

First Nations Fisheries Council Annual General Assembly

British Columbia Provincial Update

November 7, 2019

Introduction

The B.C. Government is working towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples legislation.
- Working with the First Nations Fisheries Council on a MOU.

Ministry of Agriculture Role in Fisheries

- Working closely with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), First Nations, and other agencies on marine fisheries, seafood and aquaculture policies.
- Lead for B.C. on the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers.
- Seafood industry development, and the provincial interest in the commerce of fisheries.
- Provincial lead on B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund.

B.C. Working to Restore Wild Salmon

The Province established the WSAC and MAACFA which provided recommendations to address declining wild salmon stocks. B.C. is acting on these recommendations including work through:

- The B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund
- Government-to-Government work with Indigenous Nations in the Broughton
- Provincial Policy on Aquaculture Tenures

BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF)



The Fund was launched on March 15, 2019.

Focal point of BCSRIF is a contribution fund of \$142.85 M over five years.

70% federal / 30% provincial

First call for Expressions of Interest closed on April 15, 2019.



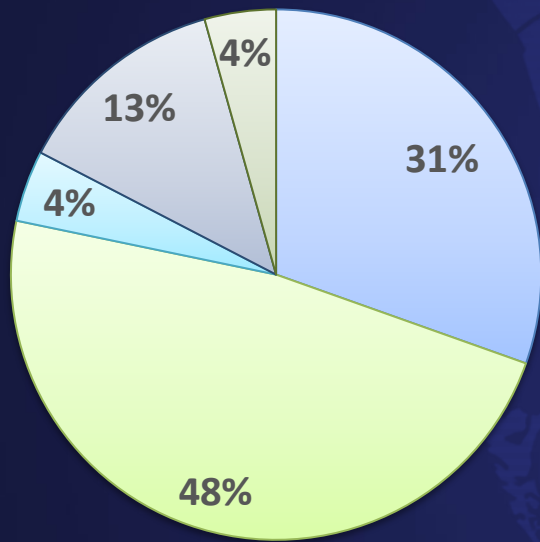
2019/20 Program Priorities

- Restoration, protection, and maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats;
- Improved performance and sustainability of the commercial and recreational fisheries, and seafood processing sector; and
- Improved sustainability of the aquaculture industry to ensure the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems and wild fish populations.

Provincial Priority Areas for 2019-20

- Protecting critical salmonid habitats from loss or degradation, and investing in the restoration of critical habitats that have been lost or degraded.
- Maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon populations, with focus on existing community-based hatcheries and community education.
- Supporting implementation of recommendations provided by First Nations governments, industry and the Province on aquaculture in the Broughton area.

