



FNFC Executive Council Update:

The new 3-year terms for new and re-appointed FNFC Council Delegates began in January 2023

FNFC Regions	Delegate
West Coast Vancouver Island	Hugh Braker
Central Coast	In Progress
North Vancouver Island	John Henderson
South Vancouver Island	In Progress
Lower Mainland	In Progress
Fraser Valley	Ken Malloway
Mid-Fraser 1	Greg Witzky
Mid-Fraser 2	Brian Holmes
Upper Fraser	Thomas Alexis
Upper Skeena	Stu Barnes
Transboundary Columbia	Herb Alex
Northern Transboundary	In Progress
Haida Gwaii	In Progress
North Coast	Penny White

POLICY AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UPDATE

IN response to UNDRIP Implementation, FNFC hosted our first Policy Forum on February 21, 2023 Purpose of the Policy Forum’s is to convene First Nations to identify shared priority matters of broad concern relating to fish and aquatic resources, that should be advanced under the lens of UNDRIP implementation.

- Participants indicated that among 18+ priorities, **the top 5 priorities for BC First Nations** were ;
 - UNDRIP implementation through shared decision making,
 - ensuring Food Security, protection and restoration of salmon and key species for FN.
 - establishing Water Security, and protection of fish habitat.
 - Guardians and environmental stewardship, and economic or Moderate livelihood fisheries development.
- Key themes were also heard included:
 - stable, long-term consistent funding; Indigenous Knowledge and western knowledge systems; law reform relating to land and water security and First Nations authority to act; shared governance and management/decision-making, and safeguards for habitats and watersheds
- FNFC is hosting a second Policy Forum on **March 21st 2023** in Richmond BC, where we will build from what was heard, and begin to organize discussions into key themes and messaging that can be brought forward to Governments as part of UNDRIP implementation.

Mass Marking/Mark Selective Fishery Concern :

- Mass Marking/Mark Selective Fishery as an issue that may require *political advocacy* (the concept to mass mark hatchery fish to allow for future recreational harvest in a selective fishery.





- DFO has left technical reason behind and MM/MSF has become a politically driven agenda (rec fisheries)
- perhaps if BCAFN is interested we can provide some supporting materials and speaking notes?
- Biggest concern is MM/MSF as a fishery management tool has the potential to drastically change BC salmon fisheries and further impact and infringe on FNs priority access.
- A number of technical issues have been raised to DFO already by FNFC and other First Nations fisheries organizations. Many remain unresolved, yet DFO continues to signal 2023 implementation of MSF pilots without fulsome consultation and/or transparency

Pacific Salmon Commission Update

- FNFC and FN Caucus continue to engage with DFO about Pacific Salmon Treaty implementation and preparing for next round of negotiations.
- As part of these efforts, FNFC/FN Caucus developed a Strategic Plan and Succession Plan, which includes changing the relationship between the FN Caucus and DFO, from advisors to Canada to one that is directly bringing forward First Nations interests to the PSC tables.
- FNFC/FN Caucus are also seeking resources to support an Engagement Plan, to engage with First Nations in BC more effectively in the lead up to and through PST negotiations.
- At this year’s PSC meetings, ongoing discussions held on how Canada and US address Fraser sockeye fisheries, and Alaskan bycatch concerns was supported by Washington and Oregon.

Aquaculture Direction

- On February 17, 2023, Minister Murray re-affirmed decision to not renew licenses for 15 of the Discovery Islands fish farms
- FNFC is finalizing a “First Nations Transition Plan Blueprint” that summarizes feedback garnered from First Nations in BC to inform the development of the Transition Plan.
- Emerged themes from FNFC engagements:
 - A Whole of Salmon Life Cycle Approach is required to protect and rebuild Pacific salmon.
 - Respect for First Nations Governance and Self-Determination
 - Whole of BC Aquaculture Sector Approach
 - Support for First Nations investments
- FNFC has continued to hear from many First Nations about broad interest in aquaculture opportunities, and where different types of aquacultures can be sustainable and supportive of First Nations food security and economic objectives

PARTNERSHIPS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS UPDATE

Save our Salmon (SOS) Coalition and Pacific Salmon Action Dialogue Series, Trilateral ACCORD

- In February 2023, FNFC launched the Save our Salmon (SOS) Coalition in partnership with founding members: the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), the Upper Fraser Fisheries Alliance (UFFA), and the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFA).
- The SOS Coalition is currently in the stage of promoting awareness and public education of the significant decline in salmon stocks over the past 50 years.





- In tandem with the SOS public campaign, FNFC has partnered with PSF to host the Pacific Salmon Action Dialogue Series (PSADS), bringing together rights holders, conservationists, the Province of BC and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to ensure cohesion of understanding around the depletion of salmon, and how concerned parties can work together to ensure salmon don't face extinction.
- Throughout multiple engagement processes, including the Pacific Salmon Action Dialogue series, a key message communicated from First Nations and others is that a single coordinated approach to salmon conservation and stewardship is necessary between First Nations, Canada's Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI), and BC's Wild Salmon Strategy.
- FNFC has acted as a convener for conversations between these parties since September 2022 and is building structures to transition the conversation to an enduring process this summer.
- A key relationship in this work is with the Province of BC, formalized under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The formation of the new Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) coupled with FNFC's recent growth in capacity and impact resulted in a refreshed MOU, signed in January 2023. Part of this refresh includes BC's commitment to provide FNFC enduring core funding, supporting their continued work on a Trilateral Salmon Accord, the Coastal Marine Strategy, and the BC Water Table.

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HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNIT UPDATE

First Nations Water Caucus and Water Table: In the Work

- The First Nations Water Caucus has been working with the BC representative at the water table since June 2022. A key objective for the table is to co-develop a provincial Watershed Security Strategy with the Province of BC. The first step in this strategy is to develop an Intentions Paper, which has just been released for public engagement.
- *In addition to the release of the Intentions Paper, BC has announced a \$100 million investment into the Watershed Security Fund and has committed to developing the fund with First Nations. More information regarding this grant process is still to be determined.*
- The First Nations Water Caucus is looking to include up to four more First Nations delegates to fill regional vacancies, particularly from the Northeast and Northwest watersheds and the mid-Fraser. If you are interested in putting your name forward as a Caucus Delegate, please reach out to the Fisheries Council.

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Provision (FFHPP)

- FNFC will be convening First Nations at Tier 1 for Wave Three of the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Provision engagement topics. Best practise
- Preliminary topics for engagement include:
 - o *Draft Framework for Species at Risk Conservation*
 - o *Habitat Banking and Offsetting Policies*
 - o *Regional Restoration Priorities Plan*
- Engagement will take place between April 2023 – November 2023
- Keep an eye out in your inboxes for more details.

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For more information, please contact FNFC Executive Director
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STRONGER TOGETHER

