



# First Nations Fisheries Council COMMUNIQUÉ

AUGUST 2019



## FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL MEMBERS:

North Coast: **Arnold Clifton**  
Central Coast: **Megan Moody**  
South Vancouver Island: **Larry George**  
Lower Mainland: **In progress**  
Upper Fraser: **Thomas Alexis**  
Northern Transboundary: **Cheri Frocklage**  
Haida Gwaii: **Robert Bennett**  
North Vancouver Island: **John Henderson**  
West Coast Vancouver Island: **Hugh Braker**  
Fraser Valley: **Ken Malloway**  
Mid-Fraser 1: **Murray Ross**  
Mid-Fraser 2: **Tracy Wimbush**  
Upper Skeena: **Stu Barnes**  
Transboundary Columbia: **Howie Wright**

## Contact Us:

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## Message from the Executive Director

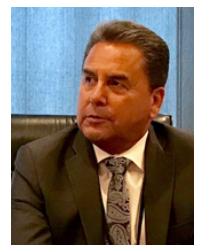
It goes without saying that 2019 has been a very difficult year thus far. While we did know that the southern Chinook and interior steelhead management issue would impact BC First Nations fisheries, no one expected the Big Bar landslide impacts, which has added to disastrously low returns this season. What is the plan moving forward?

It is important for us to recognize that as part of the *Fisheries Act* legislative review, the FNFC and the BC First Nations Fisheries Coalition recommended the need for a rebuilding strategy in a purpose section of the revised act.

It is now more apparent than ever that BC First Nations need to work collectively to drive an agenda for rebuilding depleted salmon stocks on the Pacific coast. At all scales, we must look at developing First Nations structure and process to advance a coherent strategy to protect and rebuild declining populations. With added impacts such as climate change, environmental pressures and mixed stock fisheries, First Nations must develop a united voice in advancing our interests.

DFO is now looking toward enhancement actions, and I believe it is time to move BC First Nations toward a leading role in developing enhancement activities –whether that’s developing a vision that involves overseeing hatchery expansion, or other initiatives. In the United States, the US tribes operate 24 hatcheries, and produce 40 million fish annually. Is it time we begin to open this debate in Canada?

Thank you,  
Jordan Point  
Executive Director  
First Nations Fisheries Council of BC



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## Big Bar Landslide

In late June, a landslide was discovered on the Fraser River near Big Bar, north of Lillooet. Rock from the cliffs above created a 5m waterfall in the river, preventing salmon from moving upstream to their spawning grounds. The slide poses a very serious threat to Fraser River salmon runs.

Within a week of discovering the blockage, a Unified Incident Management Team comprised of First Nations, Federal, and Provincial governments was established to lead ongoing response operations. A First Nations Leadership Panel was also formed to provide guidance and decision-making via consensus related to the incident.

The Unified Incident Management Team's work is ongoing as they continue to evaluate and respond to the changing conditions resulting from the slide.

Technical update calls for First Nations are being held on Wednesday afternoons.

The Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) is leading communications on the incident for BC First Nations. To receive updates, please contact FRAFS at [frafs15@gmail.com](mailto:frafs15@gmail.com).

For more information visit the Big Bar Landslide Incident website at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/incident-summaries/big-bar-landslide-incident>.

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## Accepting PSC Nominations for Northern, Southern and Fraser River Panels

DFO has requested the advice of the FNFC to bring forward nominations to fill expiring seats on the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) Northern, Southern and Fraser River Panels. To accomplish this, the FNFC is conducting a nomination process to recommend at least two qualified candidates for each expiring seat. DFO will then consider the nominations and appoint a candidate to fill each vacancy on the respective Panels.

The terms for Canadian panel members on the Northern, Southern and Fraser River Panels expire on September 30, 2019 and November 20, 2019. In reviewing Panel compositions, DFO has indicated that the following seats on each Panel have been identified for First Nations in BC:

- Northern Panel: two (2) seats
- Southern Panel: four (4) seats
- Fraser River Panel: four (4) seats

The deadline to submit nominations to the FNFC is **Thursday, September 12, 2019**. For more information about the PSC, or to receive the Panel members nomination package, please contact Janson Wong, FNFC Operations Manager, at 778-379-6470 or [janson@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:janson@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

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## Aquaculture

The Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard announced on June 4, 2019, a series of measures to enhance the sustainability of aquaculture management. During this announcement, the Minister outlined his intent to establish an Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Board (IMAB) and three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to support this initiative. The overarching objective of the Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Body (IMAB) is to convene policy, technical, and scientific experts from the federal and provincial governments, Indigenous Peoples/First Nations, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), industry, and others to propose and advise DFO of specific actions that will improve the overall management of aquaculture within the Pacific Region.

The IMAB will provide guidance and receive reports from the three TWGs focusing on:

1. Area-based approaches to aquaculture management;
2. Aquaculture production technologies; and
3. Marine finfish and land-based fish health.