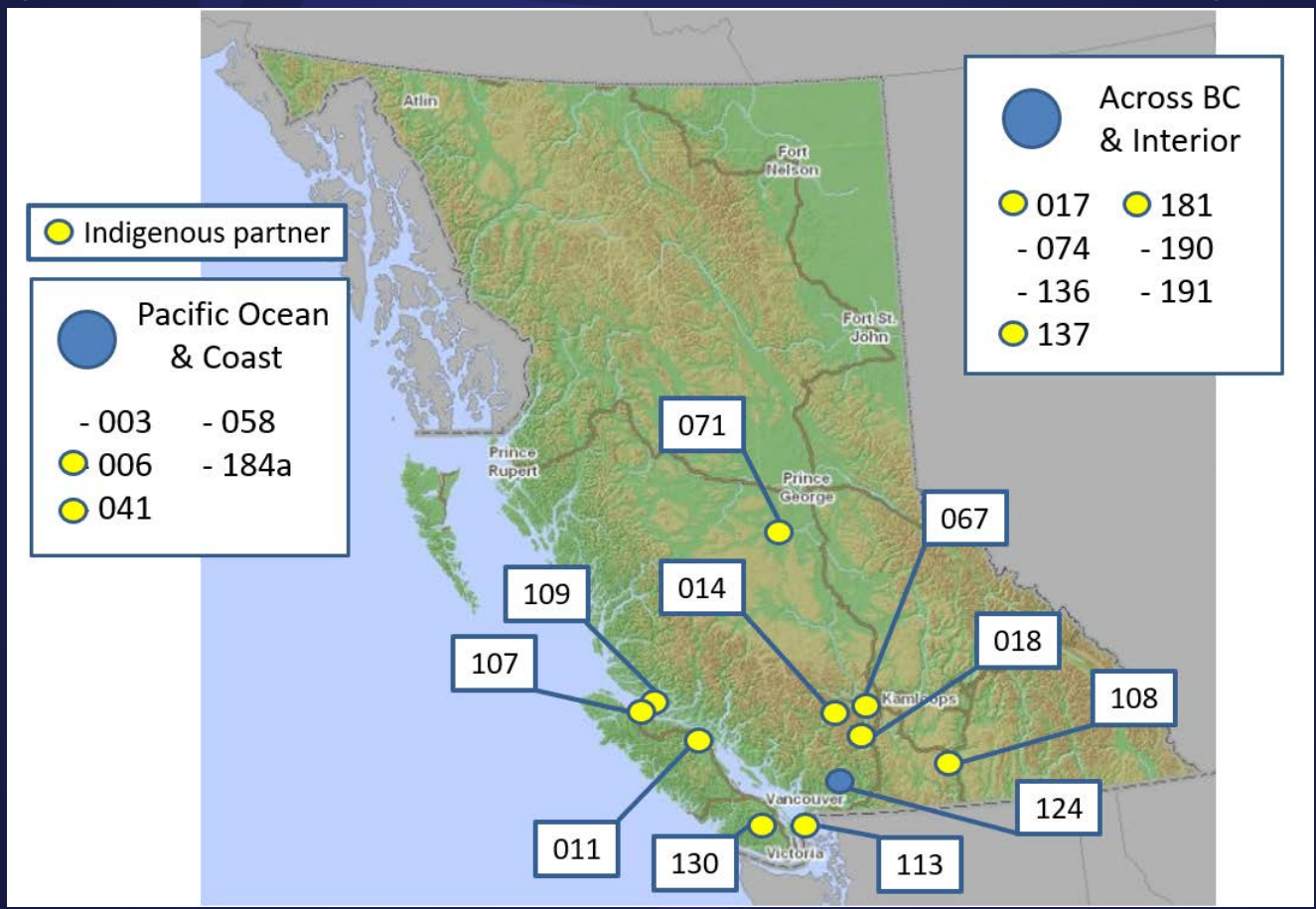
Summary of Recommended Proposals



- Fishing (7)
- Habitat Restoration (11)
- Hatcheries (1)
- Aquaculture (3)
- Indigenous Engagement (1)

- 23 project proposals have been recommended and moved forward to funding agreements.
- Of these 23 proposals:
 - 70 % (16/23) projects involve Indigenous participants; 6 have Indigenous leads and 10 have Indigenous partners.
 - 1 project lead by the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute (NIFI) and FNFC is focused on Indigenous engagement with BCSRIF

Project Distribution for first 23 projects



BCSRIF: Next Steps

- The 23 project proponents that moved forward to funding agreements will work with BCSRIF on project action plans.
- All EOIs from the first intake have been reviewed and feedback will be communicated to all proponents, including some that will advance to project proposals.
- Refinement of BCSRIF priorities (Nov-Dec 2019) which will be communicated in advance of the next call for EOIs
- 2nd call for EOIs (Winter 2020 TBC)

G2G process in the Broughton Background:

- January 30, 2018, the Indigenous Nations in the Broughton and Province agreed to move forward on a consent-based government-to-government (G2G) process.
- On June 27, 2018, the consent-based G2G process was formalized in a letter of understanding (LOU).
- On December 14, 2018 the Province and the three signatory First Nations announced the endorsement of the recommendations resulting from the process.

G2G process in the Broughton Recommendations:

The Province and the three First Nations endorsed the resulting recommendations, including:

- Create an orderly transition of 17 farms from the Broughton area between 2019 and 2023
- Develop a First Nations-led monitoring and inspection program to oversee those farms during the transition
- Call for immediate action to enhance wild salmon habitat restoration and rehabilitation in the Broughton

G2G process in the Broughton Outcomes:

- A landmark agreement establishing First Nations oversight of salmon farms operating in their territories.
- The transition has commenced with the decommissioning of five salmon farms.
- First Nations in the Broughton are working together on three new projects through BCSRIF.

B.C. Policy on Aquaculture Tenures

What do you need to operate in B.C.?

1. A federal licence from Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
2. A exemption to navigable waters from Transport Canada; and,
3. A provincial *Land Act* tenure issued by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

B.C. Policy on Aquaculture Tenures

By 2022, prior to issuing a new tenure or a renewal of a tenure, B.C. will require that open-net pen salmon farms:

1. meet all existing and future federal aquaculture licence conditions that assures protection of the health of wild salmon;
2. demonstrate they have support from relevant First Nations in the territories where they operate via industry / First Nations agreements; and,
3. meet all provincial *Land Act* policies related to the siting of finfish aquaculture sites.

Thank you

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