



First Nations Fisheries Council COMMUNIQUÉ

NOVEMBER 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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Thank you to all who attended the 2019 FNFC Annual General Assembly!

This year's event was held at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort in beautiful Sts'ailes Territory. Thank you to Sts'ailes Councillor and Fisheries Portfolio Holder Kelsey Charlie for welcoming us to the territory.

The event was attended by over 100 participants from First Nations communities and organizations, the provincial and federal governments, and other partners. Our 2019 Assembly theme was *"Amplifying Voices: Strength in Unity for First Nations Fisheries"*.

Our sincere thanks to all the speakers who shared their projects and their knowledge and expertise with us. We were honoured to feature a number of excellent presentations on various topics related to fisheries policy and management, including:

- Aquaculture – Cultivating Change
- Toward a First Nations Engagement Framework for BC's Water Sustainability Act
- Nicola Watershed Governance Project
- North Pacific High Seas Expedition
- First Nations Youth and Early Career Panel: Carrying Forward Our Fisheries Knowledge and Traditions
- FNFC and Province of BC MOU
- Crown Reconciliation in Fisheries
- Pacific Fisheries and Oceans Policies and Programs
- Province of BC Operations
- Big Bar Landslide – Recognition of all who contributed to the effort
- First Nations Reconciliation in Fisheries

Thank you again to all participants who attended.
We look forward to our continued work together!

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CALL FOR FIRST NATIONS INTERESTED IN DEMONSTRATION FISHERIES

Over the last several years, the Salmon Coordinating Committee (SCC) has been working with DFO and the Commercial Salmon Allocation Board to develop and implement a Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) to identify a transparent process for DFO to review and approve demonstration fishery proposals submitted each year. To support BC First Nations in developing demonstration fisheries, the SCC has hired a contractor to help First Nations develop their own proposals.

If your nation is interested, please contact Operations Manager, Janson Wong at janson@fnfisheriescouncil.ca or 778-379-6470 ext 29.

Interested nations are encouraged to contact FNFC **as early as possible**, as all submitted proposals will be reviewed by DFO in January 2020.

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FISHERIES ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Using the outcomes of the 2019 FNFC socio-economic regional workshops, the FNFC is continuing to work with the University of British Columbia on the development of a fisheries socio-economic valuation framework. This work will support First Nations in better defining, representing and communicating the value of their fisheries, as well as support and advance First Nations' economic fisheries interests in policy and access conversations.

On October 1, 2019 the FNFC Economic Coordinating Committee (ECC) met to discuss the development of a concept paper, the advancement of a collective voice on First Nations economic fisheries issues, and the recently completed environmental scan and analysis of First Nation's economic fisheries activities across BC. The proposed concept paper will be developed to explore opportunities identified by the ECC related to the strategic economic priorities of FNFC. The identified priorities support maximizing linkages between government, First Nations and other partnerships to access increased funding and opportunities, and activating stable, economically independent opportunities in the fisheries and aquatic sectors through building a unified voice among BC First Nations. Related to building a unified voice, the ECC is also exploring approaches to better support and advance the priorities of Indigenous fishers to improve quality of life through maximum returns and sound business practices.

The environmental scan supports the ECC's development of priorities through identifying issues, existing gaps and potential opportunities. The scan is being 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 among BC First Nations.

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OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN – LAUNCH SESSION NOVEMBER 29, 2019

The FNFC has recently signed an Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) *Commitment to Action Accord* (C2A) in partnership with Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, and Environment and Climate Change Canada, which aims to support of the implementation of the OPP through advancing Indigenous partnerships and interests. The FNFC is working with federal agencies to develop a process to engage South Coast First Nations on three key streams of the OPP:

1. Marine research and science
2. Ship movement and vessel management
3. Emergency preparedness and response

The OPP has approximately 57 streams of activities across 6 Federal departments. Recognizing that there are multiple emerging processes being developed by local First Nations through bi-lateral arrangements, the FNFC has agreed with Transport Canada to focus on leading a discussion that will be focused primarily on South Coast regions as agreements elsewhere in the province continue to evolve. Consistent with the FNFC's work of convening Nations to hear their interests and aspirations, we will be working to elicit the interests and priorities of First Nations through the formation of one or more coordinating committees related to OPP policies, programs and processes.

Some possible outcomes for this multi-year OPP initiative will seek to align and coordinate participating communities to:

- a) set cohesive and collaborative regional priorities,
- b) inform both Crown and First Nations decision-making processes in support of the protection of marine ecosystems in the South Coast region, and
- c) advance First Nations rights and interests with respect to the marine environment and aquatic resources.

In order to carry out this work, the FNFC recently hired a new OPP Manager, Loriena Melnick. We would like to welcome Loriena to the team, and look forward to the further development of this initiative.

