



FNFC Year in Review

FNFC Annual General Assembly
Harrison Hot Springs
November 6 & 7, 2019



FIRST NATIONS
FISHERIES COUNCIL



Driving Transformative Change in Fisheries Governance & Management: Strategic Priorities 2019 – 2021

Strategic Priority 1: Recognition, Respect and Implementation of Indigenous Rights

- *First Nations in Canada have inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights recognized and affirmed in section 35(1) the Constitution Act (1982). The process of reconciliation with respect to Indigenous laws, inherent and treaty rights and self-determination relating to fisheries will include transformation in all aspects of the governance and management of fish, fisheries, and their habitats.*

Strategic Priority 2: Collaborating for Improved Management and Sustainable Fisheries

- *Build and foster increased First Nation technical, policy and science capacity to meaningfully participate in joint management of fish, fisheries and their aquatic environments*

Strategic Priority 3: Re-building First Nation Fisheries Economies

- *Support First Nations to benefit from the resources in their territories and successfully develop economic opportunities through the sustainable use of fish and aquatic resources, self sufficient businesses, and healthy First Nation economies.*





Policy

Deana Machin

Policy Updates in the Past 12 Months

- Regional and Provincial Dialogue Sessions on First Nations Fisheries / FSC Fisheries
- DFO initiated a process to review and replace the Pacific Salmon Allocation Policy review
- Updated *Fisheries Act* came into force in August 2019, restoring and updating provisions to protect fish, fisheries and fish habitat
- Developed an MOU with the Province of BC to establish a working relationship to support First Nations engagement with the Province on matters relating to fisheries governance and management



Opportunities & Next Steps

- Established an FNFC working group to plan for ongoing engagement between the DFO and First Nations on First Nations Fisheries/FSC Fisheries
- Established an FNFC working group to work with DFO and commercial and recreational sectors to review and replace the Salmon Allocation Policy
- Joint work planning to implement the FNFC-BC MOU
- Updated *Fisheries Act* now requires the Minister to consider Indigenous Knowledge in regulatory decision making





Economic Development

Astrid Niemann-Zajac

Economic Performance Updates in the Past 12 Months

- Development and delivery of regional socio-economic workshops
- Economic Coordinating Committee
- BC-FNFC MOU
- Oceans Protection Plan program development
- Development of FNFC First Nations youth summer internship program



Opportunities & Next Steps

- Increase First Nations access to and receipt of more diverse sources of funding
- Socio-economic valuation framework pilots
- First Nations capacity and organizational development





Water for Fish

Susi Porter-Bopp

Water for Fish Updates in the Past 12 Months

- Secured program funding from non-government sources for next 3 years
- BC First Nations Water Governance Roundtable
- Development of BC *Water Sustainability Act* First Nations Engagement Framework
- BC Water Security Fund



Opportunities & Next Steps

- Press BC for implementation of WSA Engagement Framework
- Advance sustainable funding opportunities
- Support H2O collaboration opportunities between First Nations





Salmon

Janson Wong

Salmon Updates in the Past 12 Months

- Salmon Coordinating Committee
 - *Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Plan* and *Annual Report*
 - Implementation of the *Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework*
 - *Proposed Elements of a Regulation to List Major Fish Stocks and to Describe Requirements for Fish stock Rebuilding Plans*
 - Draft national *Fisheries Monitoring Policy*
- Skeena First Nations Technical Committee
- PSC's First Nations Caucus and PST renewal



Opportunities & Next Steps

- Policy and regulation updates to be consistent and uphold FNs' priority rights and court case decisions (i.e. *Sparrow*, *Ahousaht*, etc.)
- Renewed *Fisheries Act* and fish habitat protection and rebuilding fish stocks
- MOU with the Province, wild salmon protection and rebuilding plans
- New PST commitments and funding to support FNs' led activities
- A Provincial First Nations Technical Network, FNs' collaboration and implementation of science/TEK initiatives





Aquaculture

Richard Sparrow

Aquaculture updates in the past 12 months

- Aquaculture strategic work planning
- Collaborative processes
- Science and Monitoring
- National Aquaculture Working Group



Opportunities & Next Steps

- BC UNDRIP legislation, Free Prior Informed consent based decisions
- Aquaculture “refresh”
- Aquaculture Forum
- First Nations Science and Monitoring capacity building





Oceans Protection Plan (OPP)

Loriena Melnick

OPP updates in the past 12 months

- Commitment to Action Accord and Results
- Focused on South Coast in 3 priority themes:
 - Marine protection and Science
 - Emergency preparedness and Response
 - Ship movement and vessel management
- Streamline engagement to better meet the needs of First Nations
- Culturally accepted process and structure advanced by First Nations



Opportunities & Next Steps

- Launch session November 29, 2019 in Nanaimo
- Build a common understanding of priorities and goals
- Formation of coordinating committees
- Provide input and influence OPP policies, programs and processes
- Advance First Nations key priorities
- Unify efforts and understanding of issues that affect marine life





Next Steps and Future Opportunities

Jordan Point

Overarching Opportunities & Next Steps

- BC UNDRIP legislation and Action Plan implementation
- DFO released its *DFO-Coast Guard Reconciliation Strategy*
- Implementation of MOU with BC
- Increase First Nations access to diverse sources of funding
- First Nations capacity and organizational development
- First Nations collaboration to improve capacity building