An introductory meeting was convened by DFO on August 8, 2019 in Vancouver between the IMAB and TWGs. The FNFC's Aquaculture Coordinating Committee (ACC) participated in the meeting to gather information and identify delegates to populate each table. The FNFC is coordinating with ACC delegates to identify a reporting strategy for each table, as well as a quarterly summary report to be produced and shared with BC First Nations.

For more information the First Nations Fisheries Council's work with Aquaculture and the Aquaculture Coordinating Committee, please contact Richard Sparrow at [richard@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:richard@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or (tel) 778-379-6470.



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## Water for Fish

### **Letter from FNFC to Province Calling for Establishment of BC Water Sustainability Fund:**

The FNFC sent a letter in August to the Honourable George Heyman, BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, calling on the Province to create a **Water Sustainability Fund**. This fund would redirect water license fees and rentals and provide resources to First Nations and community partners to develop and implement freshwater planning, governance, and management initiatives across BC. This recommendation has also been put forward in the **Report on the Budget 2020 Consultation** by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services released in August.

Link to report:

[https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/41st-parliament/4th-session/fgs/reports/FGS\\_41-2-2\\_Budget-2020-Consultation-Report\\_2019-08-07.pdf](https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/41st-parliament/4th-session/fgs/reports/FGS_41-2-2_Budget-2020-Consultation-Report_2019-08-07.pdf)

Please contact Susi Porter-Bopp, Water for Fish Program Manager, at [susi@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:susi@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or 778-379-6470 if you have any questions or to receive a copy of the letter.

### **New Resource on Regulatory Tools to Protect Water for Fish Under BC's Water Sustainability Act:**

The FNFC developed a new briefing note on regulatory tools to protect water levels for fish under BC's *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA). In conditions of extreme water shortage due to drought or over-allocation, the BC Government can implement 'Temporary Protection Orders' under the WSA<sup>1</sup>. These allow the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to temporarily regulate diversion, use, and storage of water from a specific stream or aquifer, regardless of any existing rights to that water.

To receive the briefing note, please contact Geneviève Layton-Cartier, *Water for Fish* Project Coordinator, at [genevieve@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:genevieve@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or 778-379-6470.

### **5<sup>th</sup> BC First Nations Water Governance Roundtable:**

On June 12-13, 2019, FNFC hosted the fifth First Nations Water Governance Roundtable meeting in Nadleh Whut'en First Nation and Saik'uz First Nation Territories (Fort Fraser and Vanderhoof). Roundtable participants generally include approximately 15 staff and leadership comprising 55 First Nations across BC that identify fresh water as a priority, and are actively developing and implementing strategies and plans to achieve their goals with respect to water. The Roundtable provides a unique structured space for collaboration, information sharing, strategy development, and capacity building at a province-wide scale.

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<sup>1</sup> *Water Sustainability Act*, SBC 2014, c. 15, s. 86-88.

[http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/14015#division\\_d0e12475](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/14015#division_d0e12475)



At this fifth meeting, participants learned about the groundbreaking *Yinka Dene 'Uza'hné Surface Water Management Policy and Guide to Surface Water Quality Standards*<sup>2</sup>, shared updates on local fresh water initiatives in the context of Crown reconciliation commitments, identified recommendations for supporting scaled and networked First Nations-led fresh water monitoring, and provided feedback on the BC Water Sustainability Fund initiative. FNFC staff have developed a briefing note on lessons learned by the Nadleh Whut'en, Stelat'en and Saik'uz based on their work developing and implementing the *Yinka Dene 'Uza'hné Policy*, including the *Too (Water) Declaration*.

For more information or to receive the meeting summary or briefing note, please contact Geneviève Layton-Cartier, *Water for Fish* Project Coordinator, at [genevieve@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:genevieve@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or 778-379-6470.

### Upcoming Water for Fish Events:

The *Water for Fish* initiative hosts a Water Wednesday webinar/teleconference call generally on the third Wednesday of every month. We also host freshwater-related workshops and meetings. Please contact Geneviève if you would like to be added to the First Nations Water Network email list.

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## WEBINAR: Monthly “Water Wednesday”

October 9, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

**TOPIC: FNWARM and BC Mining Law Reform Report**

Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4092145185098729483>

In this webinar, **Loretta Williams** from the Xení Gwet'in First Nation will present on BC First Nations Women Advocating Responsible Mining (FNWARM), which she chairs. More information about FNWARM is available online at [www.fnwarm.com](http://www.fnwarm.com).

**Calvin Sandborn**, Assistant Professor and Legal Director of the University of Victoria Environmental Law Centre, will discuss the report entitled ***BC Mining Law Reform: An Action Plan for Change*** developed in partnership with FNWARM, Fair Mining Collaborative, Northern Confluence and Mining Watch Canada. This report proposes recommendations to reform BC's regulatory system for mining in response to growing evidence of systemic failures, including the Mount Polley Mine disaster. Calvin will focus especially on the recommendations related to water protection. The report is available online at <http://reformbcmining.ca/reports/>.

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<sup>2</sup> Nadleh Whut'en and Stelat'en. (March 2016). *Yinka Dene 'Uza'hné Surface Water Management Policy and Guide to Surface Water Standards*.  
<http://www.carriersekani.ca/news/yinke-dene-uzahne-guide-to-surface-water-quality-standards>.