OPP Introductory Launch Session - Friday, November 29, 2019 in Nanaimo

FNFC will be hosting a Tier 1 and 2 introductory launch session for BC First Nations to provide more information on the new OPP initiative and the development of structures to address First Nations interests within the three streams. A meeting notice, registration link and draft agenda have been circulated via the FNFC Tier 1 email list.

If you are interested in attending the session and have not yet registered, or if you have any questions about the FNFC's work on the OPP, please contact OPP Manager, Loriena Melnick at loriena@fnfisheriescouncil.ca.



WATER FOR FISH

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

“Just Do It” Pilot Project: Supporting First Nations Environmental Flow Needs Strategies in BC

FNFC will provide support for up to five First Nations across British Columbia to establish environmental flow needs (EFN) thresholds for fish species in critical streams within their traditional territories. Funds available are \$15,000 per community or organization.

For more information and to apply, please:

- Read this **Backgrounder**:
https://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/EFN-Pilot-Backgrounder_First-Nations-Fisheries-Council_Nov-2019.pdf
- Fill out this **expression of interest survey** by **December 9th, 2019 at 5pm PT**:
<http://www.createsurvey.com/s/qOcCT2/>

If you have any questions, please contact FNFC Water for Fish Project Coordinator Genevieve Layton-Cartier at genevieve@fnfisheriescouncil.ca or 778-379-6470.

Sixth BC First Nations Water Governance Roundtable

On October 16-17 2019, FNFC hosted the 6th BC First Nations Water Governance Roundtable meeting in Nlaka’pamux and Syilx Territories (Merritt, BC). 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.

At this 6th meeting, participants learned about the groundbreaking G2G Nicola Water Forum, an innovative agreement between the five Nicola First Nations (Nooaitch, Shackan, Upper Nicola, Lower Nicola, and Coldwater) and the Province of BC to co-lead a new approach to water governance that is grounded in UNDRIP. The Forum was established through the 2018 Nicola Watershed Pilot Memorandum of Understanding. Participants also identified recommendations to enhance the level of First Nation decision-making in local management of drought and critical environmental flows, and confirmed the Roundtable 2020 strategic priorities.

For more information or to receive the Meeting Summary or briefing note, please contact *Water for Fish* Project Coordinator Geneviève Layton-Cartier at genevieve@fnfisheriescouncil.ca or 778-379-6470.

More information about the Nicola Watershed Pilot MOU is available online here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018ENV0012-000484>

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WEBINAR: Monthly Water Wednesday

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

TOPIC: Recommendations - Towards a WSA First Nations Engagement Framework

Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6869186102788637707>

In 2018 the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy provided the FNFC with grant funding to advise BC on an Engagement Framework to guide the development of the remaining Water Sustainability Act (WSA) regulations and policies in accordance with BC's reconciliation commitments to First Nations. As part of this work, the FNFC organized a series of meetings of a Working Group comprised of leadership and staff from a diversity of First Nations and First Nations organizations from across BC that hold relevant expertise, experience and knowledge related to freshwater governance and management. The recommendations have been endorsed by resolution by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, BC Assembly of First Nations, and First Nations Summit.

*In this webinar, FNFC Water for Fish Project Manager Susi Porter-Bopp will discuss the **Working Group recommendations** finalized in the May 2019 report "Towards a Water Sustainability Act First Nations Engagement Framework: Working Group Recommendations for Collaborative Development of Regulations and Policies". This report was shared with BC First Nations via the FNFC Tier 1 email list.*

The FNFC's *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 Layton-Cartier at genevieve@fnfisheriescouncil.ca or 778-379-6470 if you would like to be added to the FNFC's First Nations Water Network email list (see contact info below).

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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 BC First Nations and First Nations fisheries program staff. Dial-in information and agendas are distributed prior to each conference call via our Tier 1 email list.

**The next monthly FNFC monthly update call will be held on
Monday, December 9, 2019**

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Photo Contest Winners! (FNFC 2020 Calendar)

Thank you to all photographers who submitted photos for the FNFC's Photo Contest for our 2020 Fisheries Calendar! We are pleased to announce this year's winners:

Nate Powell • Irine Polyzogopoulos, Uu-a-thluk Fisheries (NTC) • Johnny Crocker • Seamus Enright
Michelle Walsh • Big Bar Landslide Unified Command 2019 • Mike Pearson • Brandee Sam • Elan Park
Grand Prize Winner: Kerry Carlick

FNFC Calendars will be available for a limited time to participants at FNFC events

Keep up with the FNFC on Social Media!

LIKE us on FACEBOOK at www.facebook.com/fnfcbc
FOLLOW us on TWITTER at www.twitter.com/fnfish



Photo by Irine Polyzogopoulos, Uu-a-thluk Fisheries, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

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