fisheries have had, and continue to have, in shaping our cultures and sustaining our communities as Aboriginal peoples. I am pleased to be joining the First Nations Fisheries Council as one of the two new Water Project Managers and see immense potential for this position in supporting the advancement of a new model of water governance and management in British Columbia. That is, advancing a model that not only sets targets and objectives needed to support healthy fisheries and healthy communities but one that also considers the cultural water needs and spiritual values of Aboriginal communities across British Columbia. I look forward to working together to achieve this vision and welcome the opportunity to hear from you regarding your hopes, concerns and experiences regarding freshwater in your communities.



## JULIA KO

With over five years of experience in integrated water resource management, I have worked on water and water-related issues internationally and in Canada. In completing my research based Masters from the University of Waterloo, I have worked in Beijing with the International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and a European Commission project in Lao Peoples Democratic Republic before working with Water Matters in Canmore, Alberta. While working for Water Matters, I promoted progressive water policies to support instream flow needs (i.e. the amount of water a river needs to support ecosystem services) in the advent of drought and climate change, groundwater risks posed by in situ oil sands projects, hydropower dams and land-use planning, and source water protection in land-use planning.

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**Congratulations to the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Syilx people, and all involved in the development and opening of the new k] cpə'lk' stim' salmon hatchery in Penticton on Saturday, September 20, 2014!**



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## **FNFC UPDATE CONFERENCE CALLS (TIER 1)**

The FNFC hosts regional update teleconferences on the second Wednesday morning of every month from 10:30am to 12:00pm. We 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 call will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014.**

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**202-100 Park Royal South • West Vancouver, BC • V7T 1A2 • Tel: 778-279-2900 • Fax: 779-279-7729**

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