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## Economic Performance

The Economic Coordinating Committee (ECC) operates as a BC-wide Tier 1 advisory table focused on informing BC First Nations of opportunities and issues related to fisheries economic opportunities and policy, as well as advancing and addressing First Nations economic fisheries issues and interests. The next ECC meeting will be held on October 1, 2019.

In order to support the ECC and development of priorities, FNFC has completed an environmental scan and analysis of First Nations economic fisheries activities across BC to identify issues, existing gaps, and potential opportunities. The scan will be used by the ECC and FNFC to identify and enhance economic fisheries related activities and opportunities, as well as support collaborative capacity development within and amongst First Nations.

In January 2019 FNFC delivered three regional socio-economic valuation workshops exploring the development of a First Nations fisheries valuation framework, and identifying high-level policy priorities and challenges communities are looking to address in order to support First Nations economic independence and healthy communities. This fall, FNFC will be developing a final report based on the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the workshop.

FNFC is collaborating with the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute (NIFI) to review information and data related to Indigenous initiatives and priorities and previous engagement and communications with AAROMs, CFEs, Tribal Councils, and other Indigenous organizations/stakeholders across BC, to identify and produce complete Indigenous applications for funding consideration under the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). This collaboration seeks to increase support of indigenous led initiatives and projects funded through BCSRIF.

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## FNFC UPDATE CONFERENCE CALLS (TIER 1)

The FNFC hosts First Nations fisheries update calls on the **second Monday afternoon of every month from 1:30pm to 3:00pm**. We also hold topic-specific calls from time to time as required. 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 FNFC update call will be held on Monday, September 9, 2019**

### Keep up with the FNFC on Social Media!

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LIKE us on FACEBOOK at [www.facebook.com/fnfcbc](http://www.facebook.com/fnfcbc)  
FOLLOW us on TWITTER at [www.twitter.com/fnfish](http://www.twitter.com/fnfish)

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## CALL FOR FNFC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia (FNFC) is seeking nominations for 14 Regional Executive Council Delegates. The term for current Delegates ends in December 2019, and new or re-appointed delegates will begin a new three-year term in January 2020. The new Council will be announced at the FNFC Annual General Assembly on November 6 & 7, 2019.

The deadline for nominations is **Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

For more information please visit

[www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/executive-council/fnfc-executive-council-nominations/](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/executive-council/fnfc-executive-council-nominations/)



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**Calling all BC First Nations fishers and photographers...**

***The First Nations Fisheries Council is holding our photo contest!***

***Grand Prize: \$250 Visa Gift Card – Deadline Friday, October 4, 2019***

**The FNFC photo contest is back!** We're seeking beautiful First Nations fisheries-related photos to appear in our **2020 calendar!** Twelve winning photos will be chosen, and one GRAND PRIZE winner will be selected from among the 12 photos. The grand prize photo will be featured on the calendar's cover, and the photographer will receive a \$250 Visa gift card. Photographers who submit the other 11 winning photos will each receive a \$25 Visa gift card. All winning photographers will also receive a few free copies of the calendar.

Depending on the geographic range represented in the photo entries, we will aim to select photos from as many different regions across the province as possible. We also hope to feature as many different species, types of aquatic resources, fishing methods and activities as possible, so you may get points for originality!

Some suggestions for photos: traditional First Nations fishing/harvesting practices, fishing or habitat areas, fish/aquatic resources, First Nations sustainable aquaculture activities, First Nations economic fisheries, youth fisheries engagement and learning, fisheries activities that are specific to your region, technical surveys/assessments/monitoring or scientific research activities, traditional food preparation and preservation methods using fish or aquatic resources, community feasts, cultural activities, or any other fisheries-related scenes you can think of!

**Please note:** Whether or not your photo is selected for the calendar, by submitting a photo to the contest, you grant permission to the FNFC to use it publications, newsletters, communications, etc. (with credit to the photographer).

**With each submission, please include the following info:**

- **Location where the photo was taken**
- **Brief description of what's happening in the photo (species featured, events featured, people featured, etc.)**
- **Name of photographer, community or organization, phone number, and email address**
- **Photo credit as you would like it to appear in the calendar and/or in any FNFC communications/publications**

**Contest Guidelines:**

- Each person may submit up to 5 photo entries for consideration.
- By entering a photo, you give the First Nations Fisheries Council permission to use it in future publications, communications, etc. (with credit to the photographer)
- You must own the rights to all photos submitted to the contest.
- Photos must be submitted electronically via email or Dropbox link, or delivered to our office on a USB drive, and must have high enough resolution for sharp, high quality printing in sizes up to 9" x 12".
- **Please include name, community or organization, phone number, and email address with your submission.**
- Please send emailed submissions to [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) or deliver to Suite 320 – 1200 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Vancouver BC.

**The deadline for submissions is Friday, October 4, 2019.**

For questions/comments or to submit photos, please contact us at: Tel: 778-379-6470  
or Email: [info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca)

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