



Fisheries Management and Allocations

FNFC Annual General Assembly
November 7 & 8, 2018
Kelowna



FIRST NATIONS
FISHERIES COUNCIL

DFO and Indigenous Fisheries

- Based on the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation and recent case law, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has identified the need to review policies and approaches related to fisheries allocations for First Nations, and specifically related to food, social and ceremonial fisheries.
- DFO is proposing to work in collaboration with the FNFC to co-develop a process to engage in dialogue with First Nations in BC to understand what a meaningful fishery might look like, and seek new approaches to achieve this.
- Throughout the process, the FNFC will be seeking First Nations guidance and perspectives on fisheries allocations and will work to coordinate and advance collective First Nations interests in a consistent manner and as a united force.



Development Approach

- To undertake this work FNFC is proposing to focus on a Tier 1 workplan to support First Nations in their Tier 2 Dialogue with DFO, and to consolidate First Nations feedback into recommendations to DFO
- We have advised DFO that discussions should not be limited to S 35.1 fisheries, and that it is our expectation that much broader dialogue on fisheries management and allocations will also occur
- This is an opportunity for First Nations collectively to work with the federal government on the co-design/co-drafting of fisheries policy



FN Fisheries Action Plan: Vision

Our ancestors have passed on to us the responsibility to protect our land, waters and resources as they have before us, and to pass on our traditional values and practices to future generations. First Nations in BC will work together – based on respect for each other and the natural world – to address issues in the fishery for our common good and to enhance the well being of our communities. We will strive to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems and species and restore them as necessary. We will work in partnership and share management responsibility based on our ownership of our territories and our right to manage the fishery. We will work with other governments and third parties to ensure recognition and respect of our title and rights and conservation and appropriate management of the resource.



Theme 2 Aquatic Resource Sharing (Allocation)

- **STATEMENT OF UNITY:** With respect for Aboriginal Title and Rights and Treaty Rights arising from First Nations ownership of their territories and resources therein, First Nations in BC will have a majority share of all aquatic resources. First Nations will conserve shared and migratory stocks and work together to resolve intertribal resource sharing concerns.
- **ISSUE:** The current system for sharing migratory fish among First Nations results in contentious allocations and fails to promote unity.
- **BROAD ACTIONS:**
 - Improve communications among First Nations about resource sharing.
 - Lead a First Nations approach to establishing systems for allocation and sharing.
 - Develop strategies to address resource sharing, achieve First Nations majority share of all fisheries resources, and share aquatic resources with third parties.
 - Promote resource-sharing discussions that foster and maintain unity among First Nations.



Collective and Collaborative Approach to Influence Change

FNFC worked as a Coalition in partnership with regional First Nations organizations (CFN, LFFA, IMAWG, ONA, NCSFNSS, NTA, SFC, UFFCA) and Mandell Pinder LLP to develop 12 overarching recommendations on the proposed *Fisheries Act* amendments

- Collaboratively Draft a Recognition and Respect Policy
- Recognize Rights and Responsibilities
- Restructure and Streamline Fisheries Governance and Management
- Remove Barriers to Fair and Transparent Access and Allocation Decisions
- Develop Policy Guidance for Respectful Access and Allocation



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What government policies or management arrangements need to change to help your community meet its S35.1 fisheries/food fisheries needs?
- What policies or processes are needed for First Nations to work with neighbouring Nations on shared access and management of migratory fish spp?

